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Final Environmental Impact Statement

Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah

Volume II – Appendices A to E

Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Manti-La Sal, and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests



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APPENDIX A

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Introduction

Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports (SERs) presents a detailed river narrative for each river segment. This detailed river narrative is a synopsis of the pertinent information related to eligibility, classification, and suitability of a specific river.

Description of Information Found in SERs

The details for determining which suitability factors and other information to examine came from a combination of the example found in the FSH 1909.12, Sec. 84.11 – Exhibit 01 and the factors listed on page 17 of The Wild and Scenic River Study Process (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council 1999). Factors were combined, where it made sense. Each Suitability Evaluation Report (SER) displays a summary of the study area, a description of eligibility and classification, and a suitability report that describes six Suitability Factors. This section explains the information and factors considered by the interdisciplinary team for each SER.

The **Study Area Summary** section provides the location and description of the river or river segment. It includes the following information: name of river; river mileage (with the entire miles of river studied and portion found to be eligible indicated); the location of the river; a map of the river segment; and a physical description of the river.

The **Eligibility** section summarizes the results of forest eligibility findings (report). It includes the following: name and date of eligibility document; determination of free-flowing condition; and a summary of outstandingly remarkable values (ORV).

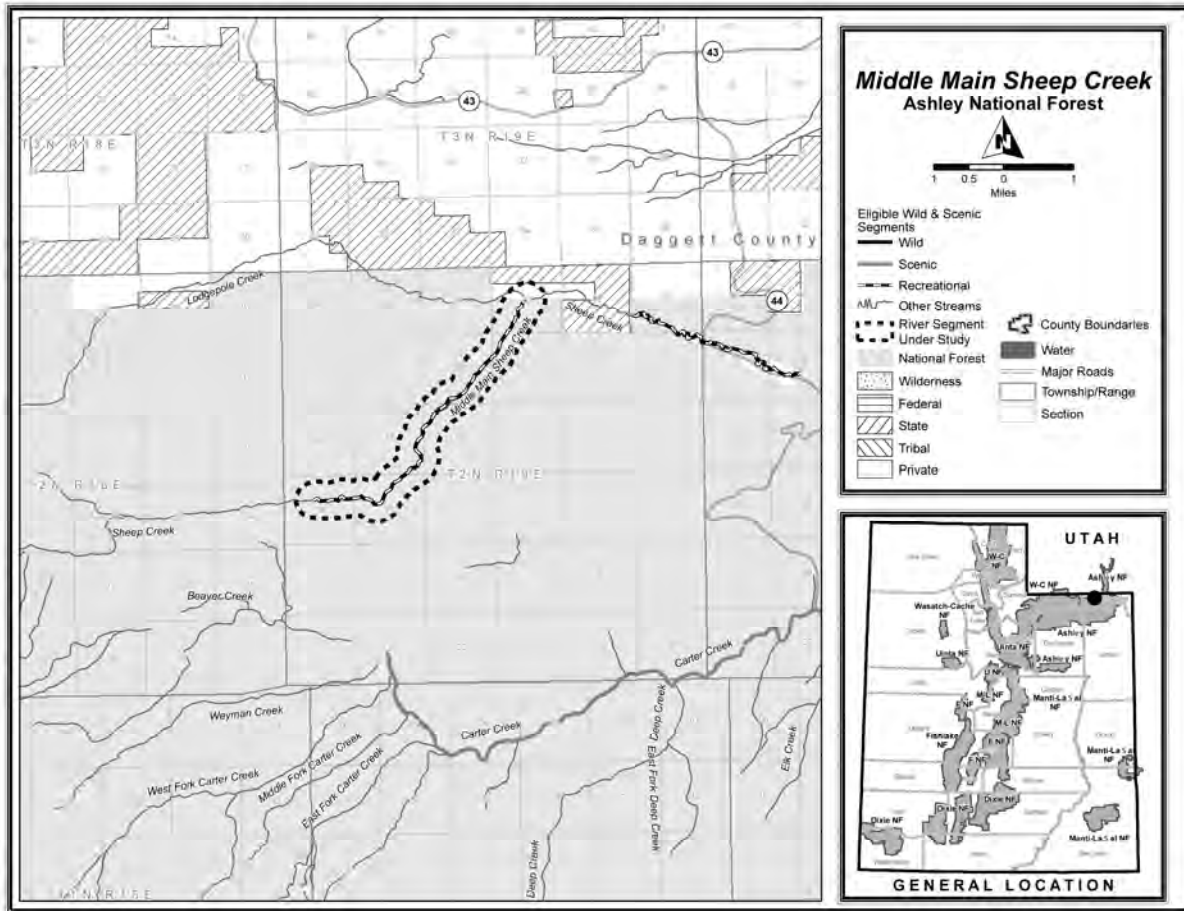
The **Classification** section details the inventoried classification. It includes the basis for the classification of the river as Wild, Scenic, and/or Recreational.

The **Suitability Report** section provides an objective description of attributes of the river corridor and a subjective evaluation of “suitability factors.” This section includes landownership and land uses, mineral and energy resource activities; water resources development; transportation, facilities, and other developments; grazing activities; recreation activities; other resource activities; special designations; socio-economic environment; and current administration and funding needs if designated.

The **Suitability Factor Assessment** section describes the suitability factor assessment; i.e., a description of the characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition for recommendation to the National System:

- (1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.
- (2) The state/local government’s ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.
- (3) Support or opposition to designation.
- (4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.
- (5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.
- (6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Middle Main Sheep Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Middle Main Sheep Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 5.1 miles, from the canyon rim above Palisades Memorial Park to the confluence with Lodgepole Creek

Eligible: Same

Location:

Middle Main Sheep Creek	Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District, Daggett County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 19, T 2 N, R 19 E, SLM	NW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 3, T 2 N, R 19 E, SLM	Recreational	5.1

Physical Description of River Segment:

This segment has extensive, very steep rugged canyon side slopes with Uinta Mountain Group, Mississippian limestone, Weber sandstone and other various formations. High incidence of faulting provides high diversity of geologic features. Colluvial and debris flows are common along the side canyons and tributaries. The stream itself is relatively confined in a very steep canyon comprised of steep bedrock cliffs. Faulting has created some of the most spectacular bedrock exposures, and the area is part

of the Sheep Creek National Geological Area. Big Spring within this segment contributes flows to the drainage, as is part of an underground karst system. Vegetation is highly variable and related to aspect and geology with Douglas-fir on north aspects and mountain brush, sagebrush, and grass on southerly aspects.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest, July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The natural stream flow of the river in this segment is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV): The scenic, geologic/hydrologic ORVs have been identified as nationally important. The wildlife ORV for this segment has been identified as being regionally important.

Scenery – Middle Main Sheep Creek is located within the Sheep Creek Canyon National Geological Area. Steep canyon walls, color variations in geologic features and formations, deciduous trees, riparian vegetation, and forested side slopes attract thousands of regional, national and international visitors to this segment. The Sheep Creek Cave located adjacent to the creek is also an attraction to many visitors.

Geologic/Hydrologic – Middle Main Sheep Creek has high-altered stream morphology due to flooding and debris flows. Flash flooding occurred in the 1960’s from an ice jam that dammed water and then failed. In the 1980’s, a large debris flow came out of Mahogany Draw, scoured the stream, and washed out the road in numerous places. The stream itself is relatively confined in a very steep canyon comprised of steep bedrock cliffs. Faulting has created some of the most spectacular bedrock exposures, and the area is part of the Sheep Creek National Geological Area. Big Spring within this segment contributes flows to the drainage, as is part of an underground karst system.

Wildlife – The Townsend's Big-Eared Bat is located in the Big Springs cave during winter months. Numerous other bat species utilize the canyon with a known variety of at least twelve species. The drainage is habitat for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. The drainage also provides habitat for Neotropical birds.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Recreational

Middle Main Sheep Creek is eligible for the Wild and Scenic River System. It is classified as recreational river.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located entirely on the Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District, within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-5.1	Ashley National Forest	1632

National Forest System lands in Daggett County are zoned as Multiple Use Districts. Some of the purposes for providing a Multiple Use District are to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon, mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation would be limited, in order to protect land and open space resources. These areas are intended to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Additional purposes include avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, danger from brush land fires, damage to grazing, livestock raising, and to wildlife values. Minimum lot

size is 40, 80, or 160 acres within these Multiple Use Districts. There are various permitted and conditional uses such as agriculture, forestry, mining, power generation and regulations related to residences. The Uniform Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances for Daggett County are available at <http://www.Daggettcountry.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=8>.

More information on guidance related to land uses can be found in the Daggett County General Plan, available at <http://Daggettcountry.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=61>.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the underlying geology, and lack of past minerals and energy development, little if any future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – One bridge and one small diversion exist on this segment. Channel modifications after past flood events have included rip rap, channel stabilization, debris removal, and channel re-alignment. No potential water development projects are known at this time. The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (which includes Daggett County), does not identify any proposed water development projects on this segment. There are no Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands along this segment.

Existing diversions in the upstream watershed (out of the eligible segment) include the Lodgepole canal, which diverts water from the North and Middle Forks of Sheep Creek into Lodgepole canyon. This diversion is not always used or active. The Main Fork of Sheep Creek is completely diverted into Long Park Reservoir via the Sheep Creek canal. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

There is one potential water development identified scoping comments from the Utah Div. of Water Resources. This site was studied in a report to the State Engineer, 1944. Hickerson Park (T02N R18E Section 19, Heights of 60 ft and 96 ft, with capacities of 4,000 ac-ft and 8,997 ac-ft respectively). Dam would be on Sheep Creek 6 miles above proposed W&S section. This proposed reservoir is located west of existing Long Park Reservoir and was investigated at the same time. The Long Park site was chosen over this site due to its larger capacity of 14,300 ac-ft. This reservoir could be useful if leaks reappear in Long Park Reservoir.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Sheep Creek/Spirit Lake Scenic Backway Loop (FDR 218) is located immediately adjacent to the creek for half of its length.

Grazing Activities – There are no permitted grazing allotments along this segment.

Recreation Activities – This segment receives moderate to heavy recreation use year round. Driving for pleasure, picnicking, hiking, fishing and hunting are the primary uses. Palisades Memorial Park day use area is a popular recreation destination. The segment is also part of a popular cross-country and snowmobiling route during winter months. The segment parallels the Sheep Creek Canyon/Spirit Lake Scenic Backway (FDR 218).

Other Resource Activities – This segment is within the Sheep Creek Geologic Area, in a narrow, confined canyon. Past timber harvest has not occurred and is not expected in the future. An historic Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) site exists near the creek. Due to deterioration and removal of some of the facilities, the site is not eligible for listing to the National Register. Evidence of prehistoric and Native American use of the area is unknown.

Special Designations – The Middle Main Sheep Creek segment is almost completely within the Sheep Creek National Geologic Area, which was designated to highlight and protect the unique geologic features of the area. This geologic area was named after the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep that inhabit the area, and is dominated by the Uinta Crest Fault, a section of folded and twisted rock that reveals

millions of years of geological history.

The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (f) Dispersed Recreation Roded. Areas receiving a variety of uses in a variety of landforms and vegetation types located throughout the Forest in a roaded environment. The riparian objective is to maintain. Control as needed to protect streambank stability, minimize sedimentation, prevent compaction and maintain visuals. This management prescription encompasses the lower reaches of the segment, downstream of Palisades Memorial Park day use area.
- (n) Range of resource uses and outputs. Commodity production modified for amenity production. Resource protection as needed outside of NRA. The riparian objective is to maintain and restore. This management prescription applies to the area upstream of the Palisades Memorial Park day use area.

The Sheep Creek/Spirit Lake Scenic Backway Loop (Forest Development Road 218) is parallel to the majority of this segment. Scenic Backways are paved or improved dirt roads that highlight some of the less visited, yet spectacular features of an area.

This segment is located within the Dutch John Drinking Water Source Protection Zone, as identified by the State of Utah.

There are inventoried roadless areas on both sides of this segment, from the Palisades Memorial Park area downstream to the Forest boundary.

Socio-Economic Environment – The two main communities in Daggett County are Manila and Dutch John, with populations of 685 and 204, respectively (2007 estimates). The county is set in a spectacular outdoor setting, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and livestock grazing have been important over time. The economy in Daggett County is based primarily on agriculture, livestock, hay, and alfalfa, but it is also an important producer of electric power for Utah and surrounding states. Dutch John originally provided a living place for those who worked at the Flaming Gorge dam.

The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Sheep Creek Geologic Area, Spirit Lake, the Green River and other outdoor attractions draw visitors to the area. Travel and tourism is an integral part of the local economy. The Flaming Gorge reservoir and the Green river are regional and national attractions. Both the reservoir and the Green River play an integral role in the local socio-economic environment. For example, there are 3 raft rental shops and 3 fly shops that cater to river enthusiasts on the Green River. 1.7 million dollars are brought into the area annually from customers of outfitter guides (13 total) on the Green River.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river,

including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in sharing the costs. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation for this segment, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

National Forest System Lands in Daggett County are zoned as Multiple Use Districts. Some of the purposes for providing a Multiple Use District are to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon, mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation would be limited, in order to protect land and open space resources. These areas are intended to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Additional purposes include avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, danger from brush land fires, damage to grazing, livestock raising, and to wildlife values.

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, grazing, agriculture, and mining. Designation would be consistent with the protection of land and open space resources, wildlife habitat, avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, and danger from fires.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Daggett County officials and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to water rights, potential effects to reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protection of outstandingly remarkable values are available.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, and the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

Two letters specifically mentioned Middle Main Sheep Creek. One supported designation based on its contribution to river system/basin integrity. The second letter was submitted by Sweetwater County Conservation District on behalf of Sweetwater County and Conservation District and Uinta County Conservation District in Wyoming. It stated that residents of those counties would be affected by designation of the Green River, raised questions about the study process, and requested cooperating agency status for all three entities.

Comments responding to the Draft EIS

Many letters commented that all segments within a single river system should be considered together, like Middle Main Sheep Creek and Lower Main Sheep Creek because they are ecologically connected and a joint recommendation would enhance their contribution to the river system's integrity.

- Existing protections are adequate even outside of Wilderness
- Special designations frequently have unintended consequences
- Widespread belief that existing water rights would be compromised
- Creation of a federal water right, even though junior, is a concern because all water is already allocated or over allocated. Federal right gets in the way of other water users who might need to get in line for the water.
- Preferred alternative has far too few rivers compared to number that are eligible
- Speculative or uncertain development needs should not outweigh other values

None of the organized letter writing campaigns recommended this river segment be found suitable for designation.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in the Sheep Creek Geologic Area, inventoried roadless areas, and the Dutch John Drinking Water Protection Zones.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation may be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances. The Daggett County General Plan does not specifically address Wild and Scenic River designation, but it does make the following statement about water resources:

“Adequate water quality and availability is necessary for significant residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, and recreational development. Daggett County desires to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of usable water by promoting and expanding the efficient management and use of water resources. The County also feels that private water rights should be protected from encroachment and/or coerced acquisition.”

Further indication of the County’s position regarding Wild and Scenic River designation can be found in an amendment to their General Plan (responding to a BLM Wild and Scenic River study):

“It is Daggett County’s policy that no river segment should be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System unless:

- Water is present and flowing at all times.
- The water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of three physiographic provinces of the state, and that the rationale and justification for the conclusion are disclosed.
- BLM fully disclaims in writing any interest in water rights with respect to the subject segment.
- It is clearly demonstrated that including segment in the NWSR system will not prevent, reduce, impair, or otherwise interfere with the state and its citizen’s enjoyment of complete and exclusive water rights in and to rivers of the state as determined by the laws of the state, nor interfere with or impair local, state, regional, or interstate water compacts to which the State or Daggett County is a party.
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed.
- It is clearly demonstrated that BLM does not intend to use such a designation to improperly impose Class I or II Visual Resource Management prescriptions.
- It is clearly demonstrated that the proposed addition will not adversely impact the local economy agricultural and industrial operations, outdoor recreation, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment.

The foregoing also summarizes the wild and scenic river criteria of the State of Utah, Utah Code ' 63-38d-401(8)(a), as well as the criteria of Daggett County.”

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

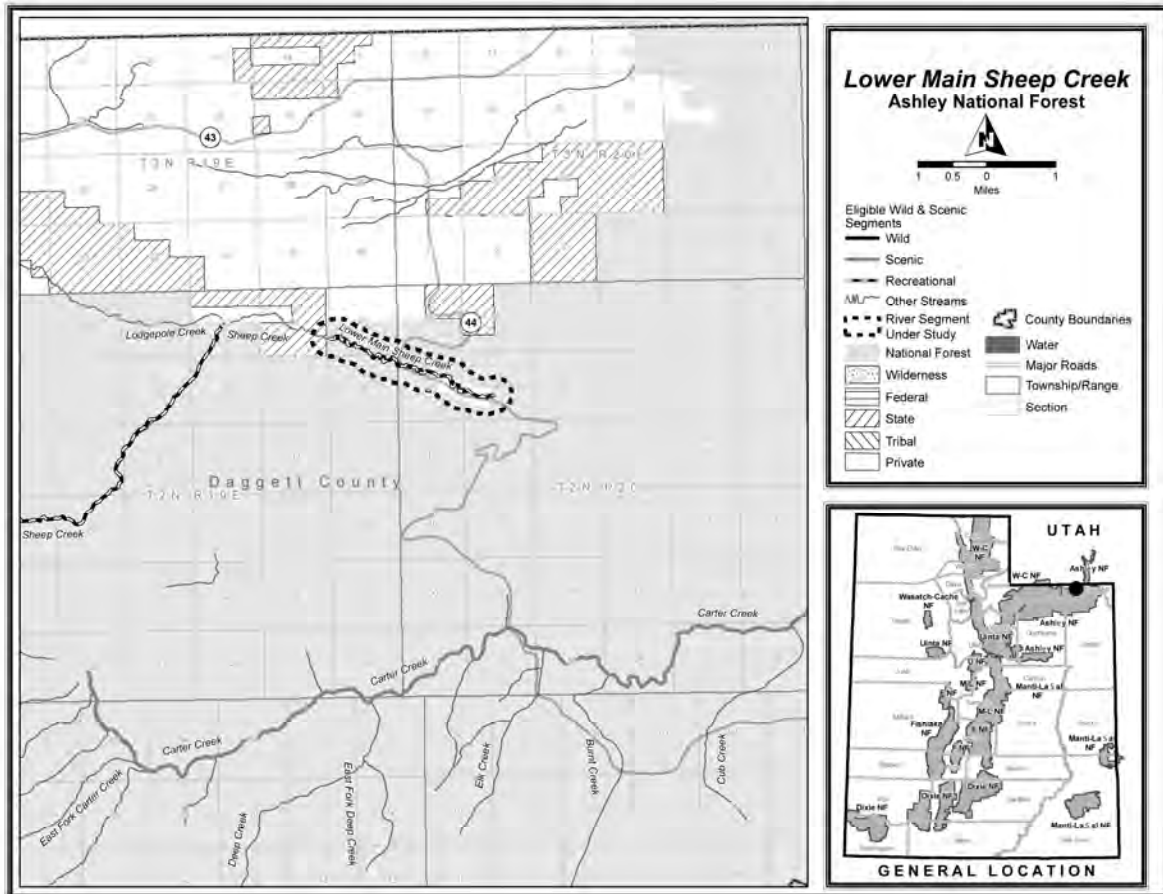
This eligible segment includes a small portion of the Sheep Creek basin, which decreases the ability to design a holistic protection strategy for the entire basin. Basin integrity could be improved by considering the Lower Main Sheep Creek and Middle Main Sheep Creek segments together. Designation would provide a comprehensive and holistic protection strategy with other cooperating agencies and public groups, for the segments that are proposed.

This entire segment is on National Forest System Lands, so the current proposal could not be expanded to other jurisdictions or ownerships

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Lower Main Sheep Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River Segment: Lower Main Sheep Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 3.64 miles, from the common boundary of private land and the Ashley National Forest in the SW ¼ Section 1, T.2N. R.19E. to its confluence with Sheep Creek Bay, Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Lower Main Sheep Creek	Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District, Daggett County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 1, T 2 N, R 19 E, SLM	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 8, T 2 N, R 20 E, SLM	Recreational	3.64

Physical Description of River Segment: The watercourse is located in a broad canyon with high sinuosity, less confinement, and large willow patches. The valley bottom is wider than all other segments in the Sheep Creek drainage, and has very steep canyon side slopes of exposed bedrock. Low gradient and

meandering is dominant in this segment. Lush riparian vegetation, cottonwoods and willows lines Lower Main Sheep Creek for most of its length.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, July 2005 (USDA Forest Service 2005)

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: Some existing impoundments. The existence of low dams, diversion, or other modifications of the watercourse, provided the watercourse remains free-flowing and generally natural and riverine in appearance. There are three road crossings with bridges and two small diversions. Flows are still considered free flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreational – Both the Sheep Creek Canyon/Spirit Lake Scenic Backway (FDR 218) and the Flaming Gorge National Scenic Byway (State Road 44) parallel portions of this segment. Campgrounds and nature trails are located adjacent to the creek and use is moderate to heavy from early June to late October. Recreation opportunities are camping, hiking, fishing, hunting and interpretive sites. The segment is well known for the Kokanee salmon spawning run during fall months and hundreds of visitors come to see the "run" during a three to four week period in September of each year. The segment on National Forest System lands is dedicated to recreation use and forest practices are designed to protect and preserve the existing values. Length of season was rated moderate. Diversity of use, experience quality, associated opportunities, attraction, and sites and facilities were rated high. Access and level of use were rated highly appropriate. Overall rating is high with a regional scale of importance.

Geologic/Hydrologic – The watercourse is located east of the Sheep Creek Canyon National Geological Area and exhibits many of the geologic features of the designated National Geological Area. Evidence of the changing geologic landscape, along with the animals that flourished and died there, is preserved in the rocks that form the spectacular scenery of the canyon area. The area showcases examples of deformation dominated by the classic faults and folds. There are spectacular views of geologic formations, fault lines, and ox bows and unusual drainage patterns along the stream course. The area contains most of the nine exposed formations that are found in adjacent National Geological Area, and these formations total nearly 8,000 feet of rock, representing more than 1 billion years of geologic history. The watercourse is located in a broad canyon with high sinuosity, less confinement, and large willow patches. The valley bottom is wider than all other segments in the Sheep Creek drainage, and has very steep canyon side slopes of exposed bedrock. Low gradient and meandering is dominant in this segment. Feature abundance and educational and scientific is rated high. Diversity of features is rated moderate. Overall rating is high with a national scale of importance.

Fish – This segment is the only significant Kokanee salmon spawning stream reach in eastern Utah and serves as spawn for reintroduction to other water bodies in the state. It is also a popular recreation fishing area and stocked with non-natives. Habitat quality, value of species, abundance of fish, natural reproduction were rated high. Diversity of species and size and vigor of fish were rated moderate. Overall Rating is high with a regional scale of importance.

Wildlife – This area has one of the highest diversity of neotropical-tropical migrants. The watercourse corridor is a critical wintering area for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and deer. Bats forage for insects in the watercourse. In addition, the area serves as habitat for bat roosting. Habitat Quality and Diversity of Species were rated high. Abundance of Species was rated low. Overall Rating is high with a regional scale of importance.

Other Similar Values – Lower Main of Sheep Creek has mixed narrow leaf cottonwood, blue spruce with

alder, birch, willow as a mid story with sedges, and grasses and forbs as a ground layer. The unit provides high structural diversity, which supports high numbers of species, including bird species. The watercourse is an important area for species migration and genetic interaction of both Kokanee salmon and Neotropical birds. Species diversity, ecological function, and educational and scientific were rated high. Rare communities and features were rated moderate. Overall rating is high with a regional scale of importance.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Recreational

- Some existing impoundments. The existence of low dams, diversion, or other modifications of the watercourse, provided the watercourse remains free-flowing and generally natural and riverine in appearance.
- Some developments, substantial evidence of human activity.
- Readily accessible by road. Sheep Creek/Spirit Lake Scenic Backway Loop (Forest Development Road 218) and Flaming Gorge/Uintas National Scenic Byway (Utah State Highway 44) provide access the watercourse corridor.
- The existence of parallel roads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points.
- Water quality sufficient to maintain outstandingly remarkable values.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located entirely on the Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District, and is within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-3.64	Ashley National Forest	1164.8

National Forest System Lands in Daggett County are zoned as Multiple Use Districts. Some of the purposes for providing a Multiple Use District are to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon, mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation would be limited, in order to protect land and open space resources. These areas are intended to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Additional purposes include avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, danger from brush land fires, damage to grazing, livestock raising, and to wildlife values. Minimum lot size is 40, 80, or 160 acres within these Multiple Use Districts. There are various permitted and conditional uses such as agriculture, forestry, mining, power generation and regulations related to residences. The Uniform Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances for Daggett County are available at <http://www.daggettcountry.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=8>.

More information on guidance related to land uses can be found in the Daggett County General Plan, available at <http://daggettcountry.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=61>.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Although there are no large past or active minerals or energy development activities located adjacent to this river segment, there are large phosphate deposits located nearby, which could be developed and mined in the future. According to the BLM geocommunicator database (www.geocommunicator.gov), there are two authorized phosphate leases in the area. UTU-0-147257 is inside of the ½ mile river corridor in sections 7 and 8 of T 2 N., R 20 E. UTU-0-026255 is just outside of the ½ mile river corridor in sections 17 and 18 of T 2 N., R 20 E. Wild and Scenic designation could have an effect on these existing phosphate leases.

Water Resources Development – There are three road crossings with bridges and two small diversions. Some historic water diversion structures are present, which may be important from a cultural or historic

perspective. No potential water development projects are known at this time. The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (which includes Daggett County), does not identify any proposed water development projects on this segment. There are no Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands along this segment.

Existing diversions in the upstream watershed (out of the eligible segment) include the Lodgepole canal, which diverts water from the North and Middle Forks of Sheep Creek into Lodgepole canyon. This diversion is not always used or active. The Main Fork of Sheep Creek is completely diverted into Long Park Reservoir via the Sheep Creek canal. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Sheep Creek/Spirit Lake Scenic Backway Loop (Forest Development Road 218) and Flaming Gorge/Uintas National Scenic Byway (Utah State Highway 44) provide access along the watercourse corridor.

Rights of way— There are two rights of way for roads across this segment. They are both in the name of the State of Utah.

Grazing Activities – There are no permitted grazing allotments along this segment.

Recreation Activities – Forest Service campground facilities and scenic byway interpretive sites and trails exist along within the corridor of the segment. This area provides an excellent opportunity to view Kokanee Salmon spawning in the fall.

Other Resource Activities – Timber harvest has not occurred along this segment and is not expected in the future.

Special Designations – This segment is entirely within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (NRA). The legislation establishing this NRA specified three broad missions and management goals. Specifically, these are to administer, protect, and develop the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in a manner to best provide for: (1) public outdoor recreation benefits, (2) conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment, and (3) management, utilization, and disposal of natural resources that will promote or are compatible with, and do not significantly impair the purpose for which the recreation area was established.

The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (r) Wildlife. This management area consists of those lands identified as having special or critical wildlife capabilities in the Flaming Gorge NRA. The objective is to maintain or increase wildlife species diversity and numbers while meeting the direction for protection of recreation and visual resources. The riparian objective is to protect. The management prescription applies to the south of this segment.
- (n₁) National Recreation Area – Existing Situation. These are lands in the NRA that have the existing low management prescription applied. Activities and practices recognize and emphasize the recreation and wildlife values within the NRA. Standards and guidelines are modified to comply with Public Law 90-540. The riparian objective is to protect. This management prescription encompasses the majority of the stream corridor, and areas to the north.

The Sheep Creek/Spirit Lake Scenic Backway Loop (Forest Development Road 218) provides access along the stream corridor. Scenic Backways are paved or improved dirt roads that highlight some of the less visited, yet spectacular features of an area.

The Flaming Gorge/Uintas National Scenic Byway (Utah State Highway 44) crosses the stream corridor.

The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. The program is a grass-roots collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States (<http://www.byways.org/learn/>).

This segment is located within the Dutch John Drinking Water Source Protection Zone, as identified by the State of Utah.

Upstream of the Highway 44, Lower Main Sheep Creek is within an inventoried roadless area.

Socio-Economic Environment – The two main communities in Daggett County are Manila and Dutch John, with populations of 685 and 204, respectively (2007 estimates). The county is set in a spectacular outdoor setting, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and livestock grazing have been important over time. The economy in Daggett County is based primarily on agriculture, livestock, hay, and alfalfa, but it is also an important producer of electric power for Utah and surrounding states. Dutch John originally provided a living place for those who worked at the Flaming Gorge dam.

The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Sheep Creek Geologic Area, Spirit Lake, the Green River and other outdoor attractions draw visitors to the area. Travel and tourism is an integral part of the local economy. The Flaming Gorge reservoir and the Green river are regional and national attractions. Both the reservoir and the Green River play an integral role in the local socio-economic environment. For example, there are 3 raft rental shops and 3 fly shops that cater to river enthusiasts on the Green River. 1.7 million dollars are brought into the area annually from customers of outfitter guides (13 total) on the Green River.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation for this segment, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

National Forest System Lands in Daggett County are zoned as Multiple Use Districts. Some of the purposes for providing a Multiple Use District are to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon, mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation would be limited, in order to protect land and open space resources. These areas are intended to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Additional purposes include avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion,

danger from brush land fires, damage to grazing, livestock raising, and to wildlife values.

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, grazing, agriculture, and mining. Designation would be consistent with the protection of land and open space resources, wildlife habitat, avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, and danger from fires.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study:

Daggett County officials and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to water rights, potential effects to reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protection of outstandingly remarkable values are available.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, and the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study:

Two letters specifically mentioned Lower Main Sheep Creek. One expressed support for designation based on its contribution to river system/basin integrity. The second letter was submitted by Sweetwater County Conservation District on behalf of Sweetwater County and Conservation District and Uinta County Conservation District in Wyoming. It stated that residents of those counties would be affected by designation of the Green River, raised questions about the study process, and requested cooperating agency status for all three entities.

Comments responding to Draft EIS

Many letters commented that all segments within a single river system should be considered together, like Middle Main Sheep Creek and Lower Main Sheep Creek because they are ecologically connected and a joint recommendation would enhance their contribution to the river system's integrity.

- Existing protections are adequate even outside of Wilderness
- Special designations frequently have unintended consequences
- Widespread belief that existing water rights would be compromised
- Creation of a federal water right, even though junior, is a concern because all water is already allocated or over allocated. Federal right gets in the way of other water users who might need to get in line for the water.
- Preferred alternative has far too few rivers compared to number that are eligible
- Speculative or uncertain development needs should not outweigh other values

Of the three organized campaign responses none supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in the NRA, inventoried roadless areas, and the Dutch John Drinking Water Protection Zone.

Designation would also be consistent with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources emphasis on maintaining high quality wildlife for bighorn sheep and fisheries habitat for trout and kokanee salmon.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation may be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances. The Daggett County General Plan does not specifically address Wild and Scenic River designation, but it does make the following statement about water resources:

“Adequate water quality and availability is necessary for significant residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, and recreational development. Daggett County desires to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of usable water by promoting and expanding the efficient management and use of water resources. The County also feels that private water rights should be protected from encroachment and/or coerced acquisition.”

Further indication of the County’s position regarding Wild and Scenic River designation can be found in an amendment to their General Plan (responding to a BLM Wild and Scenic River study):

“It is Daggett County’s policy that no river segment should be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System unless:

- Water is present and flowing at all times.
- The water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of three physiographic provinces of the state, and that the rationale and justification for the conclusion are disclosed.
- BLM fully disclaims in writing any interest in water rights with respect to the subject segment.
- It is clearly demonstrated that including segment in the NWSR system will not prevent, reduce, impair, or otherwise interfere with the state and its citizen’s enjoyment of complete and exclusive water rights in and to rivers of the state as determined by the laws of the state, nor interfere with or impair local, state, regional, or interstate water compacts to which the State or Daggett County is a party.
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed.
- It is clearly demonstrated that BLM does not intend to use such a designation to improperly impose Class I or II Visual Resource Management prescriptions.
- It is clearly demonstrated that the proposed addition will not adversely impact the local economy agricultural and industrial operations, outdoor recreation, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment.

The foregoing also summarizes the wild and scenic river criteria of the State of Utah, Utah Code ' 63-38d-401(8)(a), as well as the criteria of Daggett County.”

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

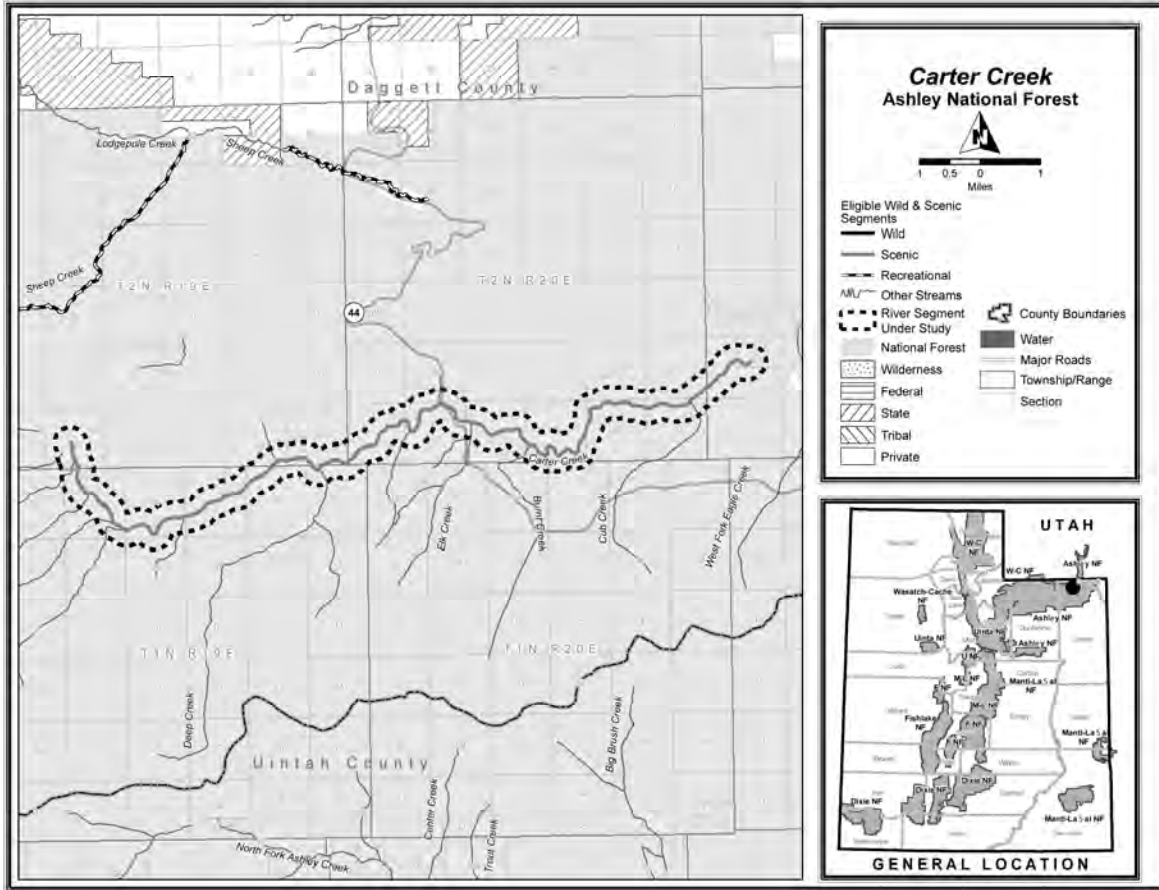
This eligible segment includes a small portion of the Sheep Creek basin, which decreases the ability to design a holistic protection strategy for the entire basin. Basin integrity could be improved by considering the Lower Main Sheep Creek and Middle Main Sheep Creek segments together. Designation would provide a comprehensive and holistic protection strategy with other cooperating agencies and public groups, for the segments that are proposed.

This entire segment is on National Forest System Lands, so the current proposal could not be expanded to other jurisdictions or ownerships.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Carter Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Carter Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 15.89 miles, from the Browne Lake dam to the point of entry into Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Carter Creek	Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District, Daggett County, Utah		Congressional District UT-2	
	Start (TRS)	End (TRS)	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 32, T 2 N, R 19 E, SLM	SW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 30, T 2 N, R 21 E, SLM	Scenic	15.89

Physical Description of River Segment:

The upper creek areas run through small meadows. Carter Creek then enters a shallow canyon area with lush riparian vegetation along the stream banks and mixed conifer, aspen and sagebrush on adjacent side slopes. From the crossing at Flaming Gorge/Uintas National Scenic Byway (Utah State Highway 44) to the Flaming Gorge Reservoir, Carter Creek is located in a steep canyon, lined with rock outcrops and

cliffs. Steep Canyon side slopes of exposed Uinta Mountain group keep this segment relatively confined. Steep gradients, debris jams, large boulders, and very rugged topography characterize this segment. This segment is very stable and not subject to bank destabilization.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, July 2005 (USDA Forest Service 2005)

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: Water quality sufficient to maintain outstandingly remarkable values. The two bridge crossings on Carter Creek do not reduce or adversely affect natural flows. No diversions exist on either segment.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Historic – The historic Carter Military Pass Road crosses through the upper portion of the segment. Some bedrock road cuts are evident. The upper portion of the drainage is also a significant historic district for work and facilities accomplished by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Cultural – Archaic, Fremont and late prehistoric sites exist within the corridor. Some of these sites are eligible for listing to the National Register. The Carter Creek granary at the mouth of the creek is a significant archaeological site. There are also significant rock shelters and storage features within the upper, middle and lower canyon areas of Carter Creek.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Scenic

- Free of impoundments.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.
- Accessible in places by roads.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads. The historic Carter Military Pass Road also crosses through the upper portion of the segment. Some bedrock road cuts are evident. Evidence of roads and rock retaining walls constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps exist in the upper and portion of the segment. Portions of the roads and retaining walls still serve and are part of the existing road access in the corridor of the creek. Two road bridge crossings exist, one in the upper half of the segment (Forest Development Road 539) and the other at the crossing of the Flaming Gorge/Uintas National Scenic Byway (Utah State Highway 44).
- Water quality sufficient to maintain outstandingly remarkable values.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located entirely on the Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District, and is within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-15.89	Ashley National Forest	5084.8

National Forest System Lands in Daggett County are zoned as Multiple Use Districts. Some of the purposes for providing a Multiple Use District are to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon, mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation would be limited, in order to protect land and open space resources. These areas are intended to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Additional purposes include avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion,

danger from brush land fires, damage to grazing, livestock raising, and to wildlife values. Minimum lot size is either 40, 80, or 160 acres within these Multiple Use Districts. There are various permitted and conditional uses such as agriculture, forestry, mining, power generation and regulations related to residences. The Uniform Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances for Daggett County are available at <http://www.daggettcountry.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=8>.

More information on guidance related to land uses can be found in the Daggett County General Plan, available at <http://daggettcountry.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=61>.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the underlying geology, and lack of past minerals and energy development, little if any future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams or diversions within the eligible corridor, but there are water developments in the upstream area that have an influence on flows in Carter Creek. Sheep Creek Canal diverts the entire flow of several tributaries to Carter Creek, including East Fork, Middle Fork, West Fork, Weyman Creek, South Fork Beaver Creek, and Beaver Creek. Flows from these tributaries are diverted out of the Carter Creek drainage and into Long Park Reservoir. A canal maintained by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources diverts flows out of South Fork Beaver Creek and Beaver Creek into Sheep Creek Lake, which is maintained as a flow through reservoir for Colorado Cutthroat brood stock. Browne Lake Reservoir is just upstream of the eligible segment and is also operated by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources as a flow through reservoir, so it does not have an effect on downstream flows. Wild and Scenic designation is not expected to have an adverse effect on these existing diversion and storage developments.

There are Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands associated with the Flaming Gorge reservoir that extend from the confluence with the reservoir upstream for approximately 1 mile (Section 30 T N 2, R 21 E SLM).

There are two bridge crossings (forest road 539 and Highway 44) within the eligible segment, but they do not reduce or adversely affect natural flows. No future or potential water developments within the eligible river corridor are known at this time. The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (which includes Daggett County), does not identify any proposed water development projects on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Two road bridge crossings exist, one in the upper half of the segment (Forest Development Road 539) and the other at the crossing of the Flaming Gorge/Uintas National Scenic Byway (Utah State Highway 44). Parking areas exist at both these crossings. The Lost Springs Trail (007) parallels the upper half of the creek, while steep canyon east of State Highway 44 is relatively inaccessible. One trail access point (Carter Creek Trail) exists in this canyon area near Meadow Park. The Carter Creek Trail connects lower Carter Creek with the popular Hideout Canyon Boat Camp on the Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

The historic Carter Military Pass Road also crosses through the upper portion of the segment. Some bedrock road cuts are evident. There are also the remnants of an historic cabin and ditch at Young Springs.

Grazing Activities – The Lonesome Park allotment is downstream of Highway 44, but due to the rugged nature of the canyon, there is no grazing use along the river corridor. The Sheep Creek Mountain allotment is upstream of Highway 44, which permits 173 cow/calf pairs from June 20 – September 15. Grazing in this area occurs between the Deep Creek confluence to within ¼ mile of Browne Reservoir.

An enclosure has been in place for 12 years along the meadow segment below Browne Reservoir.

Recreation Activities – Fishing and hiking are the major uses along the creek. Deep Creek Campground is located next to the creek at the crossing of Forest Development Road 539, and is a favorite campground of local residents. The terminus of the creek in Flaming Gorge Reservoir is a very popular fishing spot for boaters on the reservoir.

Other Resource Activities – Past timber harvest has occurred in the upper portions of this watershed. There is a potential for future timber harvest, but it would not be expected along the river corridor. .

Special Designations – The lower half of this segment (from the confluence with Flaming Gorge reservoir to one mile upstream of the Highway 44 crossing) is within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (NRA). The legislation establishing this NRA specified three broad missions and management goals. Specifically, these are to administer, protect, and develop the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in a manner to best provide for: (1) public outdoor recreation benefits, (2) conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment, and (3) management, utilization, and disposal of natural resources that will promote or are compatible with, and do not significantly impair the purpose for which the recreation area was established.

The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (n) Range of resource uses and outputs. Commodity production modified for amenity production. Resource protection as needed outside of NRA. The riparian objective is to maintain and restore. This management prescription applies to the majority of the upper half of this segment.
- (f) Dispersed Recreation Routed. Areas receiving a variety of uses in a variety of landforms and vegetation types located throughout the Forest in a routed environment. The riparian objective is to maintain. Control as needed to protect streambank stability, minimize sedimentation, prevent compaction and maintain visuals. This management prescription encompasses a small portion of the stream corridor about 1 mile downstream of Browne reservoir.
- (b) Moderate Timber Production. This prescription only applies to a small sliver (approximately 100 yards) that is within the ½ mile river corridor near the crossing of Forest Development Road 539.
- (r) Wildlife. This management area consists of those lands identified as having special or critical wildlife capabilities in the Flaming Gorge NRA. The objective is to maintain or increase wildlife species diversity and numbers while meeting the direction for protection of recreation and visual resources. The riparian objective is to protect. The management prescription applies to the segment for one mile upstream of the Highway 44 crossing.
- (n₁) National Recreation Area – Existing Situation. These are lands in the NRA that have the existing low management prescription applied. Activities and practices recognize and emphasize the recreation and wildlife values within the NRA. Standards and guidelines are modified to comply with Public Law 90-540. The riparian objective is to protect. This management prescription encompasses the lower half of this segment, downstream of the Highway 44 crossing.

The Flaming Gorge/Uintas National Scenic Byway (Utah State Highway 44) crosses the stream corridor. The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. The program is a grass-roots collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States (<http://www.byways.org/learn/>).

This segment is located within the Dutch John Drinking Water Source Protection Zone, as identified by the State of Utah.

The portions of this segment between Browne reservoir and Forest Road 539, and downstream of Highway 44 are within inventoried roadless areas.

Socio-Economic Environment – The two main communities in Daggett County are Manila and Dutch John, with populations of 685 and 204, respectively (2007 estimates). The county is set in a spectacular outdoor setting, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and livestock grazing have been important over time. The economy in Daggett County is based primarily on agriculture, livestock, hay, and alfalfa, but it is also an important producer of electric power for Utah and surrounding states. Dutch John originally provided a living place for those who worked at the Flaming Gorge dam.

The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Sheep Creek Geologic Area, Spirit Lake, the Green River and other outdoor attractions draw visitors to the area. Travel and tourism is an integral part of the local economy. The Flaming Gorge reservoir and the Green river are regional and national attractions. Both the reservoir and the Green River play an integral role in the local socio-economic environment. For example, there are 3 raft rental shops and 3 fly shops that cater to river enthusiasts on the Green River. 1.7 million dollars are brought into the area annually from customers of outfitter guides (13 total) on the Green River.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in sharing the costs. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation for this segment, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

National Forest System Lands in Daggett County are zoned as Multiple Use Districts. Some of the purposes for providing a Multiple Use District are to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon, mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation would be limited, in order to protect land and open space resources. These areas are intended to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Additional purposes include avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, danger from brush land fires, damage to grazing, livestock raising, and to wildlife values.

Wild and Scenic designation could be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, grazing, agriculture, and mining. Designation would be consistent with the protection of land and open space resources, wildlife habitat, avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, and danger from fires.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study:

Daggett County officials and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to water rights, potential effects to reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protection of outstandingly remarkable values are available.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, and the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study:

Two scoping letters specifically mentioned Carter Creek: one supported designation based on “remarkable values” and lack of suitability conflicts; the other stated that residents of Sweetwater and Uinta Counties in Wyoming were affected by management of Carter Creek, raised questions about the study process, and requested cooperating agency status for those Counties and Conservation Districts.

Comments received responding to the Draft EIS

Of the three organized campaign responses none supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in the NRA, inventoried roadless areas, and the Dutch John Drinking Water Protection Zone.

Designation would also be consistent with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources emphasis on maintaining high quality wildlife and fisheries habitat. Designation would complement the ongoing efforts to maintain Colorado Cutthroat trout brood stock in Sheep Creek Lake (upstream of this segment)

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation may be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances. The Daggett County General Plan does not specifically address Wild and Scenic River designation, but it does make the following statement about water resources:

“Adequate water quality and availability is necessary for significant residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, and recreational development. Daggett County desires to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of usable water by promoting and expanding the efficient management and use of water resources. The County also feels that private water rights should be protected from encroachment and/or coerced acquisition.”

Further indication of the County’s position regarding Wild and Scenic River designation can be found in an amendment to their General Plan (responding to a BLM Wild and Scenic River study):

“It is Daggett County’s policy that no river segment should be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System unless:

- Water is present and flowing at all times.
- The water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of three physiographic provinces of the state, and that the rationale and justification for the conclusion are disclosed.
- BLM fully disclaims in writing any interest in water rights with respect to the subject segment.
- It is clearly demonstrated that including segment in the NWSR system will not prevent, reduce, impair, or otherwise interfere with the state and its citizen’s

enjoyment of complete and exclusive water rights in and to rivers of the state as determined by the laws of the state, nor interfere with or impair local, state, regional, or interstate water compacts to which the State or Daggett County is a party.

- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed.
- It is clearly demonstrated that BLM does not intend to use such a designation to improperly impose Class I or II Visual Resource Management prescriptions.
- It is clearly demonstrated that the proposed addition will not adversely impact the local economy agricultural and industrial operations, outdoor recreation, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment.

The foregoing also summarizes the wild and scenic river criteria of the State of Utah, Utah Code ' 63-38d-401(8)(a), as well as the criteria of Daggett County.”

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

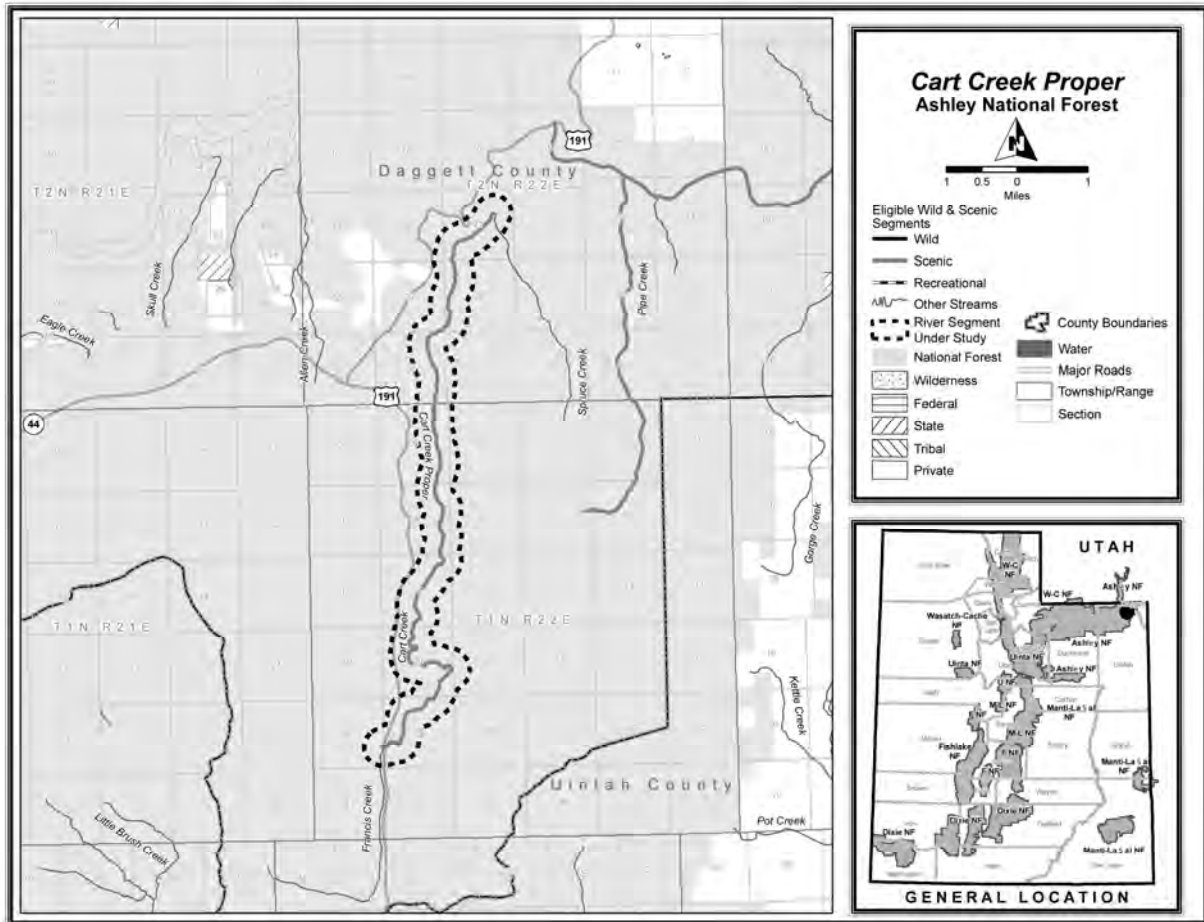
A large portion the Carter Creek headwaters were not found eligible for designation, which decreases the ability to design a holistic protection strategy for the entire basin. For the segment that is proposed, designation would provide a comprehensive and holistic protection strategy with other cooperating agencies and public groups.

This entire segment is on National Forest System Lands, so the current proposal could not be expanded to other jurisdictions or ownerships.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Cart Creek Proper Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Cart Creek Proper

River Mileage:

Studied: 10.19 miles, from the confluence of Francis and Cart Creeks, just upstream of State Highway 191 to the point of entry into Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Cart Creek Proper	Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District, Daggett County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start (TRS)	End (TRS)	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 30, T 1 N, R 22 E, SLM	SW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 21, T 2 N, R 22 E, SLM	Scenic	10.19

Physical Description of River Segment:

Cart Creek Proper descends from a meadow environment through a shallow then deeply incised canyon to an eventual terminus point at Flaming Gorge Reservoir. The canyon topography is rugged with mixed

coniferous vegetation on the slopes, interspersed with several talus slopes and rock outcrops. A diverse ribbon of riparian vegetation exists along the stream corridor. The Creek is confined in a steep canyon on the Uinta Mountain Group with a high complexity of pools, boulders, and debris jams. Flooding is common, but the stream itself is very resistant to bank erosion.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, July 2005 (USDA Forest Service 2005)

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: Water quality sufficient to maintain outstandingly remarkable values. The road crossing does not impair flows and there are no diversions.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Cultural – Archaic, Fremont and late prehistoric sites (granary and rock shelters) have been located near the creek. The sites are in good condition and eligible for listing to the National Register. Significance, Number of Cultures, Education/Interpretation, and Listing/Eligibility were rated high. Current Uses was rated low. Site Integrity was rated moderate. Overall Rating is high with a regional Scale of Importance.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Scenic

- Free of impoundments.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.
- Evidence of past logging or ongoing timber harvest, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.
- Accessible in places by roads. The Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway and Forest Development Road 049 cross the upper end of the segment. From that point on, steep canyon terrain prohibits vehicle and trail access.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads.
- Water quality sufficient to maintain outstandingly remarkable values.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located entirely on the Ashley National Forest, beginning on the Vernal Ranger District and ending on the Flaming Gorge Ranger District (within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area).

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-10.19	Ashley National Forest	3260.8

National Forest System Lands in Daggett County are zoned as Multiple Use Districts. Some of the purposes for providing a Multiple Use District are to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon, mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation would be limited, in order to protect land and open space resources. These areas are intended to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Additional purposes include avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, danger from brush land fires, damage to grazing, livestock raising, and to wildlife values. Minimum lot size is either 40, 80, or 160 acres within these Multiple Use Districts. There are various permitted and conditional uses such as agriculture, forestry, mining, power generation and regulations related to residences. The Uniform Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances for Daggett County are available at <http://www.daggettcountry.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=8>.

More information on guidance related to land uses can be found in the Daggett County General Plan, available at <http://daggettcountry.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=61>.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the underlying geology, and lack of past minerals and energy development, little if any future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no existing water developments (dams, diversions or channel modifications) on this segment. No future or potential water developments within the river corridor are known at this time. The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (which includes Daggett County), does not identify any proposed water development projects on this segment. There are Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands associated with the Flaming Gorge reservoir that extend from the confluence with the reservoir approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway (Utah State Highway 191) and Forest Development Road 049 cross the upper end of the segment. From that point on, steep canyon terrain prohibits vehicle and trail access. Lodgepole Campground is located within several hundred feet of the upper end of the segment.

Grazing Activities – Cart Creek creates a boundary between grazing allotments, but due to the rugged topography and limited access, no grazing use occurs in the river corridor. The McKee Draw sheep allotment on the Vernal Ranger District is in the headwaters of Cart Creek, but it has been vacant for four years, and use is not expected in the future.

Recreation Activities – Most recreation use occurs in the upper portion of the segment and is associated with fishing, developed and dispersed camping, hiking, and hunting. Some cross-country skiing and snowmobiling also occurs in the upper segment area during winter months.

Other Resource Activities – No timber harvest has occurred along the river corridor, but past harvest has occurred in the upper watershed and could potentially occur in the future. Recent salvage logging activities are evident on the lower slopes of the surrounding mountains.

Special Designations – The lower 2.1 miles of this segment are within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (NRA). The legislation establishing this area specified three broad missions and management goals. Specifically, these are to administer, protect, and develop the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in a manner to best provide for: (1) public outdoor recreation benefits, (2) conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment, and (3) management, utilization, and disposal of natural resources that will promote or are compatible with, and do not significantly impair the purpose for which the recreation area was established.

The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (n) Range of resource uses and outputs. Commodity production modified for amenity production. Resource protection as needed outside of NRA. The riparian objective is to maintain and restore. This management prescription applies to the majority of the segment outside of the NRA.
- (f) Dispersed Recreation Roaded. Areas receiving a variety of uses in a variety of landforms and vegetation types located throughout the Forest in a roaded environment. The riparian objective is to maintain. Control as needed to protect streambank stability, minimize sedimentation, prevent compaction and maintain visuals. This management prescription applies to some scattered areas

outside of the NRA.

- (n₁) National Recreation Area – Existing Situation. These are lands in the NRA that have the existing low management prescription applied. Activities and practices recognize and emphasize the recreation and wildlife values within the NRA. Standards and guidelines are modified to comply with Public Law 90-540. The riparian objective is to protect. This management prescription encompasses the majority of the area within the NRA.
- (r) Wildlife. This management area consists of those lands identified as having special or critical wildlife capabilities in the Flaming Gorge NRA. The objective is to maintain or increase wildlife species diversity and numbers while meeting the direction for protection of recreation and visual resources. The riparian objective is to protect. The management prescription applies to a small area near the confluence with Flaming Gorge reservoir.

The Flaming Gorge/Uintas National Scenic Byway (Utah State Highway 191) crosses the stream corridor at the beginning of this segment. The National Scenic Byways Program is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. The program is a grass-roots collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States (<http://www.byways.org/learn/>).

This segment is located within the Dutch John Drinking Water Source Protection Zone, as identified by the State of Utah.

Almost the entire length of this segment downstream of the Highway 191 crossing is within inventoried roadless areas.

Socio-Economic Environment – The two main communities in Daggett County are Manila and Dutch John, with populations of 685 and 204, respectively (2007 estimates). The county is set in a spectacular outdoor setting, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and livestock grazing have been important over time. The economy in Daggett County is based primarily on agriculture, livestock, hay, and alfalfa, but it is also an important producer of electric power for Utah and surrounding states. Dutch John originally provided a living place for those who worked at the Flaming Gorge dam.

The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Sheep Creek Geologic Area, Spirit Lake, the Green River and other outdoor attractions draw visitors to the area. Travel and tourism is an integral part of the local economy. The Flaming Gorge reservoir and the Green river are regional and national attractions. Both the reservoir and the Green River play an integral role in the local socio-economic environment. For example, there are 3 raft rental shops and 3 fly shops that cater to river enthusiasts on the Green River. 1.7 million dollars are brought into the area annually from customers of outfitter guides (13 total) on the Green River.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in sharing the costs. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation for this segment, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

National Forest System Lands in Daggett County are zoned as Multiple Use Districts. Some of the purposes for providing a Multiple Use District are to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon, mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation would be limited, in order to protect land and open space resources. These areas are intended to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Additional purposes include avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, danger from brush land fires, damage to grazing, livestock raising, and to wildlife values.

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, grazing, agriculture, and mining. Designation would be consistent with the protection of land and open space resources, wildlife habitat, avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, and danger from fires.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study:

Daggett County officials and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to water rights, potential effects to reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protection of outstandingly remarkable values are available.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, and the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study:

Two scoping letters specifically mentioned Cart Creek: one expressed support for designation based on "remarkable values" and lack of suitability conflicts; the other stated that residents of Sweetwater and Uinta Counties in Wyoming were affected by management of Cart Creek, raised questions about the study process, and requested cooperating agency status for those Counties and Conservation Districts.

Comments received in response to the draft EIS

Of the three organized campaign responses none supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in the NRA, inventoried roadless areas, and the Dutch John Drinking Water Protection Zone.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation may be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances. The Daggett County General Plan does not specifically address Wild and Scenic River designation, but it does make the following statement about water resources:

“Adequate water quality and availability is necessary for significant residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, and recreational development. Daggett County desires to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of usable water by promoting and expanding the efficient management and use of water resources. The County also feels that private water rights should be protected from encroachment and/or coerced acquisition.”

Further indication of the County’s position regarding Wild and Scenic River designation can be found in an amendment to their General Plan (responding to a BLM Wild and Scenic River study):

“It is Daggett County’s policy that no river segment should be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System unless:

- Water is present and flowing at all times.
- The water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of three physiographic provinces of the state, and that the rationale and justification for the conclusion are disclosed.
- BLM fully disclaims in writing any interest in water rights with respect to the subject segment.
- It is clearly demonstrated that including segment in the NWSR system will not prevent, reduce, impair, or otherwise interfere with the state and its citizen’s enjoyment of complete and exclusive water rights in and to rivers of the state as determined by the laws of the state, nor interfere with or impair local, state, regional, or interstate water compacts to which the State or Daggett County is a party.
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed.
- It is clearly demonstrated that BLM does not intend to use such a designation to improperly impose Class I or II Visual Resource Management prescriptions.
- It is clearly demonstrated that the proposed addition will not adversely impact the local economy agricultural and industrial operations, outdoor recreation, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment.

The foregoing also summarizes the wild and scenic river criteria of the State of Utah, Utah Code ' 63-38d-401(8)(a), as well as the criteria of Daggett County.”

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

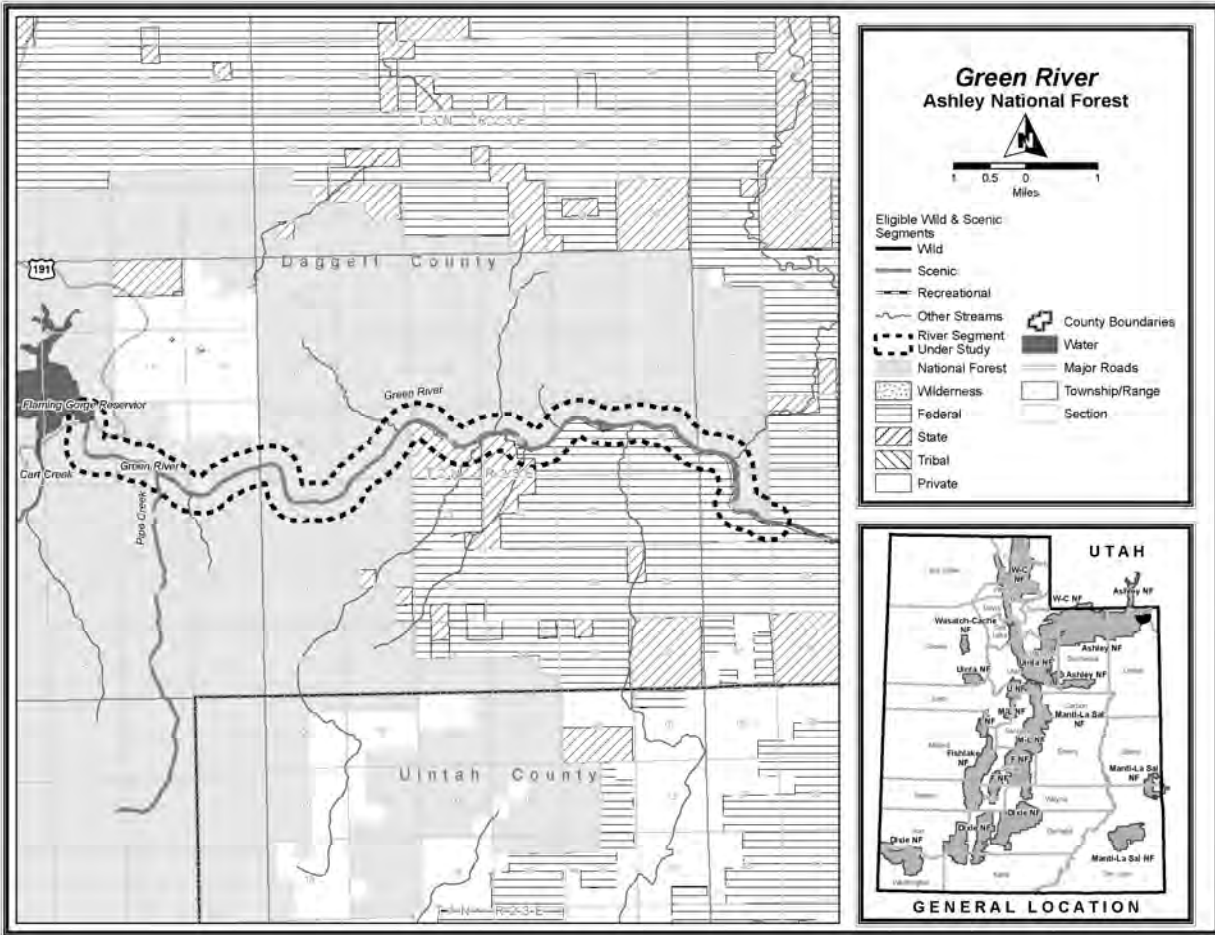
Designation would provide a comprehensive and holistic protection strategy with other cooperating agencies and public groups, for the segment that is proposed. Basin integrity could be improved by including the headwaters of Cart Creek, including Francis Creek, but these areas were not found eligible for designation.

This entire segment is on National Forest System Lands, so the current proposal could not be expanded to other jurisdictions or ownerships.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest for public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Green River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Green River

River Mileage:

Studied: 12.60 miles, from the Flaming Gorge Dam outlet works to the boundary of the Ashley National Forest.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Green River	Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District, Daggett County, Utah		Congressional District UT -2	
	Start (TRS)	End (TRS)	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 15, T 2 N, R 22 E, SLM	SE ¼ SE ¼ Sect 19, T 2 N, R 24 E, SLM	Scenic	12.60

Physical Description of River Segment:

This segment flows through a deep, narrow canyon. Slope gradient is from 45 to 80 percent, with many sheer cliffs. There are occasional steep breaks along the river and small side drainages. Most of the total

stream flow is provided by runoff of melting snow in the high mountains of the Uinta Range in northeastern Utah and the Wyoming and Wind River Ranges of west central Wyoming. Flows are now controlled by operations of the Flaming Gorge Dam and Reservoir. Pre-dam peak flows were typically 10,000 to 20,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), while base flows were typically 800 to 1,000 cfs. Typical flows in the segment below Flaming Gorge Dam between the mid-1960's and the early 1990's during the base flow period were 2,000 to 3,000 cfs. From 1992 to present, the dam has been operated to meet the requirement of the four endangered fish in the river segments beyond the National Forest boundary. This is being done by releasing peak flows that more closely resemble pre-dam conditions.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, July 2005 (USDA Forest Service 2005)

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment begins immediately below Flaming Gorge Dam. There are no diversions or significant channel modifications from the outlet works of the dam to the National Forest/Flaming Gorge National Recreation boundary.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic – The Green River provides a unique up close and background view of steep and colorful cliffs that are intersected by slopes of various steepness and texture. The cliffs are either up close at the waters edge or off in the distance above the immediate river gorge. These views are contrasted with the view of Flaming Gorge Dam from below at the beginning of this river segment. The foreground view of the river is one of differing riparian vegetation at the water's edge that contrasts with more xeric vegetation as you move up the slopes along the river.

The crystal clear water of the river provides a dramatic contrast to the red canyon walls and cliffs especially when the canyon straightens and the river can be viewed for an extended distance. Rock outcrops along the inner canyon rim seem to extend out over the river. The views of calm sections of the river are interrupted by the appearance of a disappearing river as one floats closer to a rapid and its drop in elevation. Large boulders in the river are also a special feature of the river.

Cottonwoods and willows, along with other riparian vegetation, provide a change in the scenery as the seasons change. The contrast between winter snow, the clear bluish water, and the red cliffs is striking. Fall colors of cottonwoods, willows, aspen higher up on the slopes, and Ponderosa pine along the river contribute to dramatic scenery in the fall. Steep, vertical sandstone spires, escarpments of 400-800 feet (Organ Rock formation), deep gorges, and flat, narrow valley bottoms characterize this watercourse. Erosion has produced highly scenic rock outcrops and alcoves along the canyon walls. Views are expansive and unobstructed within the canyon.

The Flaming Gorge Dam and the Little Hole National Recreation Trail (sections of natural trail with sections of boardwalks extending out into the river) add to the dramatic scenery of the Green River. The dam and its related power generation structures provide a unique visual experience. On rare occasions when jet tube water releases from Flaming Gorge Dam occur, the experience is world class. Diversity of View and Special Features were rated high. Seasonal Variations was rated low. Cultural Modifications was rated appropriate. Overall Rating is high with a national Scale of Importance.

Recreational – The Green River has an extended season of use 365 days a year. Hiking, fishing (both from watercraft or from the shore), rafting (generally in every season other than winter), sight seeing and biking (all seasons but summer) all occur during most seasons of the year. The 365 days a year aspect of the river allows for year round operation of businesses providing recreational services.

The Green River provides a unique opportunity for world class fishing from either a watercraft or from the shore, recreational rafting that combines non-technical whitewater rafting to leisurely floating, hiking and biking along the Little Hole National Recreation Trail, picnicking at the Little Hole Boat Ramp and Picnic area (Little Hole) or access to the river via 4-wheeled drive vehicles across from Little Hole. The river is enjoyed by individuals, families, large youth groups taking care of themselves or by persons with hired outfitters or guides. Photography and sight seeing from the Spillway Boat Ramp, several dam or river overlooks, or from Little Hole are all excellent. Driftboats, rafts, kick boats, canoes and kayaks are commonly used.

World-class fishing generally provides the highest recreational experience on the river. People come from all over the world to fish the Green River. Recreational rafters (mostly families and youth groups) return year after year. Hikers and bikers, rather they are fishing or not, all have an outstanding experience. Surveys determining the quality of visitor experience are all high.

Access is provided by the Flaming Gorge/Uintas National Scenic Byway (US Highway 191) which travels over the dam and provides a unique experience just coming to the river. The access road from the highway to the river, a short 1 mile section of windy road with rock outcrops that extend out over the road, also provide a memorable experience. This segment has “highly acceptable” access with two launches areas (Spillway and Little Hole), and one take out area (Little Hole). Access is controlled and managed carefully to make sure users do not crowd the launch and takeout areas. Parking areas for autos and trailers are provided, along with launching facilities, restrooms, and signing. Boat ramps just below the dam and seven miles downstream at Little Hole provide excellent access for boat and raft launching or retrieval. Access to Little Hole also travels through the 2002 Mustang Burn which provides a unique contrast to the river corridor below.

An appropriate level of use during most seasons of the year occurs on the Green River. Crowding may occur during the summer during weekend and especially holiday weekends. For the youth groups that float the river, the interaction (water fights) with other groups is generally popular. Use occurs simultaneously with fishermen, hikers, rafters and sight seers. During week days and non-summer months, use is extensive but still allows for the kind of experience sought. Solitude can still be enjoyed.

The Green River provides for a wide range of activities. This ranges from those who view the river below from the dam or one of the several dam and river overlooks, to those who float the river enjoying the world class fishing, floating the rapids, or just enjoying the scenery. Hikers can hike either way up or down the river. Picnicking can occur at any one of the numerous beaches along the river. And of course, sight seeing can occur just about anywhere.

The world class fishing opportunities on the Green River attract fishermen from all over the world. Generally these persons contract with numerous outfitters and guides to float the river. Fish densities on the Green River are some of the highest in the world. Fish size is exceptional. The Green River is a well-known river-running destination for visitors from outside the local geographic area. Many visitors from the Salt Lake City County, Utah County, Davis County, and Cache County, as well as places in Wyoming and Colorado come to the Green River for its water recreation.

The Spillway access road, boat ramp and restrooms provides a highly appropriate starting point for enjoying the Green River. Even sight seers who aren't floating the river enjoy the ride down to explore the spillway area and just view the river and dam from below. The Little Hole Trail has either a natural or boardwalk footing and travels seven miles to Little Hole. Dam and river overlooks provide a great opportunity to view both features. The Little Hole Picnic area and boat ramps provides excellent facilities to end your float trip or begin one. Length of Season, Diversity of Use, Experience Quality, Associated Opportunities, Attraction, and Sites and Facilities were rated high. Access was rated highly appropriate. Level of Use was rated appropriate. Overall Rating was high with a national Scale of Importance.

Fish – The Green River is a world famous recreational trout fishing stream, and is one of the top “blue ribbon” fly fishing rivers in the United States. Anglers travel from all over the world to experience this exceptional tail water fishery which can produce trophy sized rainbow and brown trout. The Green River is economically essential to the local communities and its fishery values are considered outstandingly remarkable.

The tail water fishery provides excellent habitat for the targeted introduced trout species and native mountain whitefish. Dam releases can be manipulated through out the summer to provide trout with optimal water temperatures, thus maximizing metabolism and biomass assimilation. The cool clean water also provides favorable conditions for aquatic macro-invertebrate production, which constitutes almost 100 percent of the trout diet. Even with recent fire damage to the watershed fine sediment loads are relatively low through out the first 16 miles of stream, allowing both brown and rainbow trout to spawn and recruit naturally. Width to depth ratios are very high and micro-habitats including deep runs, pools and eddies are in high concentration.

The value of the species in the Green River is considered high due to the amount of income the communities receive from tourist dollars. Without these species of sport fish present to attract recreational anglers the communities would not experience a fraction of the current income realized. Densities of trout in the Green River rival those found anywhere in the world. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has not performed a quantitative population estimate on the river since the mid 1990’s. However, catch rates are extremely high and ocular observations of many fish can easily be made. A robust, naturally reproducing population of brown trout exists in the Green River. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources does augment the population with hatchery reared fish and brown trout are the dominant species downstream of the Little Hole boat ramp. A small number of wild rainbow trout also show up the creel and annual electro-fishing survey, but do not compare to brown trout numbers. Condition factors (length to weight relationship) of trout in the Green River are very high. Brown trout over 21 inches are common and have been caught up to 18 pounds. Rainbows over 20 inches and 3-5 pounds are also present. Habitat Quality, Value of Species, Abundance of Fish, Natural Reproduction, Size and Vigor of Fish were rated high. Diversity of Species was rated moderate. Overall Rating was high with a national Scale of Importance.

Wildlife – The Green River corridor encompasses a diversity of habitat types for wildlife such as river, riparian, wetland, cliff, pinyon/juniper, and sagebrush in the upland areas. These habitat-types provide excellent habitat for a high diversity of species including waterfowl, shorebirds, migratory birds, raptors, big game, small mammals (including bats), and water adapted mammals such as beaver and river otter. The Green River is the major source of water as well as riparian and wetland vegetation important for hiding, nesting, and foraging cover in this arid region. The steep cliffs provide nesting habitat for species such as raptors, swallow, small mammals, insects, and reptiles. Due to the topography and inaccessibility for human activities, these habitats have remained in an almost pristine condition.

Diversity of species for the Green River corridor is high since the diversity of habitats is also high, especially when compared to the surrounding xeric landscape. Several wildlife species that have been documented or are expected to occur in the Green River corridor are considered briefly here. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list but to provide some insight into species diversity within the Green River corridor. Waterfowl and shore birds known or expected based on wetland and riparian habitat types occurring in sections along the Green River corridor or adjoining habitats include Canada geese, eared grebes, gadwalls, mallards, cinnamon teal, northern shovelers, pintails, Wilson’s phalarope, long-billed curlews, sandhill cranes, and great blue herons. In addition to species like the bald eagle, golden eagle and peregrine falcon, several other species of raptors have been observed within the Green River corridor including rough-legged hawks, red-tailed hawks, American kestrels, turkey vultures, prairie falcons, ospreys, and great horned owls. A number of passerines common to the intermountain west are expected

to occur within the Green River corridor at various times of the year. Included are many migratory neotropical species. Known nesters in woodland or sagebrush types in the upland areas along the Green River include mourning doves, common nighthawks, kingbirds, wrens, mountain bluebirds, and western meadowlarks. Other birds include the Virginia's warbler, loggerhead shrike, black-throated gray warbler, burrowing owl, pinyon jay, and sage sparrow. Bighorn sheep, mule deer, and occasionally elk and moose are common big game species encountered within the Green River corridor. Bighorn sheep use along the corridor has been occurring in recent years and is largely limited to the rocky cliffs. Other mammal species that depend on the Green River corridor include mountain lions, bobcats, black bear, pygmy rabbits, muskrats, woodrats, marmots, and several species of squirrels and mice. Some other water-adapted mammals include the river otter and beaver.

Due the presence of the Green River, abundance of wildlife species is high and may fluctuate in numbers during different times of the year, such as spring and fall migrations of waterfowl and other migratory bird species. The Green River also provides a water source, which can concentrate large numbers of wildlife species along this corridor. Habitat Quality, Diversity of Species, Abundance of Species were rated high. Overall Rating high and regional Scale of Importance.

Historic – John Wesley Powell is an important national figure. His journeys down the Green and Colorado Rivers were significant national events in the exploration and description of the West. His campsites at Little Hole and Red Creek can be identified from the photographs that were taken during the expedition. The large Ponderosa trees in Powell's photos at Little Hole are still living and help locate his campsite. The diaries and other accounts list the types of activities that transpired while the party was camped in those locations. These events and information provide a wealth of interpretive and educational opportunities. The watercourse corridor contains sites or features (John Wesley Powel camping sites) that are currently listed in, or is eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or has been designated as a National Historic Landmark.

Sites have regional or national importance for interpreting significant river events or people; the sites clearly and graphically reveal an interesting or unique history of the Region; and have the ability to attract visitors from outside the Region. The watercourse corridor represents a "textbook" example of historic events or provides the best example of historic culture or "river-related" events in the Region.

This segment has three historic themes and periods, i.e., exploration, fur trapping, and homesteading. River corridors that represent more than one historic theme or culture, that may have been used concurrently by more than one historic cultural group are of higher value. Significance, Education/Interpretation, Listing and Eligibility, number of Historic Themes or Periods were rated high. Site Integrity was rated low. Overall Rating was high with a national Scale of Importance.

Cultural – An incredible number of prehistoric sites exist along this section of the river. The USDI Bureau of Land Management is working on a cultural resource district for the Davenport Draw area and formally asked the Forest Service to include their portion of Little Hole in this designation. Multiple time periods are represented and a variety of site types have been recorded to date. Many of these sites are in excellent condition. For instance, the Hayes Site contained storage pits still filled with the maize and other plant matter the Fremont people of 700 to 1500 years ago had placed in them. The watercourse corridor has Paleo-Indian, archaic, Fremont, late-prehistoric, and historic cultures. The watercourse corridor represents "textbook" examples of the above mentioned cultures and provides one of the best examples of a culture or river-related event in the Region. The watercourse corridor contains sites or features that are currently listed in, or are eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or designated as a National Historic Landmark. Watercourses with such features, particularly if in abundance, are of higher value. Significance, Number of Cultures, Education/Interpretation, and Listing/Eligibility were rated high. Current Uses was rated low. Site Integrity was rated moderate. Overall Rating was high with a national Scale of Importance.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Scenic

- Free of impoundments.
- Accessible in places by roads.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads.
- Water quality and flow sufficient to maintain outstandingly remarkable values.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – Land ownership of this river segment is broken up as follows. Mileages begin at Flaming Gorge Dam (mile 0) and move downstream (mile 12.6).

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 - 5	Ashley National Forest (both sides of the river)	1600
5-7	Division of Wildlife Resources administered lands - State of Utah (south side of the river)	320
5-7	Ashley National Forest (north side of river)	320
7-12.6	Bureau of Land Management (south side of river)	896
7-12.6	Ashley National Forest (north side of the river)	896
	Total	4032

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

National Forest System Lands in Daggett County are zoned as Multiple Use Districts. Some of the purposes for providing a Multiple Use District are to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon, mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation would be limited, in order to protect land and open space resources. These areas are intended to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Additional purposes include avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, danger from brush land fires, damage to grazing, livestock raising, and to wildlife values. Minimum lot size is either 40, 80, or 160 acres within these Multiple Use Districts. There are various permitted and conditional uses such as agriculture, forestry, mining, power generation and regulations related to

residences. The Uniform Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances for Daggett County are available at <http://www.daggettcountry.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=8>.

More information on guidance related to land uses can be found in the Daggett County General Plan, available at <http://daggettcountry.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=61>.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the underlying geology, and lack of past minerals and energy development, little if any future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – The Flaming Gorge reservoir and dam are the key water development features in the area. There are Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands associated with the reservoir that extend down the eligible segment, with the exception of the lands administered by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the final 1.8 miles of the segment. Future water development is not expected because of the social, economic, scenic, recreational, fisheries, wildlife, historic, and cultural values associated this eligible segment. The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (which includes Daggett County), does not identify any proposed water development projects on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights and agreements.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Flaming Gorge/Uintas National Scenic Byway (US Highway 191) provides access to and across Flaming Gorge Dam. A Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation service road provides access to the Spillway Boat Ramp immediately below the dam. The canyon and river areas from the Spillway Boat Ramp to Little Hole Boat Ramp (approximately 7 miles) are accessed by the Little Hole National Recreation Trail. Forest Development Road 075 provides access to the Little Hole Boat Ramp. At this boat ramp, the Little Hole National Recreation Trail continues along the segment for approximately 1.0 miles. The remaining 4.6 miles of the river segment to the boundary of the National Forest/Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area is accessed by an undeveloped trail.

Rights of Way—There are two pipeline rights of way within this segment. There are also four rights of way for roads in the segment.

Grazing Activities – On National Forest System lands, there is no permitted livestock grazing along the river corridor. On lands administered by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources permitted grazing is allowed on a limited basis. On lands administered by the BLM, the river corridor is fenced, and livestock are kept ¼ mile away from the river. Limited grazing within the river corridor may be allowed at times.

Recreation Activities – Recreational activities and setting were described in detail in the summary of outstandingly remarkably values. One potential change in these use patterns could occur when the Brown's Park road is paved. Currently, the shuttle between Little Hole and Brown's Park is 35 miles, ½ of which is on dirt roads that are difficult to travel in wet conditions. When this is paved, use could increase in the lower sections (downstream of Little Hole). The paving is scheduled for the fall of 2007, but could be delayed until 2008.

Other Resource Activities – The river corridor is not suitable for timber harvest, and no other resource activities are expected in the future.

Special Designations – All of the lands administered by the Ashley National Forest are within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (NRA). The legislation establishing this NRA specified three broad missions and management goals. Specifically, these are to administer, protect, and develop the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in a manner to best provide for: (1) public outdoor recreation

benefits, (2) conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment, and (3) management, utilization, and disposal of natural resources that will promote or are compatible with, and do not significantly impair the purpose for which the recreation area was established.

The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (n₁) National Recreation Area – Existing Situation. These are lands in the NRA that have the existing low management prescription applied. Activities and practices recognize and emphasize the recreation and wildlife values within the NRA. Standards and guidelines are modified to comply with Public Law 90-540. The riparian objective is to protect. This management prescription encompasses the majority of the river corridor.
- (r) Wildlife. This management area consists of those lands identified as having special or critical wildlife capabilities in the Flaming Gorge NRA. The objective is to maintain or increase wildlife species diversity and numbers while meeting the direction for protection of recreation and visual resources. The riparian objective is to protect. The management prescription applies to small areas within the river corridor upstream and downstream of Little Hole, north side of the river.

The first 5 miles of the segment are within an inventoried roadless area. The area downstream of Little Hole on the Ashley National Forest (north side of river), is also within an inventoried roadless area.

Socio-Economic Environment – The two main communities in Daggett County are Manila and Dutch John, with populations of 685 and 204, respectively (2007 estimates). The county is set in a spectacular outdoor setting, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and livestock grazing have been important over time. The economy in Daggett County is based primarily on agriculture, livestock, hay, and alfalfa, but it is also an important producer of electric power for Utah and surrounding states. Dutch John originally provided a living place for those who worked at the Flaming Gorge dam.

The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Sheep Creek Geologic Area, Spirit Lake, the Green River and other outdoor attractions draw visitors to the area. Travel and tourism is an integral part of the local economy. The Flaming Gorge reservoir and the Green river are regional and national attractions. Both the reservoir and the Green River play an integral role in the local socio-economic environment. For example, there are 3 raft rental shops and 3 fly shops that cater to river enthusiasts on the Green River. 1.7 million dollars are brought into the area annually from customers of outfitter guides (13 total) on the Green River.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – This segment is administered by the USFS, the State of Utah, and the BLM.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in sharing the costs of management of these

segments.

The Flaming Gorge District Ranger indicates that local county officials would support the designation of this segment, in order to promote the Green River corridor and increase tourism in the area, but would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

National Forest System Lands in Daggett County are zoned as Multiple Use Districts. Some of the purposes for providing a Multiple Use District are to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon, mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation would be limited, in order to protect land and open space resources. These areas are intended to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Additional purposes include avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, danger from brush land fires, damage to grazing, livestock raising, and to wildlife values.

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, grazing, agriculture, and mining. Designation would be consistent with the protection of land and open space resources, wildlife habitat, avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, and danger from fires.

The Forest Service should designate the Green River because the current management of property owned by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is consistent with designation. (3-25f).

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study:

Various members of the public were opposed to the designation of this segment. Reasons for opposition included potential effects to future and downstream water developments, the level of development along the corridor should preclude it from being eligible, and that this segment should not be considered regionally important because of improvements and modifications already in place.

Daggett County officials have indicated support for the designation of the Green River into the Wild and Scenic River System. Some of the reasons for support would be to promote the river corridor and to increase tourism.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, and the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas.

Some commentors expressed opposition to all the eligible segments on the Ashley National Forest, except the Green River below Flaming Gorge dam. This segment was unique in the comments received, as it did have some support from those who were otherwise opposed Wild and Scenic designation.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study:

Many letters supporting designation of this stretch of the Green River were received during scoping, including endorsements from approximately 25 different organizations and river-related businesses. These letters cited a variety of reasons, including recreational, economic, and ecological values, for their support.

Opposing views were expressed by Central Utah, Duchesne and Uintah Water Conservancy Districts

based on concerns that designation would interfere with water exchanges or upstream storage. Although no new storage projects are planned for the Green River, a Water Development Prospectus identified a need to use surplus Green River water in conjunction with potential projects elsewhere in the Uintah Basin. The State of Utah expressed concern that designation would interfere with operation of Flaming Gorge reservoir. The State of Utah also expressed concerns that designation would restrict the state's ability to maintain or expand the highway.

A letter submitted by Sweetwater County Conservation District on behalf of Sweetwater County and Conservation District and Uinta County Conservation District in Wyoming stated that residents of those counties would be affected by designation of the Green River, raised questions about the study process, and requested cooperating agency status for all three entities.

Comments responding to the Draft EIS

Among the organizations and individuals in favor of WSR designation there was particularly strong support for rivers highlighted in the Utah Rivers Council letter, i.e., many letters singled out the **Green River** as a river they considered exemplary. Some letters focused solely on this river; others included it in a list of rivers they supported but with additional comments specific to values or their personal experiences on the Green River. All of the three organized campaigns supported the Green River for designation. Those who opposed designation of the Green River segment cited potential conflicts with operation of Flaming Gorge Dam (timing and amount of water released), the possibility that certain areas below the dam may need to be riprapped in the future, and the level of development already in the river corridor as detracting from its scenic character.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in the NRA and inventoried roadless areas.

Designation would also be consistent with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources emphasis on maintaining high quality wildlife and fisheries habitat. The recreational fishery in the Green River is nationally and world renowned, and is one of the top "blue ribbon" fisheries in the United States. Wild and Scenic designation would be consistent with the management and protection of this resource.

From 1992 to present, the dam has been operated to meet the requirement of the four endangered fish in the river segments beyond the National Forest boundary. This is being done by releasing peak flows that more closely resemble pre-dam conditions. Wild and Scenic designation would be consistent with preserving and maintaining habitat for these four endangered fish species downstream of the eligible segment.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation may be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances. The Daggett County General Plan does not specifically address Wild and Scenic River designation, but it does make the following statement about water resources:

"Adequate water quality and availability is necessary for significant residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, and recreational development. Daggett County desires to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of usable water by promoting and expanding the efficient management and use of water resources. The County also feels that private water rights should be protected from encroachment and/or coerced acquisition."

Further indication of the County's position regarding Wild and Scenic River designation can be found in an amendment to their General Plan (responding to a BLM Wild and Scenic River study):

"It is Daggett County's policy that no river segment should be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System unless:

- Water is present and flowing at all times.
- The water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of

comparison consisting of one of three physiographic provinces of the state, and that the rationale and justification for the conclusion are disclosed.

- BLM fully disclaims in writing any interest in water rights with respect to the subject segment.
- It is clearly demonstrated that including segment in the NWSR system will not prevent, reduce, impair, or otherwise interfere with the state and its citizen's enjoyment of complete and exclusive water rights in and to rivers of the state as determined by the laws of the state, nor interfere with or impair local, state, regional, or interstate water compacts to which the State or Daggett County is a party.
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed.
- It is clearly demonstrated that BLM does not intend to use such a designation to improperly impose Class I or II Visual Resource Management prescriptions.
- It is clearly demonstrated that the proposed addition will not adversely impact the local economy agricultural and industrial operations, outdoor recreation, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment.

The foregoing also summarizes the wild and scenic river criteria of the State of Utah, Utah Code ' 63-38d-401(8)(a), as well as the criteria of Daggett County.”

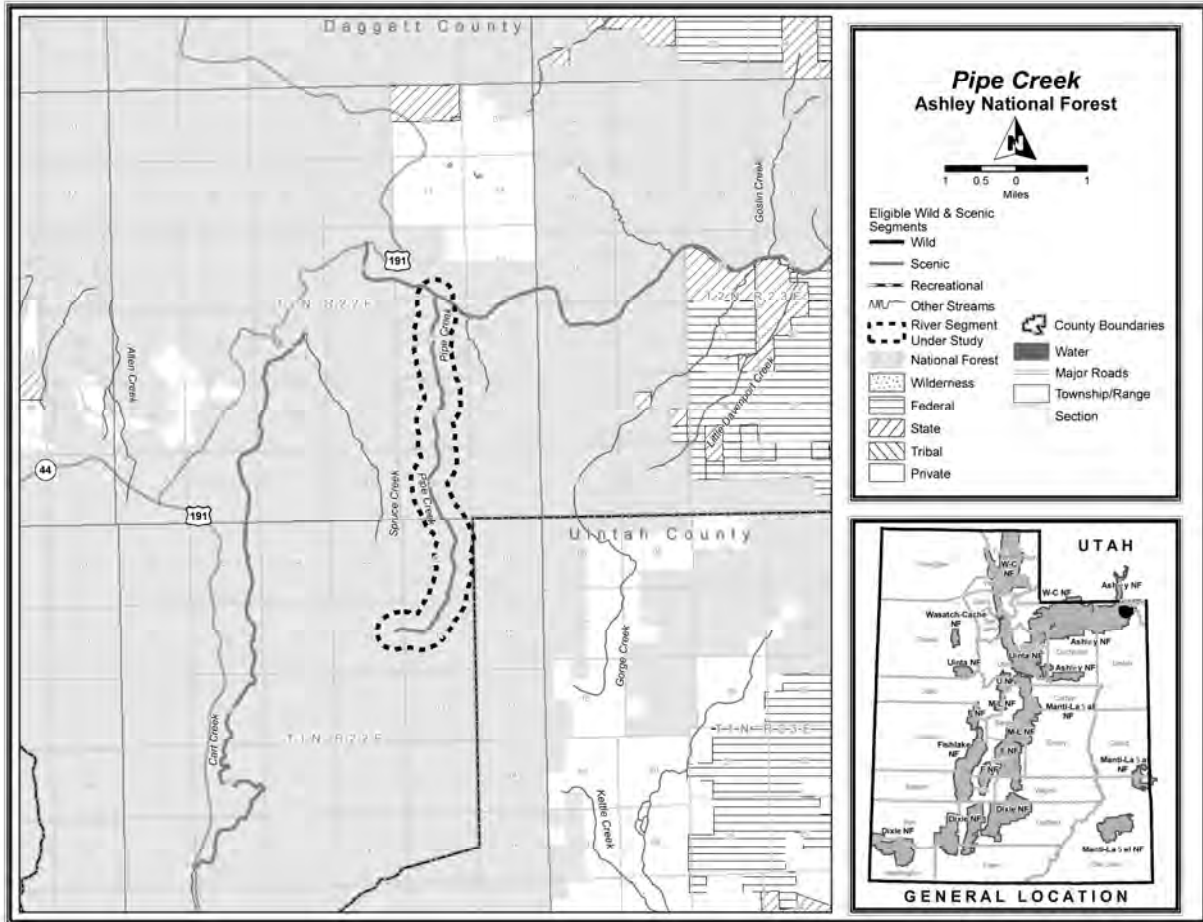
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment is on National Forest System Lands, lands administered by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and lands administered by the BLM. Designation could provide a comprehensive and holistic protection strategy between these government agencies, other cooperating agencies such as local governments, and public groups.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

The outfitter guides on the Green River would continue to support and participate in river clean up efforts.

Pipe Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



This detailed river narrative is a brief synopsis of the pertinent information related to eligibility and suitability determination for the specific river identified above.

STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Pipe Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 5.59 miles, from the headwaters to the confluence with the Green River.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Pipe Creek	Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District, Daggett County, Utah		Congressional District UT-2	
	Start (TRS)	End (TRS)	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 10, T 1 N, R 22 E, SLM	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 23, T 2 N, R 22 E, SLM	Scenic	5.59

Physical Description of River Segment:

This creek is located on the steep north facing slopes of the Green River a few miles below Flaming Gorge Dam. As the creek descends the steep slopes above the Green River, cascading sections in the

rock-lined channel are visible from the river. The stream is very confined in a deep canyon cut in Uinta Mountain quartzite. Many debris jams exist in the bottom with a very narrow valley bottom. Boulders, cobbles and numerous jams make up much of the bottom. Gradient is steep, and flows are subject to flash flooding. The creek corridor has a variety of streamside riparian habitats from meadow like environments in the headwaters to steep cascading stream and small pool environments in the lower end.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, July 2005 (USDA Forest Service 2005)

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: Water quality sufficient to maintain outstandingly remarkable values. There are no diversions or significant channel modifications.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Cultural – Archaic, Fremont and late prehistoric sites have been found and inventoried. Some of these sites are eligible for listing on the National Register. Current Native American uses are unknown. Significance, Number of Cultures, Site Integrity, and Listing/Eligibility were rated high. Current Uses and Education/ Interpretation were rated moderate. Overall Rating was high with a regional Scale of Importance.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Scenic

- Free of impoundments.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.
- The presence of grazing or hay production or row crops.
- Evidence of past logging or ongoing timber harvest, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.
- Accessible in places by roads. One two-track road crosses the above the headwaters of the creek. The Pipe Creek and Greens Draw Trails (Forest Development Trails 003 and 004) access the upper headwater areas. There are no developed roads in the creek corridor.
- Water quality sufficient to maintain outstandingly remarkable values.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located entirely on the Ashley National Forest, beginning on the Vernal Ranger District and ending on the Flaming Gorge Ranger District (within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area).

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 5.59	Ashley National Forest	1788.8

National Forest System Lands in Daggett County are zoned as Multiple Use Districts. Some of the purposes for providing a Multiple Use District are to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon, mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation would be limited, in order to protect land and open space resources. These areas are intended to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Additional purposes include avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, danger from brush land fires, damage to grazing, livestock raising, and to wildlife values. Minimum lot size is 40, 80, or 160 acres within these Multiple Use Districts. There are various permitted and conditional uses such as agriculture, forestry, mining, power generation and regulations related to residences. The Uniform Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances for Daggett County are available at

<http://www.Daggettcountry.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=8>.

More information on guidance related to land uses can be found in the Daggett County General Plan, available at <http://Daggettcountry.org/DocumentView.asp?DID=61>.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the underlying geology, and lack of past minerals and energy development, little if any future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions or significant channel modifications. No potential water development projects are known or expected at this time. The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (which includes Daggett County), does not identify any proposed water development projects on this segment. There are Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands associated with the Flaming Gorge reservoir, that extend from the confluence with the Green River upstream for approximately 1 mile. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Pipe Creek and Greens Draw Trails (Forest Development Trails 003 and 004) access the upper headwater areas. There are no developed roads in the creek corridor. One two-track road crosses the above the headwaters of the creek. Some boaters on the Green River stop at the mouth of Creek to fish, but due to the steep terrain, few venture up the creek from the river's edge.

Rights of way—There is one pipeline right of way across the segment, as well as two phone and one power right of way in the corridor.

Grazing Activities – On the Flaming Gorge District portion of this segment, the Birch Creek Little Hole allotment permits 74 cow/calf pairs from June 1-October 10. Use from this allotment is upstream and in the vicinity of the Pipe Creek road. On the Vernal Ranger District side of this segment, the Bowden Draw cattle allotment permits 260 cow/calf pairs from 6/22 – 9/27. Use is mainly in the headwaters and not in the confined canyon sections.

Recreation Activities – Recreation use is light along this creek, with most use occurring in the very upper headwaters. Hiking, horseback riding, hunting and dispersed camping are the primary uses. Concentrated recreation use occurs along the Green River at the mouth of the creek. Fishing and boating activities are ongoing year round.

Other Resource Activities – Timber harvest has occurred in this watershed and could potentially occur in the future. No harvest would be expected along the river corridor.

A 138 kV transmission line originating at the Flaming Gorge Dam power generation facilities crosses the lower section of the creek just above the Green River. The transmission line is difficult to see from the river, due to vegetative cover and the steepness of the slope.

Special Designations – The lower 1.2 miles of this segment are within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (NRA). The legislation establishing this area specified three broad missions and management goals. Specifically, these are to administer, protect, and develop the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in a manner to best provide for: (1) public outdoor recreation benefits, (2) conservation of scenic, scientific, historic, and other values contributing to public enjoyment, and (3) management, utilization, and disposal of natural resources that will promote or are compatible with, and do not significantly impair the purpose for which the recreation area was established.

The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (n) Range of resource uses and outputs. Commodity production modified for amenity production. Resource protection as needed outside of NRA. The riparian objective is to maintain and restore. This management prescription applies to the majority of the segment outside of the NRA.
- (f) Dispersed Recreation Routed. Areas receiving a variety of uses in a variety of landforms and vegetation types located throughout the Forest in a routed environment. The riparian objective is to maintain. Control as needed to protect streambank stability, minimize sedimentation, prevent compaction and maintain visuals. This management prescription applies to some scattered areas outside of the NRA.
- (n₁) National Recreation Area – Existing Situation. These are lands in the NRA that have the existing low management prescription applied. Activities and practices recognize and emphasize the recreation and wildlife values within the NRA. Standards and guidelines are modified to comply with Public Law 90-540. The riparian objective is to protect. This management prescription encompasses the entire area within the NRA.

The entire length of this segment is within inventoried roadless areas.

Socio-Economic Environment – The two main communities in Daggett County are Manila and Dutch John, with populations of 685 and 204, respectively (2007 estimates). The county is set in a spectacular outdoor setting, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and livestock grazing have been important over time. The economy in Daggett County is based primarily on agriculture, livestock, hay, and alfalfa, but it is also an important producer of electric power for Utah and surrounding states. Dutch John originally provided a living place for those who worked at the Flaming Gorge dam.

The Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area, Sheep Creek Geologic Area, Spirit Lake, the Green River and other outdoor attractions draw visitors to the area. Travel and tourism is an integral part of the local economy. The Flaming Gorge reservoir and the Green river are regional and national attractions. Both the reservoir and the Green River play an integral role in the local socio-economic environment. For example, there are 3 raft rental shops and 3 fly shops that cater to river enthusiasts on the Green River. 1.7 million dollars are brought into the area annually from customers of outfitter guides (13 total) on the Green River.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation for this segment, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government’s ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

National Forest System Lands in Daggett County are zoned as Multiple Use Districts. Some of the purposes for providing a Multiple Use District are to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon, mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation would be limited, in order to protect land and open space resources. These areas are intended to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Additional purposes include avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, danger from brush land fires, damage to grazing, livestock raising, and to wildlife values.

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, grazing, agriculture, and mining. Designation would be consistent with the protection of land and open space resources, wildlife habitat, avoiding excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, and danger from fires.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Daggett County officials and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to water rights, potential effects to reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protection of outstandingly remarkable values are available.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, and the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

One letter specifically mentioned Pipe Creek. It was submitted by Sweetwater County Conservation District on behalf of Sweetwater County and Conservation District and Uinta County Conservation District in Wyoming. The letter stated that residents of those counties would be affected by designation of the Green River, raised questions about the study process, and requested cooperating agency status for all three entities.

Comments responding to the draft EIS

Of the three organized campaigns none suggested a finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in the NRA and inventoried roadless areas.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation could be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances. The Daggett County General Plan does not specifically address Wild and Scenic River designation, but it does make the following statement about water resources:

“Adequate water quality and availability is necessary for significant residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, and recreational development. Daggett County desires to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of usable water by promoting and expanding the efficient management and use of water resources. The County also feels that private water rights should be protected from encroachment and/or coerced acquisition.”

Further indication of the County’s position regarding Wild and Scenic River designation can be found in an amendment to their General Plan (responding to a BLM Wild and Scenic River study):

“It is Daggett County’s policy that no river segment should be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System unless:

- Water is present and flowing at all times.
- The water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of three physiographic provinces of the state, and that the rationale and justification for the conclusion are disclosed.
- BLM fully disclaims in writing any interest in water rights with respect to the subject segment.
- It is clearly demonstrated that including segment in the NWSR system will not prevent, reduce, impair, or otherwise interfere with the state and its citizen’s enjoyment of complete and exclusive water rights in and to rivers of the state as determined by the laws of the state, nor interfere with or impair local, state, regional, or interstate water compacts to which the State or Daggett County is a party.
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed.
- It is clearly demonstrated that BLM does not intend to use such a designation to improperly impose Class I or II Visual Resource Management prescriptions.
- It is clearly demonstrated that the proposed addition will not adversely impact the local economy agricultural and industrial operations, outdoor recreation, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment.

The foregoing also summarizes the wild and scenic river criteria of the State of Utah, Utah Code ' 63-38d-401(8)(a), as well as the criteria of Daggett County.”

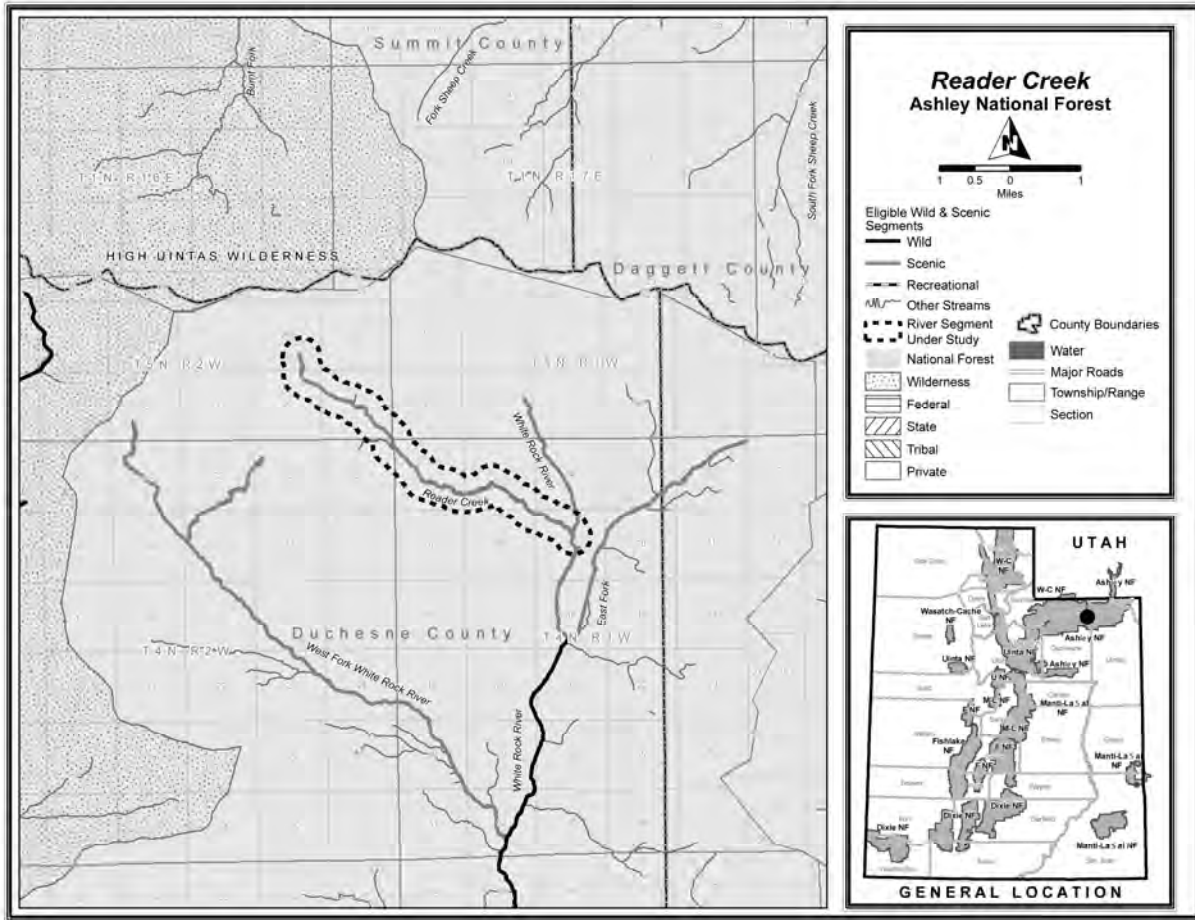
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The proposed segment includes the majority of the watershed, which would offer good basin integrity and the opportunity to design a holistic protection strategy. Designation would provide a comprehensive and holistic protection strategy with other cooperating agencies and public groups. This entire segment is on National Forest System Lands, so the current proposal could not be expanded to other jurisdictions or ownerships.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Reader Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Reader Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 6.0 miles, from Reader Lakes to the junction with Upper Whiterocks River.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Reader Creek	Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District, Duchesne County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect 26, T 5 N, R 2 W, USM	SW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 9, T 4 N, R 1 W, USM	Scenic	6.0

Physical Description of River Segment:

This segment descends through a broad low relief upper glaciated basin in Uinta Mountain quartzite. Wet meadows dominate this segment, and numerous seeps and springs are located adjacent to the meadow areas. These meadows are former lakes filled in by sediments following glaciation. As the stream moves

laterally across the meadow, large chunks of bank are undercut. The watercourse corridor exhibits an excellent geomorphic example of glaciation, both scour and deposition. There are natural waterfalls, bedrock at the surface, and lateral moraines along the watercourse corridor. The watercourse corridor reveals unique educational examples of glaciation and hydrologic actions.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest, July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV): The scenic, recreation, geologic/hydrologic, and fisheries ORVs have all been identified as regionally important, where other similar values were noted as having national importance, and the wildlife ORV as being less than regionally important.

Scenic – The river, lakes, and streams cross through a striking landscape of basins, meadows, ridgelines and peaks. Riparian areas and meadows provide seasonal variation in color during late fall months. There is exceptional contrast in vegetative cover with the high ridges that parallel both sides of the river and tributary. The corridor offers panoramic vistas of the peaks of the High Uintas backcountry, including cirques, lakes, and small streams along the corridor length.

Recreational – Reader Creek receives moderate to heavy use from backpackers, recreation stock and day use activities from late June to mid-October. Recreationists are attracted to these areas because of outstanding backcountry scenery, solitude, and fishing. Deer and elk hunting also occur along the segments in the fall months. Snowmobiling occurs within the corridor during winter months.

Geologic/Hydrologic – This segment descends through a broad low relief upper glaciated basin in Uinta Mountain quartzite. The area contains hummocky ground moraine and wet meadows. Wet meadows dominate this segment, and numerous seeps and springs are located adjacent to the meadow areas. These meadows are former lakes filled in by sediments following glaciation. Organic soils are found along much of the wet meadow stream reaches. As the stream moves laterally across the meadow, large chunks of bank are undercut. The watercourse corridor exhibits an excellent geomorphic example of glaciation, both scour and deposition. There are natural waterfalls, bedrock at the surface, and lateral moraines along the watercourse corridor. The watercourse corridor reveals unique educational examples of glaciation and hydrologic actions.

Fish – Several lakes are present along the stair-step series of benches from the upper to lower basin. Current fish populations include stocked brook trout and relict native Colorado River Cutthroat Trout. The stream is a reference reach for evaluating stream habitat since it is relatively unaltered by management activity. Treatments to eliminate the brook trout and enhance the cutthroat population were planned for the years 2000-2004. Colorado Cut Throat Trout restoration is continuing in Reader Creek.

Wildlife – Wildlife communities at this elevation are composed of alpine species usually not found at lower elevations. Ptarmigan may use the willows along the banks of this segment at certain times of the year. Ptarmigan were released in the Uinta Mountains some time ago and are stable or slowly increasing. The riparian vegetation also provides habitat for Neotropical birds, i.e., Lincolns and song sparrows. The watercourses cross through important summer range for both deer and elk, and the travel corridor for mountain goats.

Other Similar Values – Reader Creek cuts through glacial moraines with an overstory cover of subalpine

fir and Engelmann spruce. The riparian vegetation consists of cinquefoil meadows with sedges, grasses and low growth willows. Marsh marigold and elephant head are common forbs in wet areas. The corridor is the epicenter for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout reintroduction, and is essential for genetic interaction. There are good examples of permafrost and sphagnum moss within the watercourse corridor. Reader Creek corridor is a textbook example of plant and animal associations.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Scenic

Reader Creek is eligible for the Wild and Scenic River System. It is classified as a Scenic river.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located entirely on the Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-6.0	Ashley National Forest	1920

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the underlying geology, and lack of past minerals and energy development, little if any future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. No future developments are known or expected at this time.

The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (1999) identifies a shortage of irrigation water that generally occurs during July and August due to inadequate reservoir storage in the Uintah basin. The recommendation of this report is that storage reservoirs should be constructed on the Yellowstone River (near Altonah), Uinta River (near Neola) and Whiterocks River (near Whiterocks), as well as upper and lower Ashley Creek (Utah State Water Plan – Uintah Basin – 1999, pages 10-6 and 13-8). The report also recommends bank stabilization along Dry Fork (near Maeser). Bank stabilization, rebuilding old meander bends, and larger bridges were also recommended along Ashley Creek.

No proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin are proposed on this eligible Wild and Scenic river segment. All of these proposed projects are downstream of the Ashley National Forest, and are not expected to alter (or be altered by) potential Wild and Scenic designation. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Development Road 110 crosses lower portion of this segment. Foot bridges exist at various river and stream trail crossings.

Grazing Activities – There is no permitted livestock use on this segment.

Recreation Activities – Reader Creek receives moderate to heavy use from backpackers, recreation stock and day use activities from late June to mid-October. Recreationists are attracted to these areas because of outstanding backcountry scenery, solitude, and fishing. Deer and elk hunting also occur along the segments in the fall months. Snowmobiling occurs within the corridor during winter months.

Other Resource Activities – Timber harvest has occurred in this watershed and could potentially occur in the future. No harvest would be expected along the river corridor.

Historic sheep trails and cairns are located along Reader Creek and add value to the quality of visitor experience. These sites have the potential of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, with accompanying interpretation activities.

There is evidence of transient use of these areas by archaic, Fremont and late prehistoric cultures, found mainly near the upper headwaters of the segment. The sites are in good to excellent condition and are considered potentially eligible for listing in the National Register.

Special Designations – The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (n) Range of resource uses and outputs. Commodity production modified for amenity production. Resource protection as needed outside of NRA. The riparian objective is to maintain and restore. This management prescription encompasses the lower two thirds of this segment.
- (g) Undeveloped dispersed recreation – unroaded. These areas are characterized by a variety of timbered and non-timbered lands between mid and high elevations. The riparian objective is to protect. This prescription applies to the upper third of this segment.

This segment is located within the Tridell/LaPoint Drinking Water Source Protection Zone, as identified by the State of Utah.

All of the Reader Creek segment (except the crossing of Forest Road 110) is within inventoried roadless areas.

Socio-Economic Environment – Some of the downstream communities in Uintah County include Whiterocks, Tridell, Lapoint, and Fort Duchesne. Vernal is the largest community in the basin with an estimated population of 7, 577 (2007 estimate). These communities are set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The economy in the Uintah Basin relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas, manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Uintah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing, Dinosaur National Monument etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution. Designation would be consistent with the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Uintah County officials, the Uintah County Water Conservancy District, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to downstream water rights, potential effects to reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protecting outstandingly remarkable values are available.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas, and the protection of water quality within municipal watersheds.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

Letters of support were received from several individuals and non-profit organizations. All of these letters addressed Reader Creek in combination with other eligible segments of the Whiterocks river system. Values cited included the remote, undeveloped setting; the diversity of scenery, terrain and habitat types present; and the collective contribution of these segments to river system or basin integrity.

Some letters specifically mentioned Reader Creek's importance as a native cutthroat trout fishery.

No potential reservoir sites have been identified on or above Reader Creek. However, the Uintah Water Conservancy District was concerned that designation would curtail or foreclose water rights. UWCD also stated that Reader Creek "is dry or flows very little water much of the year". Other letters contradicted this statement.

Comments responding to the Draft EIS

Among the organizations and individuals in favor of WSR designation there was particularly strong support for rivers highlighted in the Utah Rivers Council letter, i.e.: Whiterocks River, including the Upper, West Fork, East Fork and Middle Main sections as well as Reader Creek. Many letters commented that all segments within a single river system should be considered together, because they are ecologically connected and a joint recommendation would enhance their contribution to the river system's integrity. Common examples included: Whiterocks River, including the Upper, West Fork, East Fork and Middle Main sections as well as Reader Creek

The Ashley Creek and Whiterocks river systems provide virtually all the water used by residents in the eastern Uintah Basin. Local officials and residents expressed great concern that operation of existing facilities would be restricted, compromising water rights and affecting local economies. Rapid population growth and potential oil shale development activities were also cited as reasons to retain the option of building additional water storage and delivery systems in these systems.

Proponents of designation for Whiterocks and Ashley Creeks cited the opportunity to protect large, intact watersheds and for their scenic, recreational and wildlife values. Ashley Creek in particular spans many life zones, from alpine to cottonwood – more than any other segment or combination of segments in the study. :

A common theme was that all rivers within Wilderness or roadless areas should be designated, in part because they pose few conflicts with other uses or activities and would be relatively simple to manage. In addition to the Wilderness rivers listed above, the following rivers were recommended based on being all or mostly within roadless: South Fork Ashley Creek, Ashley Gorge, all of the Whiterocks segments, and Lower Dry Fork (these are examples; different letters cited different examples). Of the three organized campaigns, all supported a finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in management prescription areas and inventoried roadless areas.

Designation would also be consistent with the joint efforts of the Ashley National Forest and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in restoring and improving native Colorado Cutthroat trout habitat. Treatments to remove brook trout and enhance the native cutthroat population were planned for 2000-2004. Reader Creek is the key stream in the Whiterocks drainage that holds genetically pure Colorado Cutthroat trout, and is the center of efforts to restore a meta- population of trout in the larger Whiterocks drainage.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation could be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances. The Duchesne County General Plan states that special designations, including wild and scenic rivers, "may result in non-use, restricted use, or environmental impacts on public and private lands. Special designations dictate practices that restrict access or use of the land that impact other resources or their use. Such designations cause resource waste, serious impacts to other important resources and actions, and are inconsistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield." The

County's position is that:

- The objectives of special designations can be met by well-planned and managed development of natural resources.
- No special designations shall be proposed until the need has been determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data available to the public. Furthermore, it must be demonstrated that protection cannot be provided by other means and that the area in question is truly unique compared to other area lands.
- Special designations can be detrimental to the County's economy, life style, culture, and heritage. Therefore special designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the laws and regulations that created them.

With respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers, County support will be withheld until:

- It is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of the three physiographic provinces in the state. The rationale and justification for the conclusions shall be disclosed;
- The effects of the addition on the local and state economies, private property rights, agricultural and industrial operations and interests, tourism, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal agency;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal agencies; and
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed. All valid existing rights, including grazing leases and permits shall not be affected.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

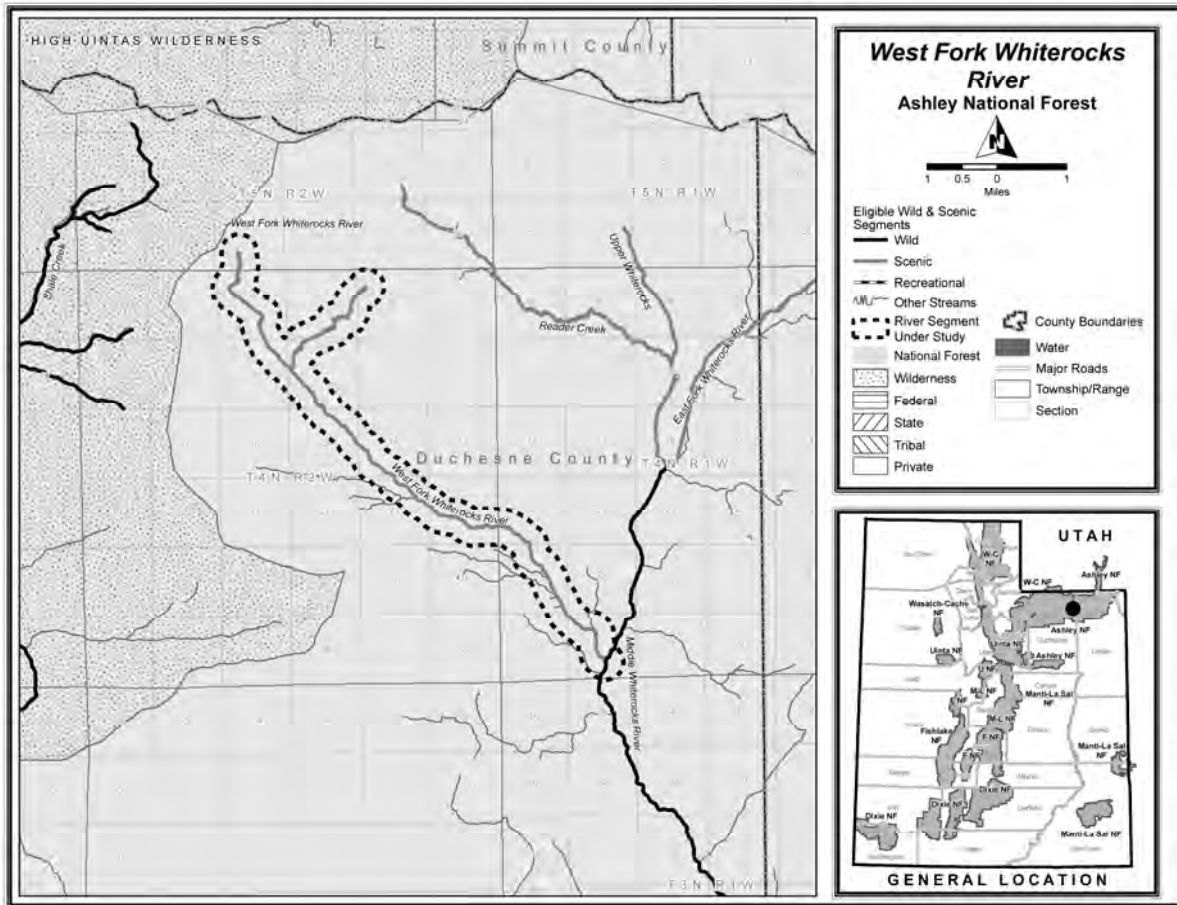
The proposed segment includes the majority of the Reader Creek watershed, which would offer good basin integrity and the opportunity to develop holistic protection strategies. In addition, basin integrity of the larger watershed could be improved by considering the additional segments in this watershed together, including Upper Whiterocks, East Fork Whiterocks, Middle Whiterocks, and West Fork Whiterocks.

This entire segment is on National Forest System Lands, so the current proposal could not be expanded to other jurisdictions or ownerships.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

West Fork Whiterocks River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: West Fork Whiterocks River

River Mileage:

Studied: 11.2 miles, from Fox/Queant Pass to the junction with Middle Whiterocks River. The lakes in the headwaters and smaller tributaries, including Cleveland and Queant Lakes are part of this segment.

Eligible: Same

Location:

West Fork Whiterocks River	Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District, Duchesne and Uintah County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 33, T 5 N, R 2 W, USM	NW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 32, T 4 N, R 1 W, USM	Scenic	11.2

Physical Description of River Segment:

This watercourse cuts through elongated lateral moraines that are generally dry, with active stream bank cutting occurring. The upper reaches of this segment are similar to segments Upper Whiterocks River and East Fork Whiterocks River. From approximately Forest Development Road 110, the stream descends a

moderately steep gradient, fast moving stream similar to Middle Whiterocks River. There are low-lying meadows and depressions where water sedge is common in the upper part of the segment. Other riparian dependent species include plainleaf willow. Timber oatgrass occurs on drier upland parts of meadows.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest, July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV): The scenic and recreation ORVs have been identified as regionally important.

Scenic – The river crosses through a striking landscape of basins, meadows, ridgelines and peaks. Riparian areas and meadows provide seasonal variation in color during late fall months. There is exceptional contrast in vegetative cover with the high ridges that parallel both sides of the river and tributary. The corridor offers panoramic vistas of the peaks of the High Uintas backcountry, including cirques, lakes, and small streams along the corridor length.

Recreation – West Fork Whiterocks River receive moderate to heavy use from backpackers, recreation stock and day use activities from late June to mid-October. Recreationists are attracted to these areas because of outstanding backcountry scenery, solitude, and fishing. Deer and elk hunting also occur along the segments in the fall months. Snowmobiling occurs within the corridor during winter months. Forest Development Road 110 crosses at bridge locations in the lower portion of the segment. A developed trailhead is located adjacent to this road and serves as the access point to the trail within the segment. Foot bridges exist at various river and stream trail crossings.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Scenic

The West Fork Whiterocks is accessible in places by road. It is classified as scenic river.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located entirely on the Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-11.2	Ashley National Forest	3584.0

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the underlying geology and lack of past minerals and energy development, little if any future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. No future developments are known or expected at this time.

The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (1999) identifies a shortage of irrigation water that generally occurs during July and August due to inadequate reservoir storage in the Uintah basin. The recommendation of this report is that storage reservoirs should be constructed on the Yellowstone River (near Altonah), Uinta River (near Neola) and Whiterocks River (near Whiterocks), as well as upper and lower Ashley Creek (Utah State Water Plan – Uintah Basin – 1999, pages 10-6 and 13-8). The report also recommends bank stabilization along Dry Fork (near Maeser). Bank stabilization, rebuilding old meander bends, and larger bridges were also recommended along Ashley Creek.

No proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin are proposed on eligible Wild and Scenic river segments. All of these proposed projects are downstream of the Ashley National Forest, and are not expected to alter (or be altered by) potential Wild and Scenic designation. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Development Road 110 crosses the lower portion of this segment. West Fork Whiterocks trailhead is located adjacent to the segment. Foot bridges exist at various river and stream trail crossings.

Grazing Activities – There is no permitted livestock use on this segment. There is a sheep allotment that is now closed.

Recreation Activities – This canyon is a popular area for hiking and dispersed recreation. The area provides access to the High Uintas Wilderness via the Whiterocks trailhead and Fox/Queant Pass.

Other Resource Activities – Timber harvests have occurred in this watershed and could potentially occur in the future. No harvest would be expected along the river corridor. Overlook pullouts and visitor information sites are located along "The Causeway" to the north of the canyon areas.

Special Designations – The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (n) Range of resource uses and outputs. Commodity production modified for amenity production. Resource protection as needed outside of NRA. The riparian objective is to maintain and restore. This management prescription encompasses the lower half of the segment.
- (g) Undeveloped dispersed recreation – unroaded. These areas are characterized by a variety of timbered and non-timbered lands between mid and high elevations. The riparian objective is to protect. This prescription applies to the upper half of the segment.

This segment is located within the Tridell/LaPoint Drinking Water Source Protection Zone, as identified by the State of Utah.

The upper half of this segment is within an inventoried roadless area.

Socio-Economic Environment – Some of the downstream communities in Uintah County include Whiterocks, Tridell, Lapoint, and Fort Duchesne. Vernal is the largest community in the basin with an estimated population of 7, 577 (2007 estimate). These communities are set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The economy in the Uintah Basin relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas, manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over

the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Unitah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing, Dinosaur National Monument etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution. Designation would be consistent with the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Uintah County officials, the Uintah County Water Conservancy District, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to downstream water rights, potential effects to reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protecting outstandingly remarkable values are available.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas, and the protection of water quality within municipal watersheds.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

Letters of support were received from several individuals and non-profit organizations. Most of these letters addressed the West Fork Whiterocks segment in combination with the other eligible segments of the Whiterocks river system. Values cited included the remote, undeveloped setting; the diversity of scenery, terrain and habitat types present; and the collective contribution of these segments to river system or basin integrity. One letter noted that although there are lakes on the segment that are considered sources of irrigation water (see below), there are no headgates on the lakes so outflows occur naturally.

Letters from the Central Utah Water Conservancy District and Uintah Water Conservancy District opposed designation based on concerns that designation would affect delivery of water for irrigation use or reduce water development potential for the area. The State of Utah commented that two potential reservoir sites have been identified in this drainage, but based on the legal descriptions provided both appear to be downstream of this segment.

One comment letter requested that any portion of the Whiterocks River abutting tar sands deposits not be considered suitable. The only known tar sands deposits are near the Forest boundary, well downstream of this segment.

Comments responding to the Draft EIS

Among the organizations and individuals in favor of WSR designation there was particularly strong support for rivers highlighted in the Utah Rivers Council letter, i.e.: Whiterocks River, including the Upper, West Fork, East Fork and Middle Main sections as well as Reader Creek. Many letters commented that all segments within a single river system should be considered together, because they are ecologically connected and a joint recommendation would enhance their contribution to the river system's integrity. Common examples included: Whiterocks River, including the Upper, West Fork, East Fork and Middle Main sections as well as Reader Creek

The Ashley Creek and Whiterocks river systems provide virtually all the water used by residents in the eastern Uintah Basin. Local officials and residents expressed great concern that operation of existing facilities would be restricted, compromising water rights and affecting local economies. Rapid population growth and potential oil shale development activities were also cited as reasons to retain the option of building additional water storage and delivery systems in these systems.

Proponents of designation for Whiterocks and Ashley Creeks cited the opportunity to protect large, intact watersheds and for their scenic, recreational and wildlife values. Ashley Creek in particular spans many life zones, from alpine to cottonwood – more than any other segment or combination of segments in the study. :

A common theme was that all rivers within Wilderness or roadless areas should be designated, in part because they pose few conflicts with other uses or activities and would be relatively simple to manage. In addition to the Wilderness rivers listed above, the following rivers were recommended based on being all or mostly within roadless: South Fork Ashley Creek, Ashley Gorge, all of the Whiterocks segments, and Lower Dry Fork (these are examples; different letters cited different examples). Of the three organized campaigns all supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in Forest management prescription areas, inventoried roadless areas, and Drinking Water Source Protection Zones for Tridell/LaPoint.

Designation would also complement the joint efforts of the Ashley National Forest and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to restore a meta-population of native Colorado Cutthroat trout in the Whiterocks drainage.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation could be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances. The Duchesne County General Plan states that special designations, including wild and scenic rivers, “may result in non-use, restricted use, or environmental impacts on public and private lands. Special designations dictate practices that restrict access or use of the land that impact other resources or their use. Such designations cause resource waste, serious impacts to other important resources and actions, and are inconsistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.” The County’s position is that:

- The objectives of special designations can be met by well-planned and managed development of natural resources.
- No special designations shall be proposed until the need has been determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data available to the public. Furthermore, it must be demonstrated that protection cannot be provided by other means and that the area in question is truly unique compared to other area lands.
- Special designations can be detrimental to the County’s economy, life style, culture, and heritage. Therefore special designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the laws and regulations that created them.

With respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers, County support will be withheld until:

- It is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of the three physiographic provinces in the state. The rationale and justification for the conclusions shall be disclosed;
- The effects of the addition on the local and state economies, private property rights, agricultural and industrial operations and interests, tourism, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal agency;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal agencies; and
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed. All valid existing rights, including grazing leases and permits shall not be affected.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

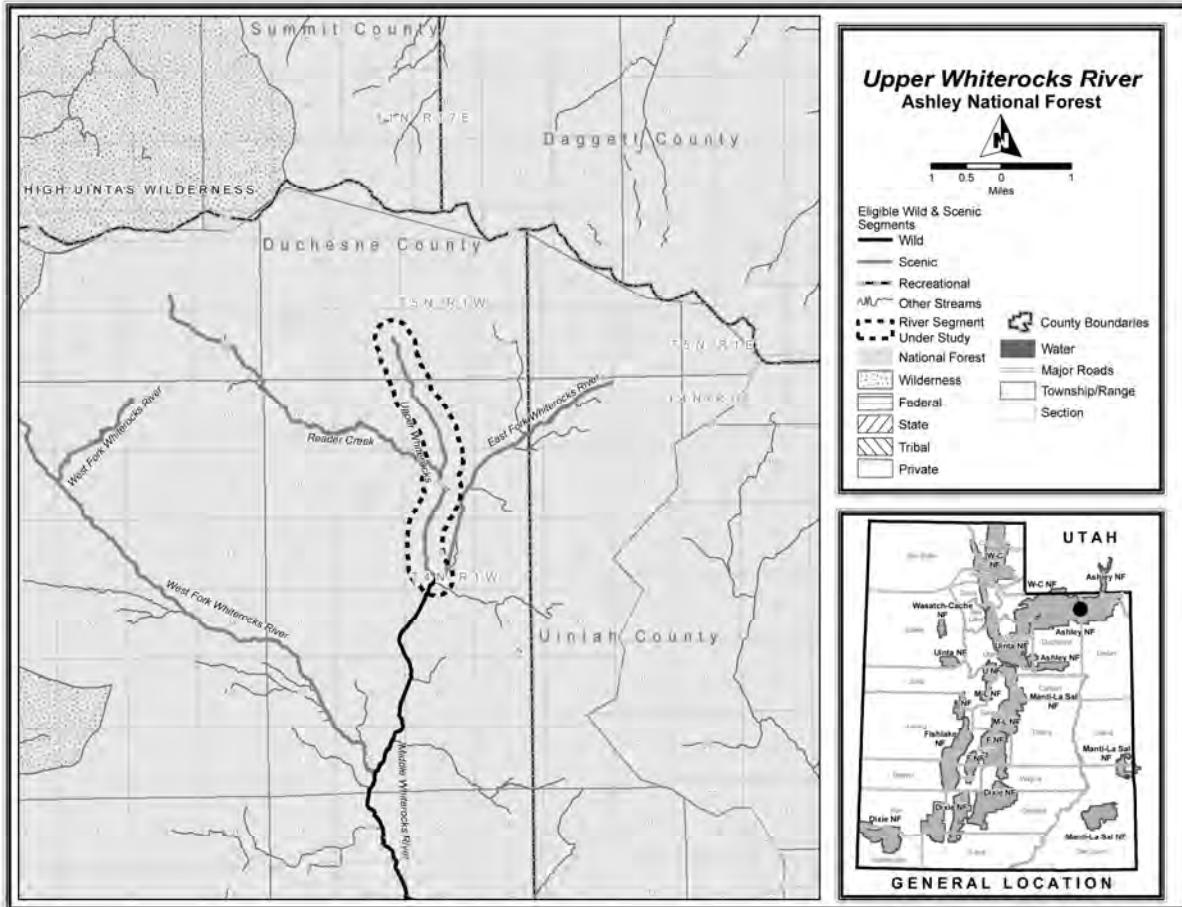
The proposed segment includes the majority of the West Fork Whiterocks watershed, which would offer good basin integrity and the opportunity to develop holistic protection strategies. In addition, basin integrity of the larger watershed could be improved by considering all of the additional segments in this watershed together, including Upper Whiterocks, East Fork Whiterocks, Middle Whiterocks, and Reader Creek.

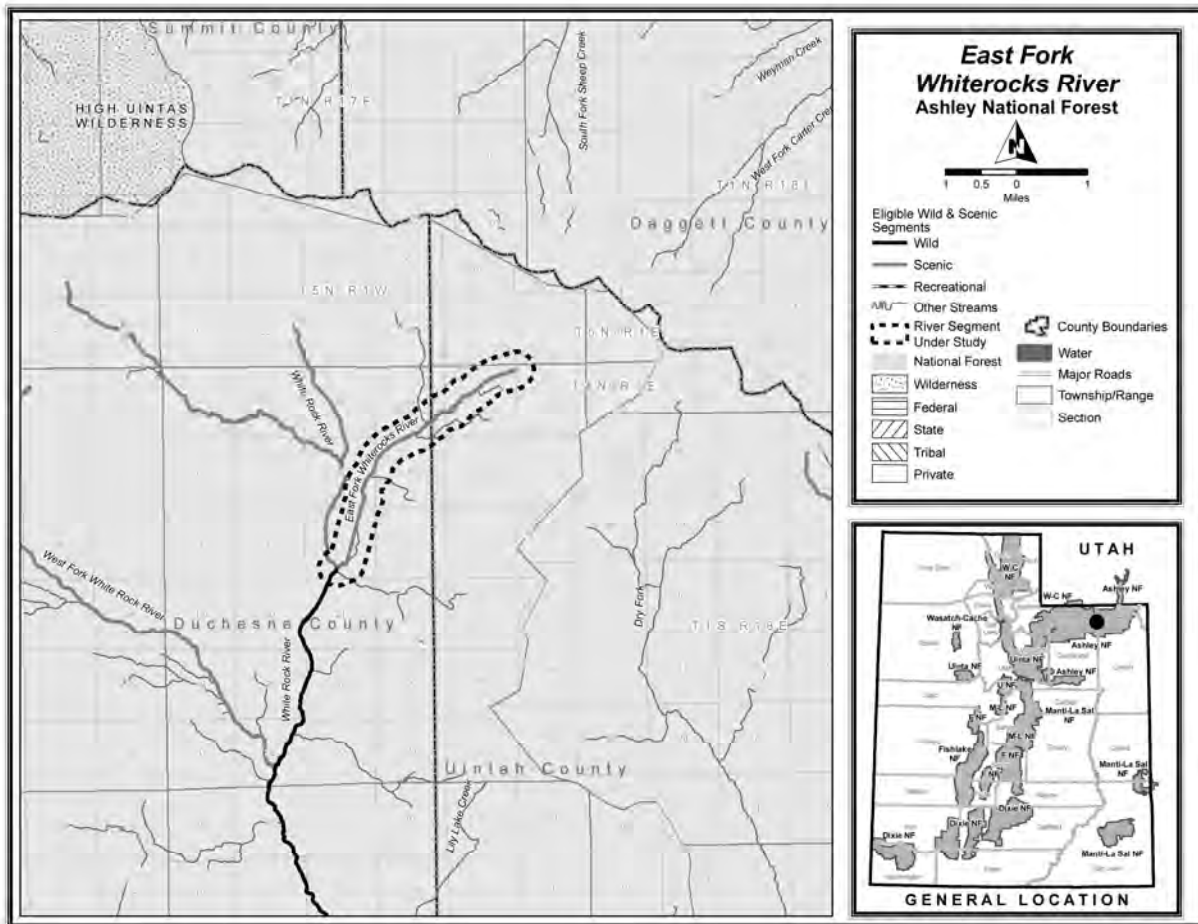
This entire segment is on National Forest System Lands, so the current proposal could not be expanded to other jurisdictions or ownerships.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Upper and East Fork Whiterocks River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)





STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Upper and East Fork Whiterocks Creek

River Mileage:

Upper Whiterocks

Studied: 3.93 miles from Chepeta Lake Dam to the junction with East Fork Whiterocks River.

Eligible: Same

East Fork Whiterocks

Studied: 4.33 miles - From the from the outlet structure of Whiterocks Lake Dam to a confluence with Upper Whiterocks River

Eligible: Same

Location:

	Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District, Duchesne and Uintah Counties, Utah		Congressional District UT -2	
	Start (TRS)	End (TRS)	Classification	Miles
Upper Whiterocks	SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 32, T 5 N, R 1 W, USM	SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 16, T 4 N, R 1 W, USM	Scenic	3.93
East Fork Whiterocks	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 2, T 4 N, R 1 W, USM	SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 16, T 4 N, R 1 W, USM	Scenic	4.33

Physical Description of River: The watercourses cut through the broad glaciated basins of Uinta

Mountain quartzite. They pass through open meadows lined with willows, and patches of high elevation Engelmann spruce and subalpine vegetation. The topography is relatively low gradient and rolling. The riparian zone of the river has a cover of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and sedges.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest USDA Forest Service July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: Dams at Whiterocks and Chepeta Lakes alter the downstream flows through these segments. There are no diversions or channel modifications in the segments themselves. During the eligibility process, the forest interdisciplinary team determined that there are sufficient flows in the watercourses throughout the year to maintain the outstandingly remarkable values.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – The Upper Whiterocks river crosses through a striking landscape of basins, meadows, ridgelines and peaks. Riparian areas and meadows provide seasonal variation in color during late fall months. There is exceptional contrast in vegetative cover with the high ridges that parallel both sides of the river and tributary. The corridor offers panoramic vistas of the peaks of the High Uintas backcountry, including cirques, lakes, and small streams along the corridor length. East Fork of Whiterocks River runs through a lush riparian area of meadow vegetation for approximately half of its length. Small lakes and streams within scenic basins and meadow corridors dot the northwestern facing slopes adjacent to the river. The riparian areas, bogs, meadows and conifer stands provide seasonal variation in color throughout the year. Late spring, summer and fall flowers are found in meadow locations and the riparian vegetation changes to yellows and reds in the late fall months. This highly scenic area attracts light to moderate hunting and fishing pressure, with users accessing the river area from the trailhead at Chepeta Lake. Three developed trails run parallel to and cross the segment at various locations. The season of use is from late June to mid-October.

Recreation – Upper Whiterocks River corridor is part of the Chepeta Lake recreation complex and receives considerable use related to fishing, hunting, horseback riding, driving for pleasure, hiking, and dispersed camping. Hundreds of visitors come to this area to participate in these activities, usually spending one to two nights in dispersed camping sites. The season of use is from late June to mid-October. The surrounding area also receives some snowmobile use during winter months, with users accessing the area from the road to Paradise Park Reservoir.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Both rivers are classified as Scenic.

Forest Development Road 110 crosses the upper end of the Upper Whiterocks just below the dam at Chepeta Lake. Trailhead parking, trails, a road bridge and rip-rapping, and outlet facilities for the dam are located at or near this crossing. The East Fork Whiterocks is accessible in places by road.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – Both segments are located entirely on the Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District.

Upper Whiterocks		
River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 3.93	Ashley National Forest	1257.6
East Fork Whiterocks		
River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 4.33	Ashley National Forest	1385.6

In Duchesne County, which includes a portion of East Fork Whiterocks and all of Upper Whiterocks, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

In Uintah County, which includes a portion of East Fork Whiterocks, National Forest System Lands are zoned as RFM-Recreation, Forestry and Mining (<http://www.co.uitable.ut.us/gis/Zoning%202005.pdf>). The RFM zone has been established as a district in which the primary use of the land is for recreation, forestry, grazing, wildlife and mining purposes. In general, this zone covers the mountainous portion of the unincorporated area of the county, and is characterized by naturalistic land areas, mountains canyons, and high grazing lands interspersed by ranches, recreational camps and resorts, outdoor recreational facilities, and mines and facilities related thereto. Natural and manmade lakes are also characteristic of this zone.

Conditional land uses that are permitted only when approved by the planning commission include (Uintah County code 17.64.030):

- A. Forest product industries and buildings related thereto;
- B. Oil and gas wells, mining and processing of minerals;
- C. Gravel and rock quarries;
- D. Reservoirs, dams, power plants, electric substations, oil and gas pipelines;
- E. Hot-road-mix plants on temporary basis for not more than six months;
- F. Ski resorts, recreation camps and uses incidental to such uses;
- G. Gas stations, cafes, resorts;
- H. Radio and television transmitter facilities.

Special provisions exist for construction near waterways and flood channels. No building shall be constructed within the boundaries of any natural waterway. Where buildings are to be constructed within seventy-five (75) feet of the exterior boundaries of the high water mark of a flood channel existing at the effective date of the ordinance codified in this title, adequate measures must be taken, as determined by the board of county commissioners, to protect the building or structure from damage, due to floods, and so as not to increase the hazard to surrounding lands and buildings (Uintah County code 17.64.060)

<http://www.co.uitable.ut.us/countycode/index.html>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to these river segments (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the underlying geology, and lack of past minerals and energy development, little if any future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – At the upper end of each segment, dams and outlet structures exist on Whiterocks Lake (East Fork Whiterocks) and Chepeta Lake (Upper Whiterocks). The dams are managed by the Whiterocks Irrigation Company under US Forest Service permit. These structures provide water storage and controlled releases to downstream water users. Other small dams exist on Wigwam, Papoose and Moccasin lakes, upstream of the Upper Whiterocks segment.

The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (1999) identifies a shortage of irrigation water that generally occurs during July and August due to inadequate reservoir storage in the Uintah basin. The recommendation of this report is that storage reservoirs should be constructed on the Yellowstone River (near Altonah), Uinta River (near Neola) and Whiterocks River (near Whiterocks), as well as upper and lower Ashley Creek (Utah State Water Plan – Uintah Basin – 1999, pages 10-6 and 13-8). The report also recommends bank stabilization along Dry Fork (near Maeser). Bank stabilization, rebuilding old meander bends, and larger bridges were also recommended along Ashley Creek.

Scoping Comments from the Central Utah Water Conservancy District identified potential water development plans. Chepeta Lake and all stretches of the Whiterocks River are being examined as part of the Uinta River Basin/Green River Water Development Project. The proposed water developments are below the segments. Water developments related to Chepeta Lake are upstream of the segments. These proposed projects are not expected to alter (or be altered by) potential Wild and Scenic designation. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Development Road 110 crosses the Upper Whiterocks segment just below the dam at Chepeta Lake. Trailhead parking, trails, a road bridge and rip-rapping, and outlet facilities for the dam are located at or near this crossing. Three developed trails run parallel to and cross the East Fork Whiterocks segment at various locations.

Grazing Activities – There is no permitted use of livestock on these segments. There is a sheep allotment that is now closed.

Recreation Activities – For the Upper Whiterocks segment, recreation is described in outstandingly remarkable values above. The East Fork Whiterocks area attracts light to moderate hunting and fishing pressure, with users accessing the river area from the trailhead at Chepeta Lake.

Other Resource Activities – Timber harvest has occurred in these watersheds and could potentially occur in the future. No harvest would be expected along the river corridors.

Special Designations – The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (n) Range of resource uses and outputs. Commodity production modified for amenity production. Resource protection as needed outside of NRA. The riparian objective is to maintain and restore. This management prescription applies to all the Upper Whiterocks segment and the lower half of the East Fork Whiterocks segment.
- (g) Undeveloped dispersed recreation – unroaded. These areas are characterized by a variety of timbered and non-timbered lands between mid and high elevations. The riparian objective is to protect. This prescription applies to the upper half of the East Fork Whiterocks segment.

This segment is located within the Tridell/LaPoint Drinking Water Source Protection Zone, as identified by the State of Utah.

All of East Fork Whiterocks is within an inventoried roadless area. All of Upper Whiterocks (except the crossing of Forest Road 110) is within inventoried roadless areas.

Socio-Economic Environment – Some of the downstream communities in Uintah County include Whiterocks, Tridell, Lapoint, and Fort Duchesne. Vernal is the largest community in the basin with an estimated population of 7, 577 (2007 estimate). These communities are set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The economy in the Uintah Basin relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas, manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism

http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Unitah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing, Dinosaur National Monument etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

In Duchesne County, which includes a portion of East Fork Whiterocks and all of Upper Whiterocks, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution. Designation would be consistent with the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat.

In Uintah county, which includes a portion of East Fork Whiterocks, National Forest System Lands are zoned as RFM-Recreation, Forestry and Mining. The RFM zone has been established as a district in which the primary use of the land is for recreation, forestry, grazing, wildlife and mining purposes. Wild and Scenic designation could be inconsistent with the stated uses of forestry, and mining. Designation could also be inconsistent with conditional land uses in Uintah County, including oil and gas wells/pipelines, gravel and rock quarries, reservoirs, dams, and power plants. Designation could be consistent with the purposes of recreation, permitted grazing, and wildlife. In addition, designation would be consistent with special provisions that exist for construction near waterways and flood channels.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Uintah County officials, Duchesne County officials, the Uintah County Water Conservancy District, the Duchesne Water Conservancy District, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to downstream water rights, potential effects to

reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protecting outstandingly remarkable values are available.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas, and the protection of water quality within municipal watersheds.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

Letters of support were received from several individuals and non-profit organizations. All of these letters addressed the Upper and East Fork Whiterocks segments in combination with the other eligible segments of the Whiterocks river system. Values cited included the remote, undeveloped setting; the diversity of scenery, terrain and habitat types present; and the collective contribution of these segments to river system or basin integrity. One letter noted that although a short stretch of the East Fork immediately below Whiterocks Reservoir is dry at certain times of the year, small tributaries along most of the segment provide enough water to sustain year-round flows.

Letters from the Central Utah Water Conservancy District and Uintah and Duchesne Water Conservancy Districts opposed designation based on potential conflicts with operation of existing reservoirs higher in the watershed that affect downstream flow regimes, including leaving portions of each segment dry while the reservoirs fill (but see other comments above and the Forest's assessment of flow regimes under section 4(a)). They also expressed concern that designation would affect water development potential for the area. The State of Utah commented that two potential reservoir sites have been identified in this drainage, but based on the legal descriptions provided both appear to be downstream of these segments.

One comment letter requested that any portion of the Whiterocks River abutting tar sands deposits not be considered suitable. The only known tar sands deposits are near the Forest boundary, well downstream of these segments.

Comments responding to the Draft EIS

Among the organizations and individuals in favor of WSR designation there was particularly strong support for rivers highlighted in the Utah Rivers Council letter, i.e.: Whiterocks River, including the Upper, West Fork, East Fork and Middle Main sections as well as Reader Creek. Many letters commented that all segments within a single river system should be considered together, because they are ecologically connected and a joint recommendation would enhance their contribution to the river system's integrity. Common examples included: Whiterocks River, including the Upper, West Fork, East Fork and Middle Main sections as well as Reader Creek

The Ashley Creek and Whiterocks river systems provide virtually all the water used by residents in the eastern Uintah Basin. Local officials and residents expressed great concern that operation of existing facilities would be restricted, compromising water rights and affecting local economies. Rapid population growth and potential oil shale development activities were also cited as reasons to retain the option of building additional water storage and delivery systems in these systems.

Proponents of designation for Whiterocks and Ashley Creeks cited the opportunity to protect large, intact watersheds and for their scenic, recreational and wildlife values. Ashley Creek in particular spans many life zones, from alpine to cottonwood – more than any other segment or combination of segments in the study. :

A common theme was that all rivers within Wilderness or roadless areas should be designated, in part because they pose few conflicts with other uses or activities and would be relatively simple to manage. In addition to the Wilderness rivers listed above, the following rivers were recommended based on being all or mostly within roadless: South Fork Ashley Creek, Ashley Gorge, all of the Whiterocks segments, and

Lower Dry Fork (these are examples; different letters cited different examples). Of the three organized campaigns all supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in Forest management prescription areas, inventoried roadless areas, and Drinking Water Source Protection Zones for Tridell/LaPoint. Designation would also complement the joint efforts of the Ashley National Forest and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to restore a meta-population of native Colorado Cutthroat trout in the Whiterocks drainage.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation could be both inconsistent and consistent with Duchesne and Uintah County zoning ordinances. Relevant portions of the County General Plans and Public Lands Policies are summarized as follows:

Uintah County

Uintah County's General Plan (2005 draft, obtained from the County web site) states that water quality and availability are necessary for continued growth and development, and contains policies to promote efficient management and use of water resources. With respect to Wild and Scenic River designation, the County's Public Lands Policy provides the following position statements:

- Special designations, such as wilderness, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), wild and scenic rivers, critical habitat, semi primitive and non-motorized travel, etc., result in single purpose or non-use and are detrimental to the area economy, life styles, culture, and heritage.
- Needed protections can be provided by well planned and managed development.
- No special designations should be proposed until it is determined and substantiated by verified scientific data, that there is a need for the designation, that protections can not be provided by other methods, and the area in question is truly unique when compared to other area lands.
- Designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the acts and regulations that created them.
- Designations that are not properly planned or managed are inconsistent with the mandates that public lands be managed for multiple use and sustained yield.

Uintah County also has a Public Lands Implementation Plan. It contains the following direction related to Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- WSR classifications must be appropriate and reflect the existing conditions and uses of bordering lands and the definitions contained in Sec. 2(b)(1)(2)(3) of the Act.
- The County must be provided an opportunity to participate in the preservation and/or administration of any river proposed or designated in the WSR system (Sec. 5(c) of the Act). Such designations must be provided for protections of water rights and access to water contained in that right. No WSA [*sic*] may be designated that have the effect of reducing water rights or access to those rights.
- Boundaries or buffers for designated water courses shall not exceed 320 acres/mile measured from the ordinary high water mark [Sec. 3(b)] and 1/4 mile from the ordinary high water mark on each side of the river [Sec. 4(d), Sec. 8(b), Sec. 9(a)(iii)].
- In addition to the boundary limitation provided in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Congress and the Department of Interior have found these limitations to be adequate on sections of the lower Green River where protection of scenic value was requested by them [Cooperative Government to Government Agreement Concerning Transfer of Naval Oil Shale Reserve Number 2, Public Law 106-398 Sec. 3405 (2)(c)].
- Any protection applied to streams or rivers must provide that such protections will in no

manner affect, impair, or limit the ability of holders of water rights to utilize their water rights. This is consistent with Department of Interior and congressional actions where similar protections were requested by them. [Cooperative Government to Government Agreement Concerning Transfer of Naval Oil Shale Reserve Number 2, Public Law 106-398 Sec. 3405 (2)(c)].

Duchesne County

The Duchesne County General Plan states that special designations, including wild and scenic rivers, “may result in non-use, restricted use, or environmental impacts on public and private lands. Special designations dictate practices that restrict access or use of the land that impact other resources or their use. Such designations cause resource waste, serious impacts to other important resources and actions, and are inconsistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.” The County’s position is that:

- The objectives of special designations can be met by well-planned and managed development of natural resources.
- No special designations shall be proposed until the need has been determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data available to the public. Furthermore, it must be demonstrated that protection cannot be provided by other means and that the area in question is truly unique compared to other area lands.
- Special designations can be detrimental to the County’s economy, life style, culture, and heritage. Therefore special designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the laws and regulations that created them.

With respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers, County support will be withheld until:

- It is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of the three physiographic provinces in the state. The rationale and justification for the conclusions shall be disclosed;
- The effects of the addition on the local and state economies, private property rights, agricultural and industrial operations and interests, tourism, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal agency;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal agencies; and
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed. All valid existing rights, including grazing leases and permits shall not be affected.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

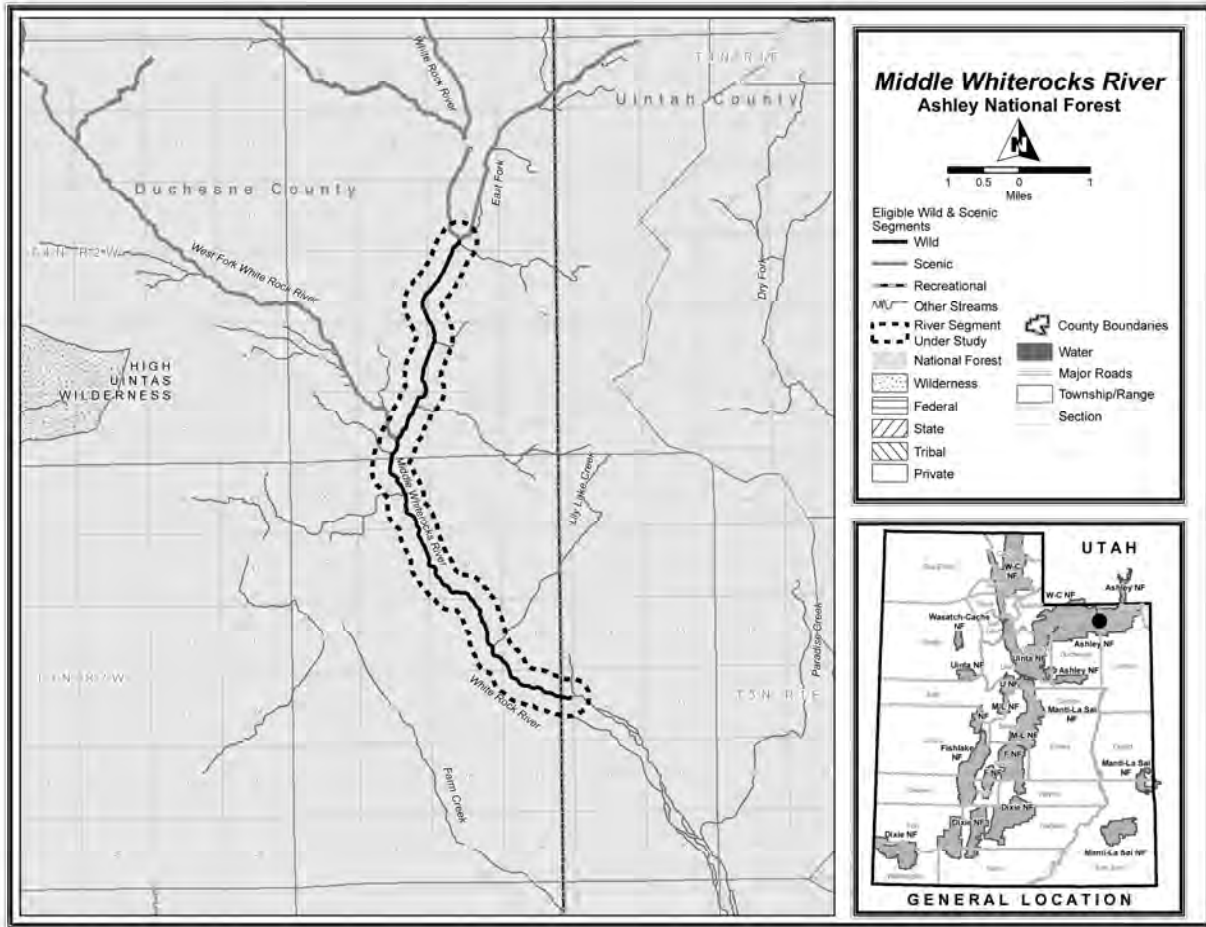
The proposed segments include a large portion of these watersheds, except for the headwater areas above the reservoirs, which were not found eligible. The downstream watershed and basin integrity could be improved by considering the additional segments in this watershed together, including Upper Whiterocks, East Fork Whiterocks, Middle Whiterocks, and West Fork Whiterocks.

These segments are entirely on National Forest System Lands, so the current proposal could not be expanded to other jurisdictions or ownerships.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Middle Whiterocks River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Middle Whiterocks River

River Mileage:

Studied: 8.5 miles, from the junction with East Fork Whiterocks River to the northern end of Forest Development Road 492 in Whiterocks Canyon

Eligible: Same

Location:

Middle Whiterocks River	Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District, Duchesne County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
	SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 16, T 4 N, R 1 W, USM	SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 22, T 3 N, R 1 W, USM	Wild	8.5

Physical Description of River Segment:

The topography is thin hummocky ground moraine and outwash with some inner gorges cut deep into the

underlying quartzite bedrock. Stream banks are armored with quartzite boulders and cobbles that are subject to extreme scouring with high flows associated with snowmelt in late May and early June. Stream bank stability for the most part is a function of bedrock and boulders, and in many reaches vegetation does not influence stream bank stability. Middle Whiterocks River descends through glacial canyon bottoms with mixed conifer forest at upper elevations and lodgepole pine at lower elevations. The river also passes through small wet meadows that are fed by numerous springs and seeps. This segment has high gradients, with abundant riffle habitat for fish, along with deep pools created by large pieces of wood and scour along bedrock cliffs. Currently, the watercourse has a strong population of brook trout, with a few cutthroat and rainbow trout. The segment may be included in the Colorado River Cutthroat Trout reintroduction plan as a travel corridor and habitat connectivity element. The watercourse is rated “High” for species diversity. It is part of a Colorado River Cutthroat meta population area and is important for conservation of this species. The river corridor is also critical for species migration and meta population development.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest, July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – Middle Whiterocks River is considered pristine in character. There are no roads, trails or water diversions in the canyon bottom for the entire length. Developed trails and roads are visible at various points along the river, but are located outside of the river corridor. Sights and sound of human activity are overcome by both distance and the sound of the cascading river. The scenic Cliff Lake falls is visible from this segment. The canyon bottom is extremely rugged, with small falls, pools, steep forested side slopes, side canyons, and many rock outcrops. Small areas of riparian vegetation provide seasonal variation in color. The scenic ORV has been identified as regionally important.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Wild

Middle Whiterocks River is eligible for the Wild and Scenic River System. It is classified as a Wild river.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located entirely on the Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-8.5	Ashley National Forest	2720

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

In Uintah County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as RFM-Recreation, Forestry and Mining (<http://www.co.uintah.ut.us/gis/Zoning%202005.pdf>). The RFM zone has been established as a district in

which the primary use of the land is for recreation, forestry, grazing, wildlife and mining purposes. In general, this zone covers the mountainous portion of the unincorporated area of the county, and is characterized by naturalistic land areas, mountains canyons, and high grazing lands interspersed by ranches, recreational camps and resorts, outdoor recreational facilities, and mines and facilities related thereto. Natural and manmade lakes are also characteristic of this zone.

Conditional land uses that are permitted only when approved by the planning commission include (Uintah County code 17.64.030):

- A. Forest product industries and buildings related thereto;
- B. Oil and gas wells, mining and processing of minerals;
- C. Gravel and rock quarries;
- D. Reservoirs, dams, power plants, electric substations, oil and gas pipelines;
- E. Hot-road-mix plants on temporary basis for not more than six months;
- F. Ski resorts, recreation camps and uses incidental to such uses;
- G. Gas stations, cafes, resorts;
- H. Radio and television transmitter facilities.

Special provisions exist for construction near waterways and flood channels. No building shall be constructed within the boundaries of any natural waterway. Where buildings are to be constructed within seventy-five (75) feet of the exterior boundaries of the high water mark of a flood channel existing at the effective date of the ordinance codified in this title, adequate measures must be taken, as determined by the board of county commissioners, to protect the building or structure from damage, due to floods, and so as not to increase the hazard to surrounding lands and buildings (Uintah County code 17.64.060) <http://www.co.uintah.ut.us/countycode/index.html>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the underlying geology, and lack of past minerals and energy development, little if any future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Upstream water developments in the headwaters include dams at Chepeta and Whiterocks lakes. No future developments in this segment are known or expected at this time.

The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (1999) identifies a shortage of irrigation water that generally occurs during July and August due to inadequate reservoir storage in the Uintah basin. The recommendation of this report is that storage reservoirs should be constructed on the Yellowstone River (near Altonah), Uinta River (near Neola) and Whiterocks River (near Whiterocks), as well as upper and lower Ashley Creek (Utah State Water Plan – Uintah Basin – 1999, pages 10-6 and 13-8). The report also recommends bank stabilization along Dry Fork (near Maeser). Bank stabilization, rebuilding old meander bends, and larger bridges were also recommended along Ashley Creek.

No proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin are proposed on eligible Wild and Scenic river segments. All of these proposed projects are downstream of the Ashley National Forest, and are not expected to alter (or be altered) by potential Wild and Scenic designation. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – There are no roads, trails in the canyon bottom for the entire length. Developed trails and roads are visible at various points along the river, but are located at least one half mile or more from the river itself.

Grazing Activities – There is no permitted livestock use on this segment.

Recreation Activities –Some fishing occurs along portions of this segment. The season of use is from late June to mid-October. The remote, inaccessible nature of the canyon provides a very isolated recreational experience.

Other Resource Activities – Timber harvest has only occurred in the upstream headwaters of this watershed. The rugged nature and limited access of the Middle Whiterocks River corridor has precluded any harvest, and no harvest activities are expected in the future.

Special Designations – The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (n) Range of resource uses and outputs. Commodity production modified for amenity production. Resource protection as needed outside of NRA. The riparian objective is to maintain and restore. This management prescription applies to the entire segment.

This segment is located within the Tridell/LaPoint Drinking Water Source Protection Zone, as identified by the State of Utah.

All of the eligible segment on the Middle Whiterocks River is within an inventoried roadless area.

Socio-Economic Environment – Some of the downstream communities in Uintah County include Whiterocks, Tridell, Lapoint, and Fort Duchesne. Vernal is the largest community in the basin with an estimated population of 7, 577 (2007 estimate). These communities are set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The economy in the Uintah Basin relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas, manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Uintah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing, Dinosaur National Monument etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution. Designation would be consistent with the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat.

In Uintah County, which includes a portion of Middle Whiterocks, National Forest System Lands are zoned as RFM-Recreation, Forestry and Mining. The RFM zone has been established as a district in which the primary use of the land is for recreation, forestry, grazing, wildlife and mining purposes. Wild and Scenic designation could be inconsistent with the stated uses of forestry, and mining. Designation could also be inconsistent with conditional land uses in Uintah County, including oil and gas wells/pipelines, gravel and rock quarries, reservoirs, dams, and power plants. Designation could be consistent with the purposes of recreation, permitted grazing, and wildlife. In addition, designation would be consistent with special provisions that exist for construction near waterways and flood channels.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Uintah County officials, Duchesne County officials, the Uintah County Water Conservancy District, the Duchesne Water Conservancy District, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to downstream water rights, potential effects to reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protecting outstandingly remarkable values are available.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas, and the protection of water quality within municipal watersheds.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

Letters of support were received from several individuals and non-profit organizations. All of these letters addressed the Middle Whiterocks segment in combination with the other eligible segments of the Whiterocks river system. Values cited included the remote, undeveloped setting; the diversity of scenery, terrain and habitat types present; and the collective contribution of these segments to river system or basin integrity.

Letters from the Central Utah Water Conservancy District and Uintah Water Conservancy District opposed designation based on potential conflicts with operation of existing reservoirs higher in the watershed (affecting downstream flow regimes) and possible impacts to the water development potential for the area. The State of Utah commented that a potential reservoir site has been identified southwest of Ice Cave peak. This site is downstream of the Middle Whiterocks segment. A second potential reservoir site is described as being in T3N, R1W, Section 9. This site may be on the Middle Whiterocks segment.

One comment letter requested that any portion of the Whiterocks River abutting tar sands deposits not be considered suitable. The only known tar sands deposits are near the Forest boundary, several miles downstream of the lowest eligible segment of the Whiterocks River.

Comments responding to the Draft EIS

Among the organizations and individuals in favor of WSR designation there was particularly strong support for rivers highlighted in the Utah Rivers Council letter, i.e.: Whiterocks River, including the Upper, West Fork, East Fork and Middle Main sections as well as Reader Creek. Many letters commented that all segments within a single river system should be considered together, because they are ecologically connected and a joint recommendation would enhance their contribution to the river system's integrity. Common examples included: Whiterocks River, including the Upper, West Fork, East Fork and Middle Main sections as well as Reader Creek

The Ashley Creek and Whiterocks river systems provide virtually all the water used by residents in the eastern Uintah Basin. Local officials and residents expressed great concern that operation of existing facilities would be restricted, compromising water rights and affecting local economies. Rapid population growth and potential oil shale development activities were also cited as reasons to retain the option of building additional water storage and delivery systems in these systems.

Proponents of designation for Whiterocks and Ashley Creeks cited the opportunity to protect large, intact watersheds and for their scenic, recreational and wildlife values. Ashley Creek in particular spans many life zones, from alpine to cottonwood – more than any other segment or combination of segments in the study.

A common theme was that all rivers within Wilderness or roadless areas should be designated, in part because they pose few conflicts with other uses or activities and would be relatively simple to manage. In addition to the Wilderness rivers listed above, the following rivers were recommended based on being all or mostly within roadless: South Fork Ashley Creek, Ashley Gorge, all of the Whiterocks segments, and Lower Dry Fork (these are examples; different letters cited different examples). Of the three organized campaigns all supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in Forest management prescription areas, inventoried roadless areas, and Drinking Water Source Protection Zones for Tridell/LaPoint.

Designation would also complement the joint efforts of the Ashley National Forest and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to restore a meta-population of native Colorado Cutthroat trout in the Whiterocks drainage.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation could be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances in Duchesne and Uintah Counties. Relevant portions of the County General Plans and Public Lands Policies are summarized as follows:

Uintah County

Uintah County's General Plan (2005 draft, obtained from the County web site) states that water quality and availability are necessary for continued growth and development, and contains policies to promote efficient management and use of water resources. With respect to Wild and Scenic River designation, the County's Public Lands Policy provides the following position statements:

- Special designations, such as wilderness, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), wild and scenic rivers, critical habitat, semi primitive and non-motorized travel, etc., result in single purpose or non-use and are detrimental to the area economy, life styles, culture, and heritage.
- Needed protections can be provided by well planned and managed development.
- No special designations should be proposed until it is determined and substantiated by verified scientific data, that there is a need for the designation, that protections can not be provided by other methods, and the area in question is truly unique when compared to other area lands.
- Designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the acts and regulations that created them.
- Designations that are not properly planned or managed are inconsistent with the mandates that public lands be managed for multiple use and sustained yield.

Uintah County also has a Public Lands Implementation Plan. It contains the following direction related to Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- WSR classifications must be appropriate and reflect the existing conditions and uses of bordering lands and the definitions contained in Sec. 2(b)(1)(2)(3) of the Act.
- The County must be provided an opportunity to participate in the preservation and/or administration of any river proposed or designated in the WSR system (Sec. 5(c) of the Act). Such designations must be provided for protections of water rights and access to water contained in that right. No WSA [*sic*] may be designated that have the effect of reducing water rights or access to those rights.
- Boundaries or buffers for designated water courses shall not exceed 320 acres/mile measured from the ordinary high water mark [Sec. 3(b)] and 1/4 mile from the ordinary high water mark on each side of the river [Sec. 4(d), Sec. 8(b), Sec. 9(a)(iii)].
- In addition to the boundary limitation provided in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Congress and the Department of Interior have found these limitations to be adequate on sections of the lower Green River where protection of scenic value was requested by them [Cooperative Government to Government Agreement Concerning Transfer of Naval Oil Shale Reserve Number 2, Public Law 106-398 Sec. 3405 (2)(c)].
- Any protection applied to streams or rivers must provide that such protections will in no manner affect, impair, or limit the ability of holders of water rights to utilize their water rights. This is consistent with Department of Interior and congressional actions where similar protections were requested by them. [Cooperative Government to Government Agreement Concerning Transfer of Naval Oil Shale Reserve Number 2, Public Law 106-398 Sec. 3405 (2)(c)].

Duchesne County

The Duchesne County General Plan states that special designations, including wild and scenic rivers, "may result in non-use, restricted use, or environmental impacts on public and private lands. Special designations dictate practices that restrict access or use of the land that impact other resources or their use. Such designations cause resource waste, serious impacts to other important resources and actions, and are inconsistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield." The County's position is that:

- The objectives of special designations can be met by well-planned and managed development

of natural resources.

- No special designations shall be proposed until the need has been determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data available to the public. Furthermore, it must be demonstrated that protection cannot be provided by other means and that the area in question is truly unique compared to other area lands.
- Special designations can be detrimental to the County's economy, life style, culture, and heritage. Therefore special designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the laws and regulations that created them.

With respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers, County support will be withheld until:

- It is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of the three physiographic provinces in the state. The rationale and justification for the conclusions shall be disclosed;
- The effects of the addition on the local and state economies, private property rights, agricultural and industrial operations and interests, tourism, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal agency;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal agencies; and
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed. All valid existing rights, including grazing leases and permits shall not be affected.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

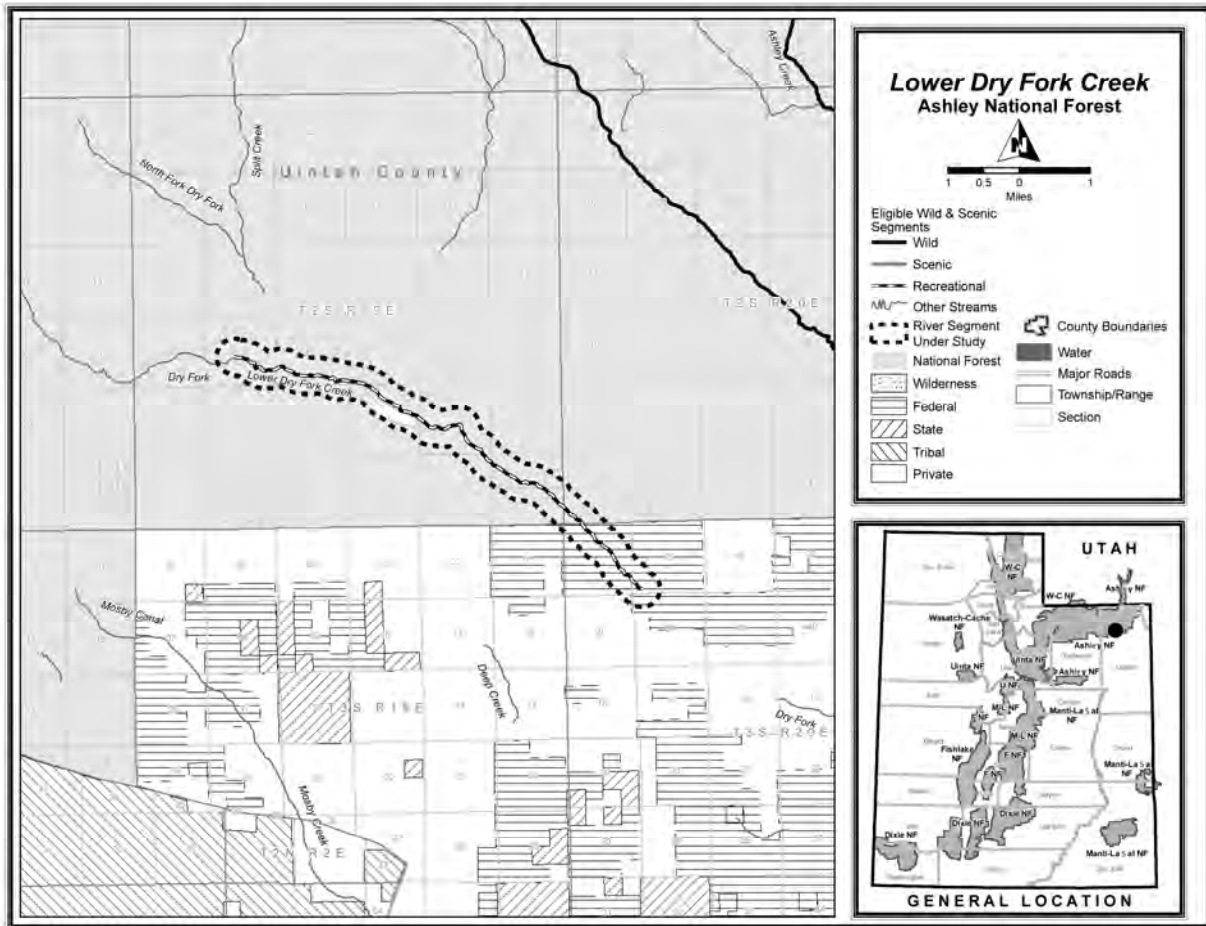
Designation could provide a comprehensive and holistic protection strategy with other cooperating agencies and public groups. Since the Middle Whiterocks segment only includes a portion of the entire watershed, basin integrity and the ability to design holistic protection strategies could be improved by considering the additional segments in this watershed together, including Upper Whiterocks, East Fork Whiterocks, Reader Creek, and West Fork Whiterocks.

This entire segment is on National Forest System Lands, so the current proposal could not be expanded to other jurisdictions or ownerships.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Lower Dry Fork Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Lower Dry Fork Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 7.35 miles from the USGS Gauging Station at the large "sinks" area to the USGS Gauging Station located on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management approximately 1.75 miles south of the Ashley National Forest boundary.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Lower Dry Fork Creek	Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District, Uintah County, Utah		Congressional District UT-2	
	Start (TRS)	End(TRS)	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 20, T 2 S, R 19 E, SLM	SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect 5, T 3 S, R 20 E, SLM	Recreational	7.35

Physical Description of River:

Lower Dry Fork flows through glacial outwash bottoms and alluvial colluvial side slopes. Side slopes are

rugged, and tributaries often cut into the underlying materials creating incised drainages that flow only in spring and after heavy summer storms. Flash floods carry sediment into the stream channel, and gullies have resulted where vegetation has been removed by fire and heavy summer storms. High intensity summer storms are common in this segment. Lower Dry Fork only flows after a large underground karst system is filled, and flows only through the month of June in most years. Water is diverted into the Mosby Canal below Upper Dry Fork and reduces the duration of flows in Lower Dry Fork. Flows in this segment are dependent on spring melt and recharged karst systems. Much of the water entering the karst system flows underground to the Ashley Creek Drainage.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest USDA Forest Service July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The Mosby Canal diversion in the Blanchett Park area of the Upper Dry Fork Creek segment and the sink areas lower stream flow to less than 20 percent. If the sinks were not present, flow rates would qualify the creek as free flowing. Since the sinks are a natural feature, the Forest interdisciplinary team classified the creek as free flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Geologic/Hydrologic – Lower Dry Fork flows through a glacial outwash bottom with alluvial-colluvial side slopes. Many debris deposits occur along the drainage bottom. The outwash is predominantly quartzite of the Uinta Mountain group, but limestone colluvial, and debris also occur. The slope wash has built terraces and side valley fans which stand well above the glacial outwash. Flash floods carry sediment into the stream channel, and gullies have resulted where vegetation has been removed by fire and heavy summer storms. High intensity summer storms are common in this segment. Over 200 feet of alluvium and outwash near the canyon mouth has filled and broadened the Dry Fork Canyon bottom. The eastern canyons lack this fill and are much narrower than Dry Fork. Lower Dry Fork only flows after a large underground karst system is filled, and flows only through the month of June in most years. Water is diverted into the Mosby Cannel below Upper Dry Fork and reduces the duration of flows in Lower Dry Fork. Flows in this segment are dependent on spring melt and recharged karst systems. Much of the water entering the karst system flows underground to the Ashley Creek Drainage.

Note: The Geologic/Hydrologic Value is the only value rated “High” that extends beyond the National Forest boundary on to land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Wildlife – This area is important summer range and travel corridor for a variety of wildlife including deer. Mountain lions and bobcats prefer the steep rugged bedrock areas of the side tributaries and bears can be found along this segment. There is potential for bats in the limestone caves and outcrops, and a wide variety of birds occur. The corridor has diverse riparian vegetation. Flammulated owl habitat exists within the corridor, and bird population diversity is high. Note: The Wildlife Value does not extend beyond the National Forest boundary on to land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Historic – There are old irrigation canals and remnants of a flume used in early timber harvesting activities. Historic gold mining activities and sheep use are evident throughout the segment.

Note: The Historic Value does not extend beyond the National Forest boundary on to land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Cultural Value – Culture resources are significant, with uses by archaic, Fremont and prehistoric peoples. Several important sites are found in the segment and are eligible for listing. Members of the Ute Tribe used the area during the 1940's and 1950's. Current use by Native Americans is known.

Note: The Cultural Value does not extend beyond the National Forest boundary on to land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Recreational

Lower Dry Fork Creek is located adjacent to the heavily traveled Red Cloud Loop Scenic Backway (Forest Development 018). The Dry Fork Flume Interpretive Trail is located along portions of the watercourse.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – Land ownership is separated into the following segments. Mileages begin at the upstream point (mile 0) and move downstream (mile 7.35).

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 4.60	Ashley National Forest	1472
4.60 – 5.60	Private Land (Massey Ranch)	320
5.60 – 7.35	Bureau of Land Management	560
	Total	2352

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

In Uintah County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as RFM-Recreation, Forestry and Mining (<http://www.co.untah.ut.us/gis/Zoning%202005.pdf>). The RFM zone has been established as a district in which the primary use of the land is for recreation, forestry, grazing, wildlife and mining purposes. In general, this zone covers the mountainous portion of the unincorporated area of the county, and is characterized by naturalistic land areas, mountains canyons, and high grazing lands interspersed by ranches, recreational camps and resorts, outdoor recreational facilities, and mines and facilities related thereto. Natural and manmade lakes are also characteristic of this zone.

Conditional land uses that are permitted only when approved by the planning commission include (Uintah County code 17.64.030):

- A. Forest product industries and buildings related thereto;
- B. Oil and gas wells, mining and processing of minerals;
- C. Gravel and rock quarries;
- D. Reservoirs, dams, power plants, electric substations, oil and gas pipelines;
- E. Hot-road-mix plants on temporary basis for not more than six months;

- F. Ski resorts, recreation camps and uses incidental to such uses;
- G. Gas stations, cafes, resorts;
- H. Radio and television transmitter facilities.

Special provisions exist for construction near waterways and flood channels. No building shall be constructed within the boundaries of any natural waterway. Where buildings are to be constructed within seventy-five (75) feet of the exterior boundaries of the high water mark of a flood channel existing at the effective date of the ordinance codified in this title, adequate measures must be taken, as determined by the board of county commissioners, to protect the building or structure from damage, due to floods, and so as not to increase the hazard to surrounding lands and buildings (Uintah County code 17.64.060) <http://www.co.uintah.ut.us/countycode/index.html>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Although there are no large past or active minerals or energy development activities located adjacent to this river segment, there are several existing mining claims in the general area (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the limited past development of these claims, and lack of obvious valuable mineralization, it is not expected that significant future minerals development will occur in this area, or that the existing claims would affect (or be affected by) possible designation of this river segment.

Water Resources Development – The Mosby Canal diversion in Blanchett Park and the sink areas lower stream flow to less than 20 percent. If the sinks were not present, flow rates would qualify the creek as free flowing. Since the sinks are a natural feature, the Forest interdisciplinary team classified the creek as free flowing. The karst system and sinks in this drainage make it a very poor candidate for water development.

The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (1999) identifies a shortage of irrigation water that generally occurs during July and August due to inadequate reservoir storage in the Uintah Basin. The recommendation of this report is that storage reservoirs should be constructed on the Yellowstone River (near Altonah), Uinta River (near Neola) and Whiterocks River (near Whiterocks), as well as upper and lower Ashley Creek (Utah State Water Plan – Uintah Basin – 1999, pages 10-6 and 13-8). The report also recommends bank stabilization along Dry Fork (near Maeser). Bank stabilization, rebuilding old meander bends, and larger bridges were also recommended along Ashley Creek.

No proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin are proposed on eligible Wild and Scenic river segments. Any proposed projects are upstream of the Ashley National Forest, and are not expected to alter (or be altered by) potential Wild and Scenic designation. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

There are two potential water developments upstream of the proposed segments. They were identified in scoping comments from the Utah Div. of Water Resources: Blanchett Park Reservoir (T01S R18E Section 28, 72 ft height, 4,600 ac-ft capacity). This reservoir site is located on the main stem of Dry Fork Creek approximately 5 miles upstream of the Wild & Scenic river section. Although a larger reservoir could be filled, topography limits the practical size of the reservoir. The second is East Cottonwood Blanchett Park Reservoir (T02S R19E Section 26, 70 ft high, 3,000 ac-ft capacity). This reservoir would be located on Dry Fork Creek at the south end of Brownie Canyon, east of Charley's Park. The reservoir would be used for flood control and summer irrigation storage.

There are BOR withdrawn lands downstream from the studied segment.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Lower Dry Fork Creek is located adjacent to the heavily traveled Red Cloud Loop Scenic Backway (Forest Development Road 018). The Dry Fork Flume Interpretive Trail is located along portions of the watercourse.

Grazing Activities – A portion of the Lake Fork Mountain allotment is within this segment, which permits 276 cow/calf pairs from June 16 – September 29.

Recreation Activities – Hunting, dispersed camping, mountain biking, and hiking are the main recreation activities during late spring to late fall months. Some kayaking and canoeing occurs in portions of the creek for about a 30 to 40 day period during early spring runoff (class 3 and 4 experience level). Snowmobiling along the scenic backway is a popular activity during winter months. Most recreationists are from the local area.

Other Resource Activities – Timber harvest has occurred in this watershed and could potentially occur in the future. No harvest would be expected along the river corridor.

Special Designations – The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (n) Range of resource uses and outputs. Commodity production modified for amenity production. Resource protection as needed outside of NRA. The riparian objective is to maintain and restore. This management prescription encompasses the majority of the segment.
- (f) Dispersed Recreation Roaded. Areas receiving a variety of uses in a variety of landforms and vegetation types located throughout the Forest in a roaded environment. The riparian objective is to maintain. Control as needed to protect streambank stability, minimize sedimentation, prevent compaction and maintain visuals. This management prescription applies to some scattered areas in the segment.
- (e) Wildlife habitat emphasis. Includes portions of summer and winter ranges, calving and fawning areas or Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat. The riparian objective is to allow activity only to protect and improve wildlife habitat. This prescription applies to some areas on the north side of the river corridor.

Approximately 3.3 miles of this segment are within the Ashley Spring (Vernal City) Drinking Water Source Protection Zone. This same area is set aside and managed as the Vernal municipal watershed.

A portion of this river corridor is within the Vernal municipal watershed, and the Surface Water Protection Zone for Ashley Spring (Vernal municipal watershed).

Inventoried roadless areas are on both sides of the Red Cloud Loop Scenic Backway, which parallels this segment.

Socio-Economic Environment – Some of the downstream communities in Uintah County include Dry Fork, Maeser, Naples and Vernal. Vernal is the largest community in the basin with an estimated population of 7, 577 (2007 estimate). The Ashley Valley is set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The economy in the Uintah Basin relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas, manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism

http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Unitah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing, Dinosaur National Monument etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The segment is administered primarily by the USFS. One section of the segment is private and another is administered by the BLM.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

In Uintah County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as RFM-Recreation, Forestry and Mining. The RFM zone has been established as a district in which the primary use of the land is for recreation, forestry, grazing, wildlife and mining purposes. Wild and Scenic designation could be inconsistent with the stated uses of forestry, and mining. Designation could also be inconsistent with conditional land uses in Uintah County, including oil and gas wells/pipelines, gravel and rock quarries, reservoirs, dams, and power plants. Designation could be consistent with the purposes of recreation, permitted grazing, and wildlife. In addition, designation would be consistent with special provisions that exist for construction near waterways and flood channels.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Uintah County officials, the Uintah County Water Conservancy District, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to downstream water rights, potential effects to reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protecting outstandingly remarkable values are available.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas, and the protection of water quality within municipal watersheds.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

Three comment letters specifically mentioned Lower Dry Fork; all were opposed to designation. The reasons given included lack of year-round flow, presence of private land along part of the segment,

inconsistencies with BLM Wild and Scenic River studies (which did not find the BLM portion of this segment to be eligible), and the need to actively manage the river to provide water for human use and prevent damage to private property. The State of Utah also identified two potential reservoir projects that could be affected, both of which appear to be above the eligible segment. (Note: the State also mentioned three potential reservoir sites in connection with South Fork of Ashley Creek, which are actually located in the Dry Fork watershed. The State may have meant to include these in its comments on Lower Dry Fork. All appear to be above the eligible segment).

Comments responding to Draft EIS

A common theme was that all rivers within Wilderness or roadless areas should be designated, in part because they pose few conflicts with other uses or activities and would be relatively simple to manage. In addition to the Wilderness rivers listed above, the following rivers were recommended based on being all or mostly within roadless: South Fork Ashley Creek, Ashley Gorge, all of the Whiterocks segments, and Lower Dry Fork (these are examples; different letters cited different examples). Of the three organized campaigns none supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in Forest management prescription areas, inventoried roadless areas, Drinking Water Source Protection Zones, and the Vernal Municipal Watershed.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation could be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances. Uintah County's General Plan (2005 draft, obtained from the County web site) states that water quality and availability are necessary for continued growth and development, and contains policies to promote efficient management and use of water resources. With respect to Wild and Scenic River designation, the County's Public Lands Policy provides the following position statements:

- Special designations, such as wilderness, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), wild and scenic rivers, critical habitat, semi primitive and non-motorized travel, etc., result in single purpose or non-use and are detrimental to the area economy, life styles, culture, and heritage.
- Needed protections can be provided by well planned and managed development.
- No special designations should be proposed until it is determined and substantiated by verified scientific data, that there is a need for the designation, that protections can not be provided by other methods, and the area in question is truly unique when compared to other area lands.
- Designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the acts and regulations that created them.
- Designations that are not properly planned or managed are inconsistent with the mandates that public lands be managed for multiple use and sustained yield.

Uintah County also has a Public Lands Implementation Plan. It contains the following direction related to Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- WSR classifications must be appropriate and reflect the existing conditions and uses of bordering lands and the definitions contained in Sec. 2(b)(1)(2)(3) of the Act.
- The County must be provided an opportunity to participate in the preservation and/or administration of any river proposed or designated in the WSR system (Sec. 5(c) of the Act). Such designations must be provided for protections of water rights and access to water contained in that right. No WSA [*sic*] may be designated that have the effect of reducing water rights or access to those rights.

- Boundaries or buffers for designated water courses shall not exceed 320 acres/mile measured from the ordinary high water mark [Sec. 3(b)] and 1/4 mile from the ordinary high water mark on each side of the river [Sec. 4(d), Sec. 8(b), Sec. 9(a)(iii)].
- In addition to the boundary limitation provided in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Congress and the Department of Interior have found these limitations to be adequate on sections of the lower Green River where protection of scenic value was requested by them [Cooperative Government to Government Agreement Concerning Transfer of Naval Oil Shale Reserve Number 2, Public Law 106-398 Sec. 3405 (2)(c)].
- Any protection applied to streams or rivers must provide that such protections will in no manner affect, impair, or limit the ability of holders of water rights to utilize their water rights. This is consistent with Department of Interior and congressional actions where similar protections were requested by them. [Cooperative Government to Government Agreement Concerning Transfer of Naval Oil Shale Reserve Number 2, Public Law 106-398 Sec. 3405 (2)(c)].

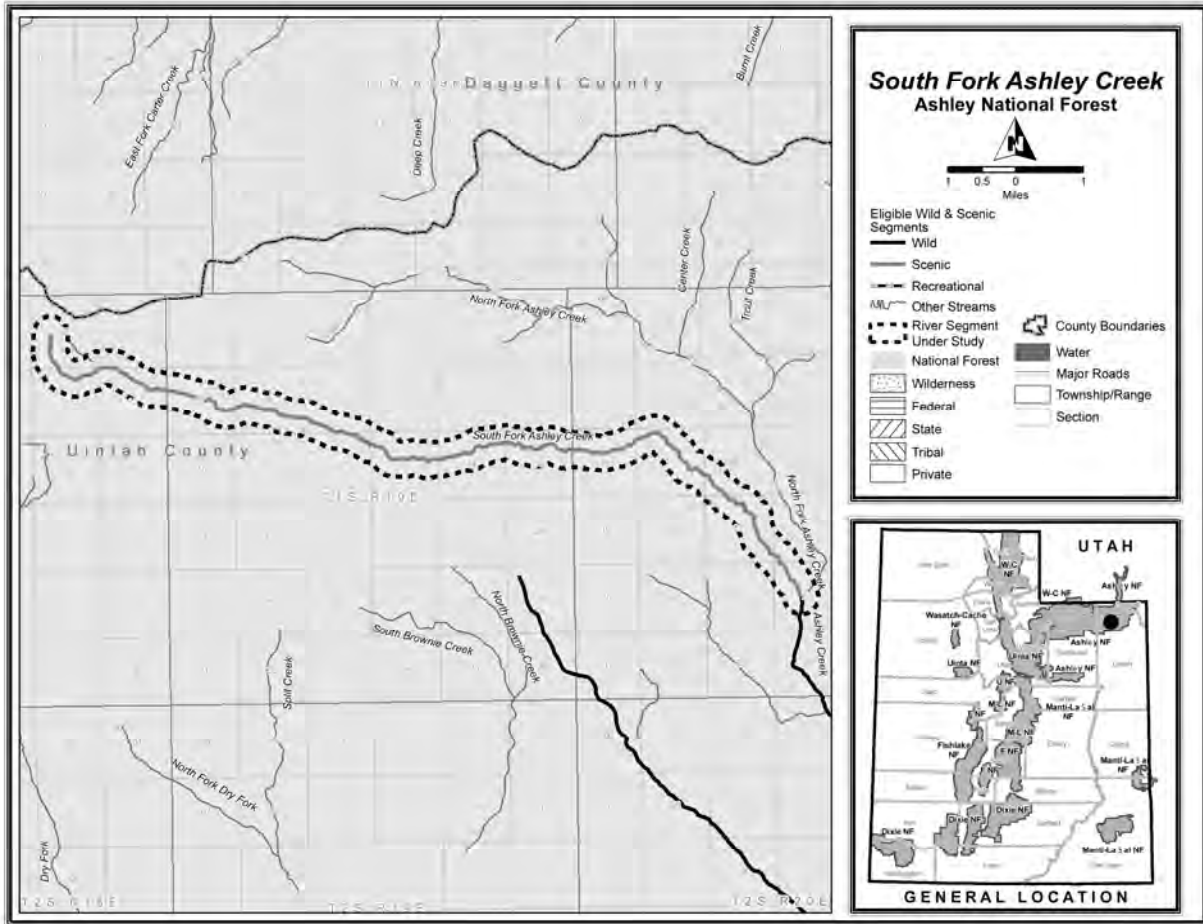
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This majority of this segment is on National Forest System Lands, with the last few miles on private and lands administered by the BLM. Designation could provide a comprehensive and holistic protection strategy between the Ashley National Forest, private ownership, BLM, other cooperating agencies, and public groups.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

South Fork Ashley Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: South Fork Ashley Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 14.53 miles from headwaters in Lakeshore Basin to the junction with North Fork Ashley Creek.

Eligible: Same

Location:

South Fork Ashley Creek	Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District, Uintah County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start (TRS)	End (TRS)	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 2, T 1 S, R 18 E, SLM	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 27, T 1 S, R 20 E, SLM	Scenic	14.53

Physical Description of River:

The headwaters of South Fork Ashley Creek consist of glacial valley bottoms in a glaciated basin with hummocky ground moraine that contains lakes, meadows, and streams. Lakeshore Basin is part of the upper headwaters of this segment and is a highly scenic backcountry area. The stream flows through open

meadows before entering the main Ashley Creek. Lush areas of riparian areas exist in the lower part of the segment as it passes through Horseshoe and Hicks Parks.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest USDA Forest Service July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: There are no diversions or impoundments in this segment.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – Lakeshore Basin is part of the upper headwaters of this segment and is a highly scenic backcountry area. Forested slopes, glaciated cirques and basins, lateral moraines, rock outcrops, steep escarpments, alpine meadow, and small lakes are located adjacent to this beautiful stream. Spruce, fir, other conifer stands, and ground vegetation provide scenic contrast with the ridges, meadows, lakes and streams in the watercourse corridor. Outstanding views of Leidy and Marsh Peaks exist along the watercourse corridor. Lush areas of riparian areas exist in the lower part of the segment as it passes through Horseshoe and Hicks Parks. Vegetative color changes occur during spring and early summer flower bloom, and during the fall as the leaves change color in small stands of aspen and riparian vegetation.

Geologic/Hydrologic – South Fork Ashley Creek is located in a glaciated valley. Meadows occur along the drainage in the lower portion of the segment. These meadows have not been glaciated; rather they are filled in lakebeds from glacial melt. Shale outcrops of the Uinta Mountain Quartzite occur at the head of the drainage, and considerable cutting and erosion is taking place. Uinta Mountain Quartzite underlies the broad tree covered drainages. In addition to the mainstream channels through the canyon bottoms, there are numerous areas of underflow with short intermittent channels. The gross shape of the landform was probably formed during Browns Park time with minor modifications, such as the formation of the stone streams during the ice age. This area was not glaciated, but large ice sheets did cover much of the area. Meadows are dominant features in areas where they formed behind bedrock constrictions, and in areas where former lakes were filled in following melting of ice sheets. These meadows are extremely wet and boggy all or most of the year and have perched water tables. Runoff is high and disturbed soils are deposited in stream channels by overland flows during summer thunderstorms and late spring snowmelt periods. Headcuts and gullies are localized near stream channels where livestock grazing and watering have been excessive. The dominant process occurring in these meadows is a slow buildup of organic material, leaching of iron from the Uinta Mountain quartzite, and slow lateral migration of the stream channels with accompanying bank caving. These areas are snowbound by early November and sometimes earlier. Diverse glaciated features exist within the watercourse corridor, i.e., Lake Wilde, other alpine lakes, unaltered streams, lateral moraines, scour, hummocky frost boreal, landslides, and a fault at the head of Lakeshore Basin. The watercourse corridor is classified as a “reference condition” for the stream type.

Wildlife Value – This segment provides high value summer range for deer, elk and moose. The corridor of the watercourse also traverses through potential lynx habitat. There is a high potential for amphibians in the numerous potholes geologic/hydrologic features within the watercourse corridor. In addition, Pine Martins are abundant in this drainage and Northern Goshawks frequent the corridor during summer months.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Scenic

The Red Cloud Loop Scenic Backway (Forest Development Road 018) and several undeveloped trails cross and parallel the middle portion of the segment. Forest Development Trail 026 parallels the

watercourse for most of its length. Areas adjacent to Horseshoe and Hicks Parks have been part of timber sale programs for the Vernal District in both recent and past years.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located entirely on the Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 14.53	Ashley National Forest	4649.6

In Uintah County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as RFM-Recreation, Forestry and Mining (<http://www.co.uitah.ut.us/gis/Zoning%202005.pdf>). The RFM zone has been established as a district in which the primary use of the land is for recreation, forestry, grazing, wildlife and mining purposes. In general, this zone covers the mountainous portion of the unincorporated area of the county, and is characterized by naturalistic land areas, mountains canyons, and high grazing lands interspersed by ranches, recreational camps and resorts, outdoor recreational facilities, and mines and facilities related thereto. Natural and manmade lakes are also characteristic of this zone.

Conditional land uses that are permitted only when approved by the planning commission include (Uintah County code 17.64.030):

- A. Forest product industries and buildings related thereto;
- B. Oil and gas wells, mining and processing of minerals;
- C. Gravel and rock quarries;
- D. Reservoirs, dams, power plants, electric substations, oil and gas pipelines;
- E. Hot-road-mix plants on temporary basis for not more than six months;
- F. Ski resorts, recreation camps and uses incidental to such uses;
- G. Gas stations, cafes, resorts;
- H. Radio and television transmitter facilities.

Special provisions exist for construction near waterways and flood channels. No building shall be constructed within the boundaries of any natural waterway. Where buildings are to be constructed within seventy-five (75) feet of the exterior boundaries of the high water mark of a flood channel existing at the effective date of the ordinance codified in this title, adequate measures must be taken, as determined by the board of county commissioners, to protect the building or structure from damage, due to floods, and so as not to increase the hazard to surrounding lands and buildings (Uintah County code 17.64.060) <http://www.co.uitah.ut.us/countycode/index.html>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the underlying geology, and lack of past minerals and energy development, little if any future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no diversions, impoundments or channel modifications on this segment. Water developments within the watershed include dams on Ashley Twin and Goose Lakes that are upstream of the segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (1999) identifies a shortage of irrigation water that generally occurs during July and August due to inadequate reservoir storage in the Uintah basin. The recommendation of this report is that storage reservoirs should be constructed on the Yellowstone River (near Altonah), Uinta River (near Neola) and Whiterocks River (near Whiterocks), as well as upper and

lower Ashley Creek (Utah State Water Plan – Uintah Basin – 1999, pages 10-6 and 13-8). The report also recommends bank stabilization along Dry Fork (near Maeser). Bank stabilization, rebuilding old meander bends, and larger bridges were also recommended along Ashley Creek.

There are four proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin in the vicinity of the eligible Scenic river segments. Three of the proposed projects are upstream or downstream of the studied segment, and are not expected to alter (or be altered by) potential Wild and Scenic designation. The fourth is located on the studied segment.

Four potential water developments were identified in scoping comments from the Utah Div. of Water Resources:

Dry Fork Twins Reservoir (T01S R18E Section 22, 49 ft high, 3,200 ac-ft capacity). Located on the Twin Lake Fork of Dry Fork Creek. The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service conducted a geologic investigation of this site and cost estimate for the dam in 1965.

Harmston Park (T01S R18E Section 23, 67 ft. high, 2,220 ac-ft capacity). This site is located near the Twin Lakes Fork of Dry Fork Creek, approximately 0.5 mile upstream from existing Dry Fork Twin Lakes and 1.0 mile down stream from proposed Reynolds Lake Reservoir. This reservoir would regulate a portion of the water that flows through the proposed South Fork Ashley Creek Wild and Scenic River segment.

Reynolds Lake Reservoir (T01S R18E Section 24, 48 ft. high 1,000 ac-ft capacity). This reservoir would regulate a portion of the water that flows through the proposed South Fork Ashley Creek Wild and Scenic River segment.

Trout Creek Reservoir (T01S R19E Section 13, 116 ft. high, 14,400 ac-ft). This is on the South Fork Ashley Creek Wild and Scenic River segment. Proposed in a 1975 study and revisited in 1988 by Bingham Engineering for the Dry Fork/Ashley Creek Flood Control Project, this reservoir would attenuate springtime flooding by storing high flows from Trout Creek and the North Fork of Ashley Creek. The reservoir would also retain water for the late summer irrigation demands for a portion of 17,000 acres of cropland. Located 25 miles northwest of Vernal at the confluence of the two creeks, the reservoir was originally proposed at a 25,000 ac-ft capacity by the Soil Conservation Service.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Red Cloud Loop Scenic Backway (Forest Development Road 018) and several undeveloped trails cross and parallel the middle portion of the segment. Forest Development Trail 026 parallels the watercourse for most of its length.

Grazing Activities – The South Fork of Ashley Creek borders the Taylor Mountain allotment and includes portions of the Black Canyon allotment. The majority of use would be from the Black Canyon allotment, which permits 405 cow/calf pairs from June 16 – October 15.

Recreation Activities – Backpacking and recreation stock use occurs in the non-motorized Lakeshore Basin area of the segment. Horseshoe and Hick Parks provides a setting for dispersed camping along portions of the creek. These large open meadows areas receive moderate to heavy fishing pressure, with most use near the crossing of the Red Cloud Loop Scenic Backway (FDR 018). Use of this area is also heavy during the deer and elk hunting season. The season of use is from late June to mid-October for the dispersed recreation uses. The surrounding area also receives some snowmobile use during winter month. Snowmobilers access the area from trailheads located in both Dry Fork Canyon and on the Flaming Gorge/Uintas National Scenic Byway (US Highway 191). Most recreationists are from the local area.

Other Resource Activities – Timber harvest has occurred in this watershed and could potentially occur

in the future. No harvest would be expected along the river corridor. Areas adjacent to Horseshoe and Hicks Parks have been part of timber sale programs for the Vernal District in both recent and past years.

Special Designations – The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (g) Undeveloped dispersed recreation – unroaded. These areas are characterized by a variety of timbered and non-timbered lands between mid and high elevations. The riparian objective is to protect. This prescription applies to the upper half of this segment.
- (n) Range of resource uses and outputs. Commodity production modified for amenity production. Resource protection as needed outside of NRA. The riparian objective is to maintain and restore. This management prescription applies to the lower half of the segment.
- (a) Research Natural Areas (RNA). These are areas of minimal management impacts. Various representative ecosystems are to be maintained for future research use. This prescription applies to the Sims Peak Potholes Research Natural Area (RNA), which overlaps with the ½ mile river corridor on the south side. This RNA was established for its representative subalpine fir/grouseberry (*Abies lasiocarpa/Vaccinium scoparium*) forest type, along with its kettle lakes and ponds, bogs, marshes, and wet meadows.

Approximately 6.3 miles of this segment are within the Ashley Spring (Vernal City) Drinking Water Source Protection Zone.

The majority of this segment (except for 1.5 miles near the Red Cloud Loop) falls within inventoried roadless areas.

Socio-Economic Environment – Some of the downstream communities in Uintah County include Maeser, Naples and Vernal. Vernal is the largest community in the basin with an estimated population of 7, 577 (2007 estimate). The Ashley valley is set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The economy in the Uintah Basin relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas, manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Unitah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing, Dinosaur National Monument etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be

\$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

In Uintah county, which includes a portion of East Fork Whiterocks, National Forest System Lands are zoned as RFM-Recreation, Forestry and Mining. The RFM zone has been established as a district in which the primary use of the land is for recreation, forestry, grazing, wildlife and mining purposes. Wild and Scenic designation could be inconsistent with the stated uses of forestry, and mining. Designation could also be inconsistent with conditional land uses in Uintah County, including oil and gas wells/pipelines, gravel and rock quarries, reservoirs, dams, and power plants. Designation could be consistent with the purposes of recreation, permitted grazing, and wildlife. In addition, designation would be consistent with special provisions that exist for construction near waterways and flood channels.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Uintah County officials, the Uintah County Water Conservancy District, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to downstream water rights, potential effects to reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protecting outstandingly remarkable values are available.

Comments received during the eligibility study:

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas, and the protection of water quality within municipal watersheds.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study:

Letters in support of designation were received from a local land owner and two non-profit organizations. These letters cited its scenic qualities and contribution to river system/basin integrity as reasons it should be considered suitable. One letter also expressed concern that any new reservoir construction on Ashley Creek would negatively affect recharge of the aquifer underlying Ashley Valley, and supported designation as a means of preventing further development.

Letters from the Uintah Water Conservancy District (UWCD) and a group of Ashley valley residents expressed opposition to designation. These letters cited the need for irrigation, municipal and industrial water and risk to private property if the river is not properly managed as reasons it should not be considered suitable. The State of Utah and UWCD also identified a potential reservoir site at Trout Creek, on the eligible segment. (Three other potential reservoir sites were mentioned in the State's letter as affecting the South Fork of Ashley Creek. However, all three are in the Dry Fork watershed and were perhaps intended as comments on the Lower Dry Fork segment).

Comments responding to Draft EIS

Many letters commented that all segments within a single river system should be considered together, because they are ecologically connected and a joint recommendation would enhance their contribution to the river system's integrity. Common examples included: South Fork Ashley, Ashley Gorge and Black Canyon.

The Ashley Creek and Whiterocks river systems provide virtually all the water used by residents in the eastern Uintah Basin. Local officials and residents expressed great concern that operation of existing facilities would be restricted, compromising water rights and affecting local economies. Rapid population growth and potential oil shale development activities were also cited as reasons to retain the option of building additional water storage and delivery systems in these systems.

Proponents of designation for Whiterocks and Ashley Creeks cited the opportunity to protect large, intact watersheds and for their scenic, recreational and wildlife values. Ashley Creek in particular spans many life zones, from alpine to cottonwood – more than any other segment or combination of segments in the study.

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(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in Forest management prescription areas, inventoried roadless areas, Drinking Water Source Protection Zones, the Vernal Municipal Watershed, and the Sims Peak Potholes Research Natural Area.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation could be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances. Uintah County's General Plan (2005 draft, obtained from the County web site) states that water quality and availability are necessary for continued growth and development, and contains policies to promote efficient management and use of water resources. With respect to Wild and Scenic River designation, the County's Public Lands Policy provides the following position statements:

- Special designations, such as wilderness, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), wild and scenic rivers, critical habitat, semi primitive and non-motorized travel, etc., result in single purpose or non-use and are detrimental to the area economy, life styles, culture, and heritage.
- Needed protections can be provided by well planned and managed development.
- No special designations should be proposed until it is determined and substantiated by verified scientific data, that there is a need for the designation, that protections can not be provided by other methods, and the area in question is truly unique when compared to other area lands.
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Uintah County also has a Public Lands Implementation Plan. It contains the following direction related to Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- WSR classifications must be appropriate and reflect the existing conditions and uses of bordering lands and the definitions contained in Sec. 2(b)(1)(2)(3) of the Act.
- The County must be provided an opportunity to participate in the preservation and/or administration of any river proposed or designated in the WSR system (Sec. 5(c) of the Act). Such designations must be provided for protections of water rights and access to water contained in that right. No WSA [*sic*] may be designated that have the effect of reducing water rights or access to those rights.
- Boundaries or buffers for designated water courses shall not exceed 320 acres/mile measured from the ordinary high water mark [Sec. 3(b)] and 1/4 mile from the ordinary high water mark on each side of the river [Sec. 4(d), Sec. 8(b), Sec. 9(a)(iii)].
- In addition to the boundary limitation provided in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Congress and the Department of Interior have found these limitations to be adequate on sections of the lower Green River where protection of scenic value was requested by them [Cooperative Government to Government Agreement Concerning Transfer of Naval Oil Shale Reserve Number 2, Public Law 106-398 Sec. 3405 (2)(c)].
- Any protection applied to streams or rivers must provide that such protections will in no manner affect, impair, or limit the ability of holders of water rights to utilize their water rights. This is consistent with Department of Interior and congressional actions where similar protections were requested by them. [Cooperative Government to Government Agreement Concerning Transfer of Naval Oil Shale Reserve Number 2, Public Law 106-398 Sec. 3405 (2)(c)].

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

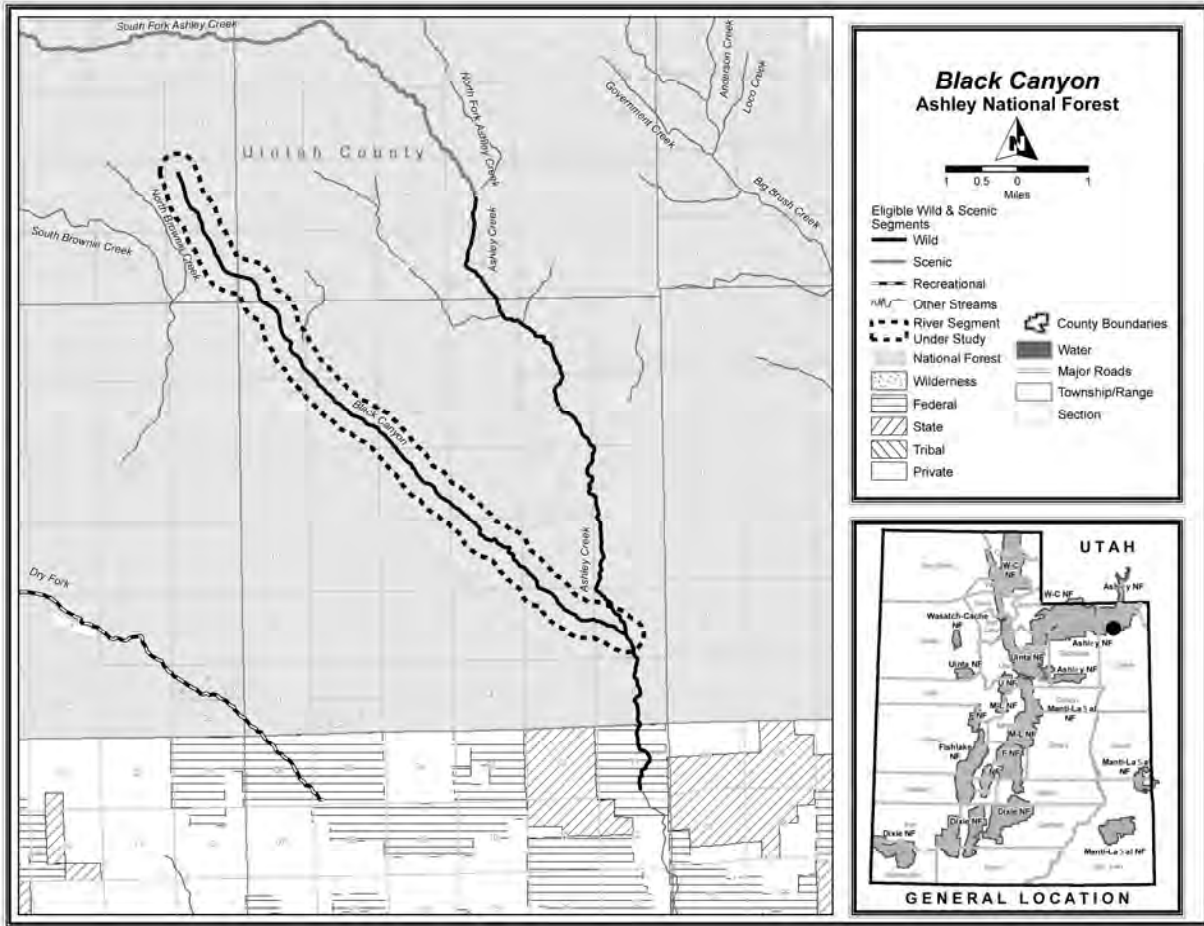
The proposed segment includes the majority of the South Fork Ashley watershed, which would offer good basin integrity and the opportunity to develop holistic protection strategies. In addition the basin integrity of the larger watershed area could be improved by considering Ashley Gorge, Black Canyon, and South Fork Ashley Creek together.

This entire segment is on National Forest System Lands, so the current proposal could not be expanded to other jurisdictions or ownerships.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Black Canyon River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Black Canyon

River Mileage:

Studied: 9.86 miles, from the upper end of Frenches Park to the confluence with Ashley Gorge Creek.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Black Canyon	Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District, Uintah County, Utah		Congressional District UT-2	
	Start (TRS)	End (TRS)	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 25, T 1 S., R 19 E., SLM	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 25, T 2 S., R 20 E., SLM	Wild	9.86

Physical Description of River: The headwaters of Black Canyon are on a mid elevation plateau with weakly dissected drainages and moderate grade channels. The segment descends through moderately dissected slopes. The segment eventually reaches a deeply incised gorge in the lower end before entering the main Ashley Creek drainage. There are small meandering streams in the bottom, but they are not actively cutting or gulling at present. There are many sections that are intermittently dry, due to water

entering or sinking in the underlying karst limestone system.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest USDA Forest Service July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: There are no diversions, channel modifications or impoundments in this segment. The sinks in the upper areas of the segment reduce stream flows. Since they are considered part of the natural stream environment, the Forest interdisciplinary team classified the segment as free flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – Black Canyon is located in both meadow and canyon environments, with lodgepole and aspen stands on adjacent side slopes. Black Canyon is a highly scenic canyon, with access limited to several undeveloped roads near the upper end of the canyon. The canyon is very similar in scenic beauty to the lower portion of Ashley Gorge. The canyon area is relatively isolated and inaccessible. A combination of open meadows, forested side slopes, colorful rock outcrops and steep gorge-like canyons, and small stringers of riparian vegetation provide striking diversity in the landscape. Numerous deciduous trees (aspen, maple, willow, etc., are located in the canyon bottom. Logging roads are found in the upper headwaters. Panoramic views of Ashley Valley exist from several locations within the canyon.

Geologic/Hydrologic – Black Canyon begins on a nearly level plateau formed in the Bishop Conglomerate. It is an erosional surface that developed in a depositional environment prior to uplifting and down cutting of the Uinta Mountains. The colluviums of the Bishop Conglomerate overlay the lithology of other formations, including Mississippian limestones. The canyon bottoms are open and rounded at the weakly-dissected headwater area. There is little or no dissection of the side slopes, and few secondary tributaries exist.

There are small meandering streams in the bottom, but they are not actively cutting or gulling at present. There are many sections that are intermittently dry, due to water entering or sinking in the underlying karst limestones system. The lower portion of this segment consists of exceedingly steep canyon sides and vertical cliffs underlain by Weber Sandstones. The vertical nature of these slopes is caused by "jointing" in the Weber formation. In the process of down cutting the valleys, the stream also undercut the bottoms of the canyons, thus removing support from the overlying rocks. The already existing "joint sets" create natural planes of weakness for rocks to break and fall. Thus, the process of canyon formation is accompanied by frequent spectacular rock falls.

The jagged canyon sides of sandstone bedrock make access extremely limited. There are numerous boulders and down woody debris in the narrow canyon bottom, making access extremely difficult. These geological and natural features are important in a hydrologic sense, since they cause that any precipitation is rapidly discharged directly to the stream channel. Fossils can be found in various formations. The Bishop conglomerate over limestone has resulted in the karst system sinks system. There is a clear stratification of various sandstone and limestone formations exposed in canyon walls.

Wildlife – This area provides extremely important habitat for raptors, including Peregrine Falcon and Northern Goshawk. Bobcat, mountain lion and bear also inhabit the watershed corridor. The upper portion of the canyon supports heavy use by elk and deer.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

The Black Canyon area is relatively isolated and inaccessible. Logging roads are found in the upper

headwaters of the segment, but are outside of the corridor of the watercourse.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located entirely on the Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 9.86	Ashley National Forest	3155.2

In Uintah County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as RFM-Recreation, Forestry and Mining (<http://www.co.uintah.ut.us/gis/Zoning%202005.pdf>). The RFM zone has been established as a district in which the primary use of the land is for recreation, forestry, grazing, wildlife and mining purposes. In general, this zone covers the mountainous portion of the unincorporated area of the county, and is characterized by naturalistic land areas, mountains canyons, and high grazing lands interspersed by ranches, recreational camps and resorts, outdoor recreational facilities, and mines and facilities related thereto. Natural and manmade lakes are also characteristic of this zone.

Conditional land uses that are permitted only when approved by the planning commission include (Uintah County code 17.64.030):

- A. Forest product industries and buildings related thereto;
- B. Oil and gas wells, mining and processing of minerals;
- C. Gravel and rock quarries;
- D. Reservoirs, dams, power plants, electric substations, oil and gas pipelines;
- E. Hot-road-mix plants on temporary basis for not more than six months;
- F. Ski resorts, recreation camps and uses incidental to such uses;
- G. Gas stations, cafes, resorts;
- H. Radio and television transmitter facilities.

Special provisions exist for construction near waterways and flood channels. No building shall be constructed within the boundaries of any natural waterway. Where buildings are to be constructed within seventy-five (75) feet of the exterior boundaries of the high water mark of a flood channel existing at the effective date of the ordinance codified in this title, adequate measures must be taken, as determined by the board of county commissioners, to protect the building or structure from damage, due to floods, and so as not to increase the hazard to surrounding lands and buildings (Uintah County code 17.64.060) <http://www.co.uintah.ut.us/countycode/index.html>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the underlying geology, and lack of past minerals and energy development, little if any future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no diversions, impoundments or channel modifications on this segment. No future water developments are known or expected at this time.

The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (1999), identifies a shortage of irrigation water that generally occurs during July and August due to inadequate reservoir storage in the Uintah basin. The recommendation of this report is that storage reservoirs should be constructed on the Yellowstone River (near Altonah), Uinta River (near Neola) and Whiterocks River (near Whiterocks), as well as upper and lower Ashley Creek (Utah State Water Plan – Uintah Basin – 1999, pages 10-6 and 13-8). The report also recommends bank stabilization along Dry Fork (near Maeser). Bank stabilization, rebuilding old meander bends, and larger bridges were also recommended along Ashley Creek.

No proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin are proposed on eligible Wild and Scenic river segments. All of these proposed projects are downstream of the Ashley National Forest, and are not expected to alter (or be altered by) potential Wild and Scenic designation. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Black Canyon is relatively isolated and inaccessible. Logging roads are found in the upper headwaters of the segment, but are outside of the corridor of the watercourse.

Grazing Activities – The Black Canyon allotment is within this segment, which permits 405 cow/calf pairs from June 16 – October 15. The majority of use occurs in the upper two miles of the segment, downstream the canyon becomes too confined, rugged and remote.

Recreation Activities – The segment receives light recreation use in the form of hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and some fishing. Most recreationists are from the local area.

Other Resource Activities – Timber harvest has occurred in this watershed, but only in the upper headwaters, because of the rugged and inaccessible nature of the lower canyon. Any future harvesting would also occur in the upper watershed, with no direct harvest expected along the river corridor.

Special Designations – The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (n) Range of resource uses and outputs. Commodity production modified for amenity production. Resource protection as needed outside of NRA. The riparian objective is to maintain and restore. This management prescription encompasses the majority of the segment.
- (f) Dispersed Recreation Roaded. Areas receiving a variety of uses in a variety of landforms and vegetation types located throughout the Forest in a roaded environment. The riparian objective is to maintain. Control as needed to protect streambank stability, minimize sedimentation, prevent compaction and maintain visuals. This management prescription applies to some scattered areas in the segment.
- (g) Undeveloped dispersed recreation – unroaded. These areas are characterized by a variety of timbered and non-timbered lands between mid and high elevations. The riparian objective is to protect. This prescription applies to the area near the confluence with Ashley Creek.

All of this segment falls within the Ashley Spring (Vernal City) Drinking Water Source Protection Zone. A portion of this same area is set aside and managed as the Vernal municipal watershed.

Except for the first mile, the remaining 9 miles of this segment are completely within an inventoried roadless area.

Socio-Economic Environment – Some of the downstream communities in Uintah County include Maeser, Naples and Vernal. Vernal is the largest community in the basin with an estimated population of 7, 577 (2007 estimate). The Ashley Valley is set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The economy in the Uintah Basin relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas, manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Unitah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing, Dinosaur National Monument etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

In Uintah County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as RFM-Recreation, Forestry and Mining. The RFM zone has been established as a district in which the primary use of the land is for recreation, forestry, grazing, wildlife and mining purposes. Wild and Scenic designation could be inconsistent with the stated uses of forestry, and mining. Designation could also be inconsistent with conditional land uses in Uintah County, including oil and gas wells/pipelines, gravel and rock quarries, reservoirs, dams, and power plants. Designation could be consistent with the purposes of recreation, permitted grazing, and wildlife. In addition, designation would be consistent with special provisions that exist for construction near waterways and flood channels.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Uintah County officials, the Uintah County Water Conservancy District, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to downstream water rights, potential effects to reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protecting outstandingly remarkable values are available.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas, and the protection of water quality within municipal watersheds.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

Letters supporting designation were received from several individuals and nonprofit organizations. These letters cited its wild character, contribution to river system/basin integrity, scenery, and wildlife habitat values as reasons it should be considered suitable. One letter also expressed concern that any new reservoir construction on the Ashley Creek system would negatively affect recharge of the aquifer underlying Ashley Valley, and supported designation as a means of preventing further development.

A letter from the Uintah Water Conservancy District opposed designation. This letter cited seasonally dry channels in some portions of the segment as a reason it should not be considered suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System.

Comments responding to the draft EIS

Many letters commented that all segments within a single river system should be considered together, because they are ecologically connected and a joint recommendation would enhance their contribution to the river system's integrity. Common examples included: South Fork Ashley, Ashley Gorge and Black Canyon.

The Ashley Creek and Whiterocks river systems provide virtually all the water used by residents in the eastern Uintah Basin. Local officials and residents expressed great concern that operation of existing facilities would be restricted, compromising water rights and affecting local economies. Rapid population growth and potential oil shale development activities were also cited as reasons to retain the option of building additional water storage and delivery systems in these systems.

Proponents of designation for Whiterocks and Ashley Creeks cited the opportunity to protect large, intact watersheds and for their scenic, recreational and wildlife values. Ashley Creek in particular spans many life zones, from alpine to cottonwood – more than any other segment or combination of segments in the study.

A common theme was that all rivers within Wilderness or roadless areas should be designated, in part because they pose few conflicts with other uses or activities and would be relatively simple to manage. In addition to the Wilderness rivers listed above, the following rivers were recommended based on being all or mostly within roadless: South Fork Ashley Creek, Ashley Gorge, all of the Whiterocks segments, and Lower Dry Fork (these are examples; different letters cited different examples). Of the three organized campaigns none supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would complement the existing direction in Forest management prescription areas, inventoried roadless areas, Drinking Water Source Protection Zones, and the Vernal Municipal Watershed.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation could be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances. Uintah County's General Plan (2005 draft, obtained from the County web site) states that water quality and availability are necessary for continued growth and development, and contains policies to promote efficient management and use of water resources. With respect to Wild and Scenic River designation, the County's Public Lands Policy provides the following position statements:

- Special designations, such as wilderness, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), wild and scenic rivers, critical habitat, semi primitive and non-motorized travel, etc., result in single purpose or non-use and are detrimental to the area economy, life styles, culture, and heritage.
- Needed protections can be provided by well planned and managed development.

- No special designations should be proposed until it is determined and substantiated by verified scientific data, that there is a need for the designation, that protections can not be provided by other methods, and the area in question is truly unique when compared to other area lands.
- Designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the acts and regulations that created them.
- Designations that are not properly planned or managed are inconsistent with the mandates that public lands be managed for multiple use and sustained yield.

Uintah County also has a Public Lands Implementation Plan. It contains the following direction related to Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- WSR classifications must be appropriate and reflect the existing conditions and uses of bordering lands and the definitions contained in Sec. 2(b)(1)(2)(3) of the Act.
- The County must be provided an opportunity to participate in the preservation and/or administration of any river proposed or designated in the WSR system (Sec. 5(c) of the Act). Such designations must be provided for protections of water rights and access to water contained in that right. No WSA [*sic*] may be designated that have the effect of reducing water rights or access to those rights.
- Boundaries or buffers for designated water courses shall not exceed 320 acres/mile measured from the ordinary high water mark [Sec. 3(b)] and 1/4 mile from the ordinary high water mark on each side of the river [Sec. 4(d), Sec. 8(b), Sec. 9(a)(iii)].
- In addition to the boundary limitation provided in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Congress and the Department of Interior have found these limitations to be adequate on sections of the lower Green River where protection of scenic value was requested by them [Cooperative Government to Government Agreement Concerning Transfer of Naval Oil Shale Reserve Number 2, Public Law 106-398 Sec. 3405 (2)(c)].
- Any protection applied to streams or rivers must provide that such protections will in no manner affect, impair, or limit the ability of holders of water rights to utilize their water rights. This is consistent with Department of Interior and congressional actions where similar protections were requested by them. [Cooperative Government to Government Agreement Concerning Transfer of Naval Oil Shale Reserve Number 2, Public Law 106-398 Sec. 3405 (2)(c)].

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

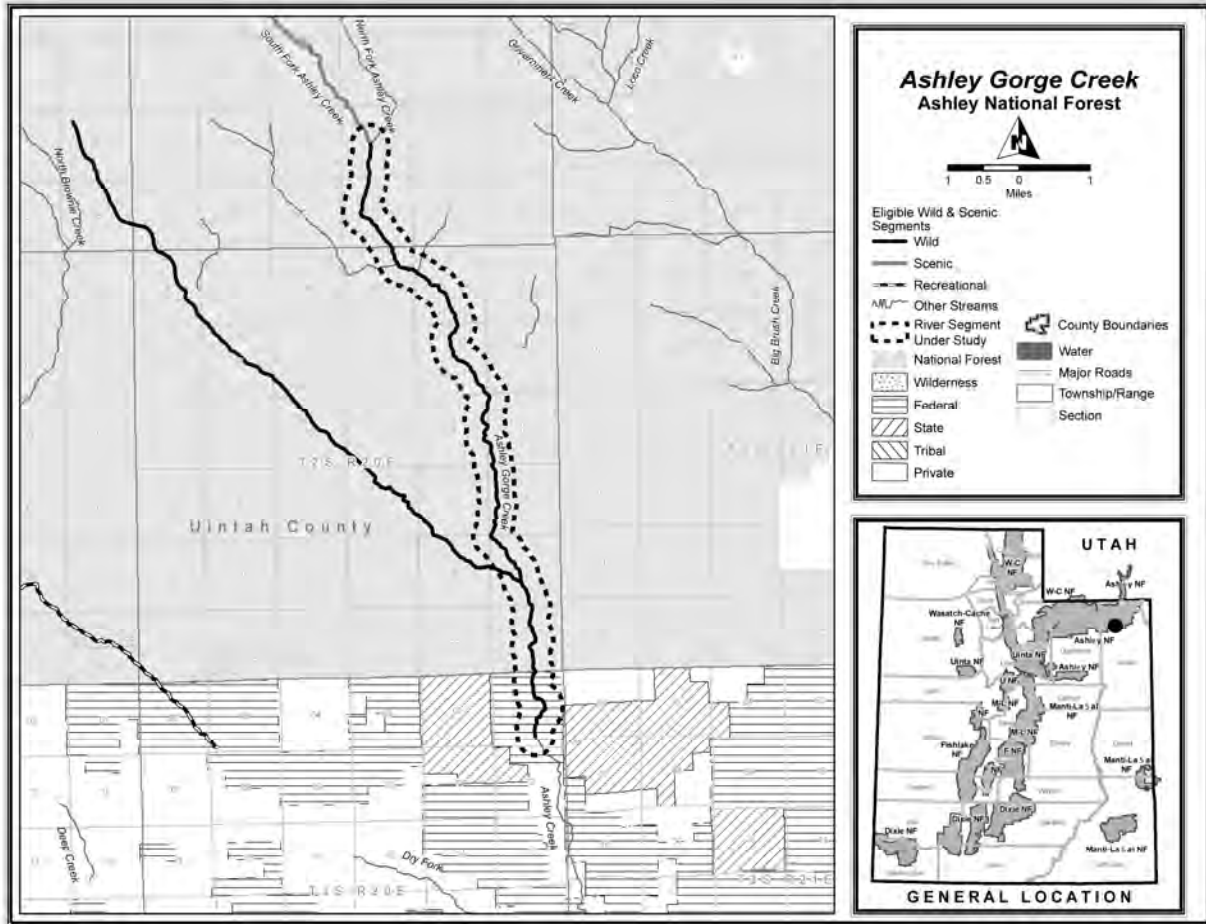
The proposed segment includes the majority of the Black Canyon watershed, which would offer good basin integrity and the opportunity to develop holistic protection strategies. In addition the basin integrity of the larger watershed area could be improved by considering Ashley Gorge, Black Canyon, and South Fork Ashley Creek together.

This entire segment is on National Forest System Lands, so the current proposal could not be expanded to other jurisdictions or ownerships.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Ashley Gorge Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Ashley Gorge Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 10.16 miles, from the junction with the North Fork and South Fork Ashley Creeks to the mouth of the Gorge at the “spring box” located approximately 1.07 miles south of the Ashley National Forest.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Ashley Gorge Creek	Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District, Uintah County, Utah		Congressional District UT-2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 27 T 1 S, R 20 E, SLM	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 1, T 3 S, R 20 E, SLM	Wild	10.16

Physical Description of River:

Ashley Gorge Creek is located in an extremely rugged and steep canyon area, with the exception of short sections near the upper and lower ends of the segment, i.e., near the junction of the segment with the North and South Forks of Ashley Creek, and at the terminus near the “spring box” on land administered

by the Bureau of Land Management. The upper portion of this segment flows between steep colluvial slopes underlain by Mississippian limestone. The stream at the bottom constantly removes material, thus keeping the slope movement active. Much of the valley bottom is filled with alluvium and glacial outwash, with numerous benches and debris flows below the side slopes. The slope wash has built terraces and side valley fans which stand well above the glacial outwash. Flash floods carry sediment into the stream channels, but the numerous boulders in the material inhibits deep cutting. The lower gorge has exceedingly steep canyon sides and vertical cliffs, underlain by the Weber Sandstones. Whitewater and high flows occur in spring with snow and ice thaws. Duration of high flows is dependent on snow pack and summer storms. The springs in the lower portion of the gorge are charged by water entering a large karst system connected to the Dry Fork, Brownie Canyon, and other drainages. Water discharged from Oaks Park is diverted in a side drainage and enters Ashley Creek about 1/4 of the way down the drainage. Flows from this diversion add additional water in the fall when natural flows are reduced. As in other drainages along the Western Section, there is considerable loss of water to the underground karst system.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest USDA Forest Service July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: There are no diversions or impoundments in this segment. The flow reductions associated with the sinks in the canyon are considered as part of the natural stream environment.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – Ashley Gorge is located in an extremely rugged and steep canyon area, with the exception of short sections near the upper and lower ends of the segment, i.e., near the junction of the segment with the North and South Forks of Ashley Creek, and at the terminus near the “spring box” on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Steep slopes, rock outcrops, and a mosaic of conifers, aspen, cottonwoods and willows provide breathtaking scenery to those who venture on foot in the canyon.

Geologic/Hydrologic – The upper portion of this segment flows between steep colluvial slopes underlain by Mississippian limestone. There are numerous palisade cliffs with talus piles beneath. There is active down slope movement of the colluviums, probably by creep. The stream at the bottom constantly removes material, thus keeping the slope movement active.

Much of the valley bottom is filled with alluvium and glacial outwash, with numerous benches and debris flows below the side slopes. As opposed to the outwash, which is composed of Uinta Mountain quartzite, the slope wash is composed of material derived from the Morgan and Weber formations. The slope wash has built terraces and side valley fans which stand well above the glacial outwash. Flash floods carry sediment into the stream channels, but the numerous boulders in the material inhibits deep cutting. The lower gorge has exceedingly steep canyon sides and vertical cliffs, underlain by the Weber Sandstones. The vertical nature of these slopes is caused by the "jointing" in the Weber formation. In the process of down cutting the valleys, the stream also undercut the bottoms of the canyon thus removing support from the overlying rocks. The already existing "joint sets" create natural planes of weakness for rocks to fracture, break and fall. Thus, the process of canyon formation is accompanied by very impressive and spectacular rock falls. Whitewater and high flows occur in spring with snow and ice thaws. Duration of high flows is dependent on snow pack and summer storms. High flows and the rugged nature of the land provide the adventurous with unforgettable experiences. However, due to the isolation and rugged nature of the gorge, easy access is not possible. The springs in the lower portion of the gorge are charged by water entering a large karst system connected to the Dry Fork, Brownie Canyon, and other drainages. This limestone karst system (sinkholes, caves, and underground drainage) provides a significant amount of water for the Vernal Municipal Watershed. Water discharged from Oaks Park is diverted in a side drainage and enters Ashley Creek about 1/4 of the way down the drainage. Flows from this diversion add

additional water in the fall when natural flows are reduced. As in other drainages along the Western Section, there is considerable loss of water to the underground karst system.

Wildlife – Good wildlife habitat exists due to the diversity of vegetation and deciduous trees in the canyon corridor. Habitat exists for peregrine falcon. The corridor serves as an escape route for deer and elk. This segment also provides important habitat for raptors. It also has potential for bats. The segment is valuable habitat for bobcat, cougar, and bear. The benches above the canyon bottom and within the 0.5-mile wide corridor provide habitat for deer in the spring and fall.

Historic – Red Pine Trail is an historic transportation route. There is also evidence of an old trail along the canyon bottom, with several historic mining sites and writings on rocks and boulders. The springs in the lower area of the gorge were used as water sources during early settlement days.

Other Similar Values – This segment of Ashley Creek begins in irregular shaped, steep and very steep limestone canyon side slopes. The drainage descends a boulder falls just above the Redpine setting location, and enters what is known as Ashley Gorge. Vegetation is highly diverse from the top of the canyon to the bottom. There is not much of a riparian zone in the bottom. Numerous springs occur toward the mouth of the gorge. The Research Natural Area within the corridor is a good representation of local undisturbed community types: riparian, cottonwood, dogwood, and blue spruce understory communities. Aspen snowberry community occurs, with mixed conifer on numerous debris fans and on lower canyon slump slopes. Mountain brush occurs on the south facing slopes on the east side of the canyon, and Douglas-fir on north facing slopes. Shrubs associated with bottomlands occupy the canyon bottoms. Dogwood, aspen-narrow leaf cottonwood-snowberry and mountain ash are also present. Engelmann spruce is also intermingled in the canyon bottom. "Everet Spring Parsley" is found in riparian areas along the canyon bottom.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

This watercourse is generally inaccessible except by trail. Red Pine Trail crosses the upper portion of the gorge, and several undeveloped roads access points at several sites along the plateau above the gorge, the boundary to the area. The terminus of the segment is just north of the road leading to the USGS Gauging Station on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located almost entirely on the Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District, except for a short segment on BLM-administered land.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-9.09	Ashley National Forest	2908.8
9.09-10.16	Bureau of Land Management	342.4
	Total	3251.2

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths ¼ are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments,

or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

In Uintah County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as RFM-Recreation, Forestry and Mining (<http://www.co.untah.ut.us/gis/Zoning%202005.pdf>). The RFM zone has been established as a district in which the primary use of the land is for recreation, forestry, grazing, wildlife and mining purposes. In general, this zone covers the mountainous portion of the unincorporated area of the county, and is characterized by naturalistic land areas, mountain canyons, and high grazing lands interspersed by ranches, recreational camps and resorts, outdoor recreational facilities, and mines and facilities related thereto. Natural and manmade lakes are also characteristic of this zone.

Conditional land uses that are permitted only when approved by the planning commission include (Uintah County code 17.64.030):

- A. Forest product industries and buildings related thereto;
- B. Oil and gas wells, mining and processing of minerals;
- C. Gravel and rock quarries;
- D. Reservoirs, dams, power plants, electric substations, oil and gas pipelines;
- E. Hot-road-mix plants on temporary basis for not more than six months;
- F. Ski resorts, recreation camps and uses incidental to such uses;
- G. Gas stations, cafes, resorts;
- H. Radio and television transmitter facilities.

Special provisions exist for construction near waterways and flood channels. No building shall be constructed within the boundaries of any natural waterway. Where buildings are to be constructed within seventy-five (75) feet of the exterior boundaries of the high water mark of a flood channel existing at the effective date of the ordinance codified in this title, adequate measures must be taken, as determined by the board of county commissioners, to protect the building or structure from damage, due to floods, and so as not to increase the hazard to surrounding lands and buildings (Uintah County code 17.64.060) <http://www.co.untah.ut.us/countycode/index.html>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Based on the underlying geology, and lack of past minerals and energy development, little if any future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no diversions, impoundments or channel modifications along this segment. No future water developments are known or expected at this time. A unique flow alteration occurs in this drainage, as water from Oaks Park Reservoir is diverted via the Oaks Park Canal into Ashley Gorge, which augments stream flows in the gorge. There are reservoirs on Ashley Twin and Goose Lakes in the upper watershed above the segment.

The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (1999) identifies a shortage of irrigation water that generally occurs during July and August due to inadequate reservoir storage in the Uintah Basin. The recommendation of this report is that storage reservoirs should be constructed on the Yellowstone River

(near Altonah), Uinta River (near Neola) and Whiterocks River (near Whiterocks), as well as upper and lower Ashley Creek (Utah State Water Plan – Uintah Basin – 1999, pages 10-6 and 13-8). The report also recommends bank stabilization along Dry Fork (near Maeser). Bank stabilization, rebuilding old meander bends, and larger bridges were also recommended along Ashley Creek.

No proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin are proposed on eligible Wild and Scenic river segments. All of these proposed projects are downstream of the Ashley National Forest, and are not expected to alter (or be altered) by potential Wild and Scenic designation. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Red Pine Trail crosses the upper portion of the gorge, and undeveloped roads access points at several sites along the plateau above the gorge. The terminus of the segment is just north of the road leading to the USGS Gauging Station on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Rights of way: There are three recorded rights of way in the corridor, one and two water facilities.

Grazing Activities – Ashley Gorge creates the boundary between the Taylor Mountain and Black Canyon allotments, but due to the rugged and inaccessible nature of the canyon, no grazing use occurs along the river corridor.

Recreation Activities – Hiking is the dominant recreation use. Some hunting and fishing occurs in both the upper and lower portions of the segment. Limited kayaking and canoeing occurs in the lower half of the gorge for about a 30 to 40 day period during early spring runoff (classes 2 through 5 experience level). Outstanding fishing occurs along the upper portion of the gorge. Rock hounding within the gorge is a very popular recreation use. Historic features in the gorge also attract visitors.

Other Resource Activities – Some harvest activities have taken place in the upper reaches of this segment, but outside the 0.5 mile corridor. Due to the sheer canyon walls and inaccessible nature, the majority of Ashley Gorge is not suitable for timber harvest.

Special Designations – The Ashley National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) identifies the following management prescriptions for this area:

- (n) Range of resource uses and outputs. Commodity production modified for amenity production. Resource protection as needed outside of NRA. The riparian objective is to maintain and restore. This management prescription encompasses the majority of the segment.
- (f) Dispersed Recreation Roaded. Areas receiving a variety of uses in a variety of landforms and vegetation types located throughout the Forest in a roaded environment. The riparian objective is to maintain. Control as needed to protect streambank stability, minimize sedimentation, prevent compaction and maintain visuals. This management prescription applies to some scattered areas in the segment.
- (g) Undeveloped dispersed recreation – unroaded. These areas are characterized by a variety of timbered and non-timbered lands between mid and high elevations. The riparian objective is to protect. This prescription applies to the lower portion of the segment.

The Ashley Gorge Research Natural Area encompasses approximately 2.3 miles of the eligible segment. This RNA was established principally as a representative blue spruce forest type, with lesser amounts of Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, mountain shrub, and riparian vegetation. Management direction in Research Natural Areas is to allow natural processes to operate with minimal management intervention. Various representative ecosystems are to be maintained for future research use.

This entire segment falls within the Ashley Spring (Vernal City) Drinking Water Source Protection Zone.

A portion of this same area is set aside and managed as the Vernal municipal watershed.

The Ashley Gorge segment is located completely within inventoried roadless areas, except for the final mile below the Forest Boundary.

Socio-Economic Environment – Some of the downstream communities in Uintah County include Maeser, Naples and Vernal. Vernal is the largest community in the basin with an estimated population of 7, 577 (2007 estimate). The Ashley Valley is set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The economy in the Uintah Basin relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas, manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>).

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Uintah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing, Dinosaur National Monument etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies are the USFS and the BLM.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

In Uintah County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as RFM-Recreation, Forestry and Mining. The RFM zone has been established as a district in which the primary use of the land is for recreation, forestry, grazing, wildlife and mining purposes. Wild and Scenic designation could be inconsistent with the stated uses of forestry, and mining. Designation could also be inconsistent with conditional land uses in Uintah County, including oil and gas wells/pipelines, gravel and rock quarries, reservoirs, dams, and

power plants. Designation could be consistent with the purposes of recreation, permitted grazing, and wildlife. In addition, designation would be consistent with special provisions that exist for construction near waterways and flood channels.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study:

Uintah County officials, the Uintah County Water Conservancy District, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition were potential effects to downstream water rights, potential effects to reservoir and canal system management, potential effects to future water developments, and that other means of protecting outstandingly remarkable values are available.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values, the prevention of further development or modification of river segments, the protection of river segments within inventoried roadless areas, and the protection of water quality within municipal watersheds.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study:

Letters in support of designation were received from several individuals and nonprofit organizations. These letters cited its wild character, contribution to river system/basin integrity, scenery, and wildlife habitat values as reasons it should be considered suitable. One letter also expressed concern that any new reservoir construction on Ashley Creek would negatively affect recharge of the aquifer underlying Ashley Valley, and supported designation as a means of preventing further development.

Letters from the Uintah Water Conservancy District and a group of Ashley valley residents expressed opposition to designation. These letters cited the need for irrigation, municipal and industrial water, risk to private property if the river is not properly managed, and seasonally dry channels in some portions of the segment as reasons it should not be considered suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System.

Comments responding to the draft EIS

Many letters commented that all segments within a single river system should be considered together, because they are ecologically connected and a joint recommendation would enhance their contribution to the river system's integrity. Common examples included: South Fork Ashley, Ashley Gorge and Black Canyon.

The Ashley Creek and Whiterocks river systems provide virtually all the water used by residents in the eastern Uintah Basin. Local officials and residents expressed great concern that operation of existing facilities would be restricted, compromising water rights and affecting local economies. Rapid population growth and potential oil shale development activities were also cited as reasons to retain the option of building additional water storage and delivery systems in these systems.

Proponents of designation for Whiterocks and Ashley Creeks cited the opportunity to protect large, intact watersheds and for their scenic, recreational and wildlife values. Ashley Creek in particular spans many life zones, from alpine to cottonwood – more than any other segment or combination of segments in the study.

A common theme was that all rivers within Wilderness or roadless areas should be designated, in part because they pose few conflicts with other uses or activities and would be relatively simple to manage. In addition to the Wilderness rivers listed above, the following rivers were recommended based on being all or mostly within roadless: South Fork Ashley Creek, Ashley Gorge, all of the Whiterocks segments, and Lower Dry Fork (these are examples; different letters cited different examples). Of the three organized

campaigns none supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives. Designation may help or impede the “goals” of other tribal, federal, state or local agencies. For example, designation of a river may contribute to state or regional protection objectives for fish and wildlife resources. Similarly, adding a river which includes a limited recreation activity or setting to the National System may help meet statewide recreation goals. Designation might, however, limit irrigation and/or flood control measures in a manner consistent with regional socioeconomic goals.

Designation would complement the existing direction in Forest management prescription areas, inventoried roadless areas, Drinking Water Source Protection Zones, the Vernal Municipal Watershed, and the Ashley Gorge Research Natural Area.

As discussed in suitability factor (2), designation could be both inconsistent and consistent with county zoning ordinances. Uintah County’s General Plan (2005 draft, obtained from the County web site) states that water quality and availability are necessary for continued growth and development, and contains policies to promote efficient management and use of water resources. With respect to Wild and Scenic River designation, the County’s Public Lands Policy provides the following position statements:

- Special designations, such as wilderness, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), wild and scenic rivers, critical habitat, semi primitive and non-motorized travel, etc., result in single purpose or non-use and are detrimental to the area economy, life styles, culture, and heritage.
- Needed protections can be provided by well planned and managed development.
- No special designations should be proposed until it is determined and substantiated by verified scientific data, that there is a need for the designation, that protections can not be provided by other methods, and the area in question is truly unique when compared to other area lands.
- Designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the acts and regulations that created them.
- Designations that are not properly planned or managed are inconsistent with the mandates that public lands be managed for multiple use and sustained yield.

Uintah County also has a Public Lands Implementation Plan. It contains the following direction related to Wild and Scenic Rivers:

- WSR classifications must be appropriate and reflect the existing conditions and uses of bordering lands and the definitions contained in Sec. 2(b)(1)(2)(3) of the Act.
- The County must be provided an opportunity to participate in the preservation and/or administration of any river proposed or designated in the WSR system (Sec. 5(c) of the Act). Such designations must be provided for protections of water rights and access to water contained in that right. No WSA [*sic*] may be designated that have the effect of reducing water rights or access to those rights.
- Boundaries or buffers for designated water courses shall not exceed 320 acres/mile measured from the ordinary high water mark [Sec. 3(b)] and 1/4 mile from the ordinary high water mark on each side of the river [Sec. 4(d), Sec. 8(b), Sec. 9(a)(iii)].
- In addition to the boundary limitation provided in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Congress and the Department of Interior have found these limitations to be adequate on sections of the lower Green River where protection of scenic value was requested by them [Cooperative Government to Government Agreement Concerning Transfer of Naval Oil Shale Reserve Number 2, Public Law 106-398 Sec. 3405 (2)(c)].
- Any protection applied to streams or rivers must provide that such protections will in no

manner affect, impair, or limit the ability of holders of water rights to utilize their water rights. This is consistent with Department of Interior and congressional actions where similar protections were requested by them. [Cooperative Government to Government Agreement Concerning Transfer of Naval Oil Shale Reserve Number 2, Public Law 106-398 Sec. 3405 (2)(c)].

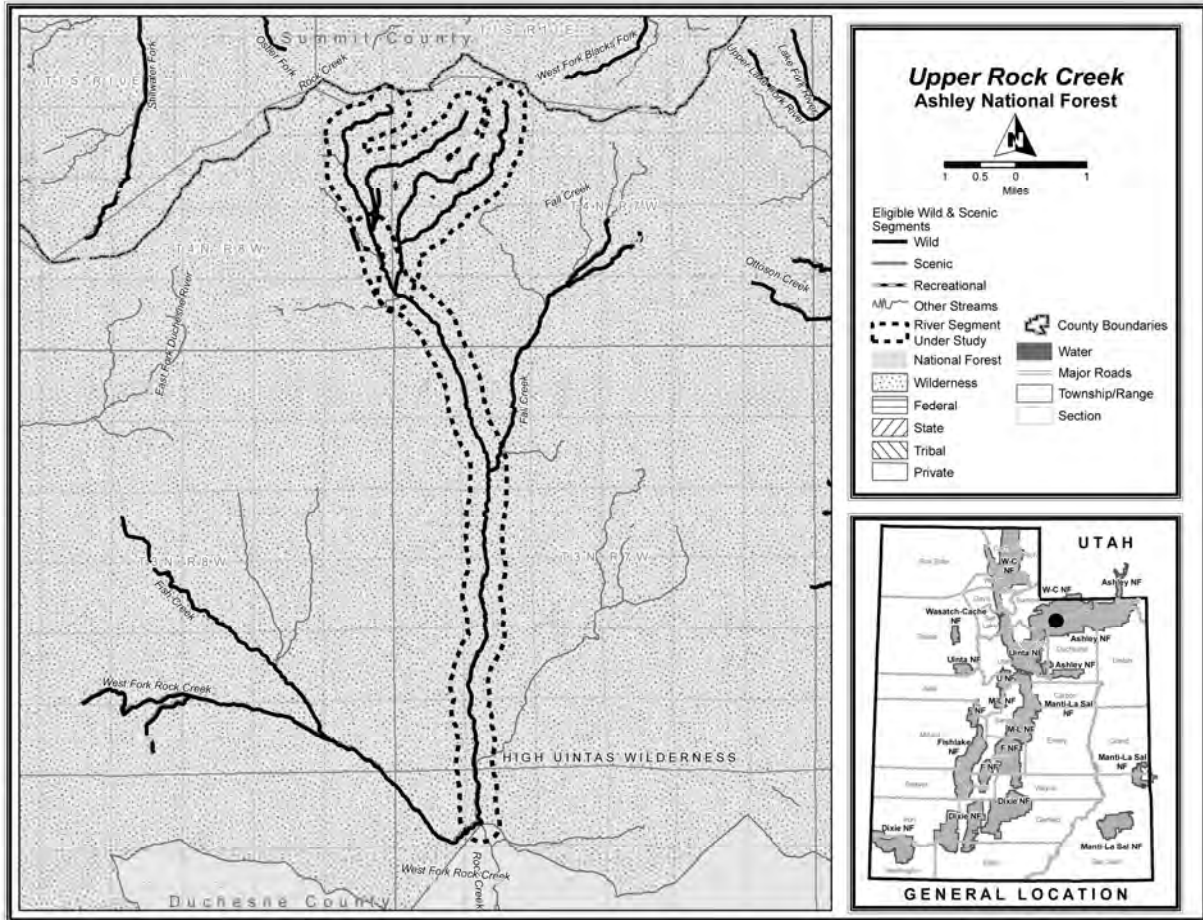
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

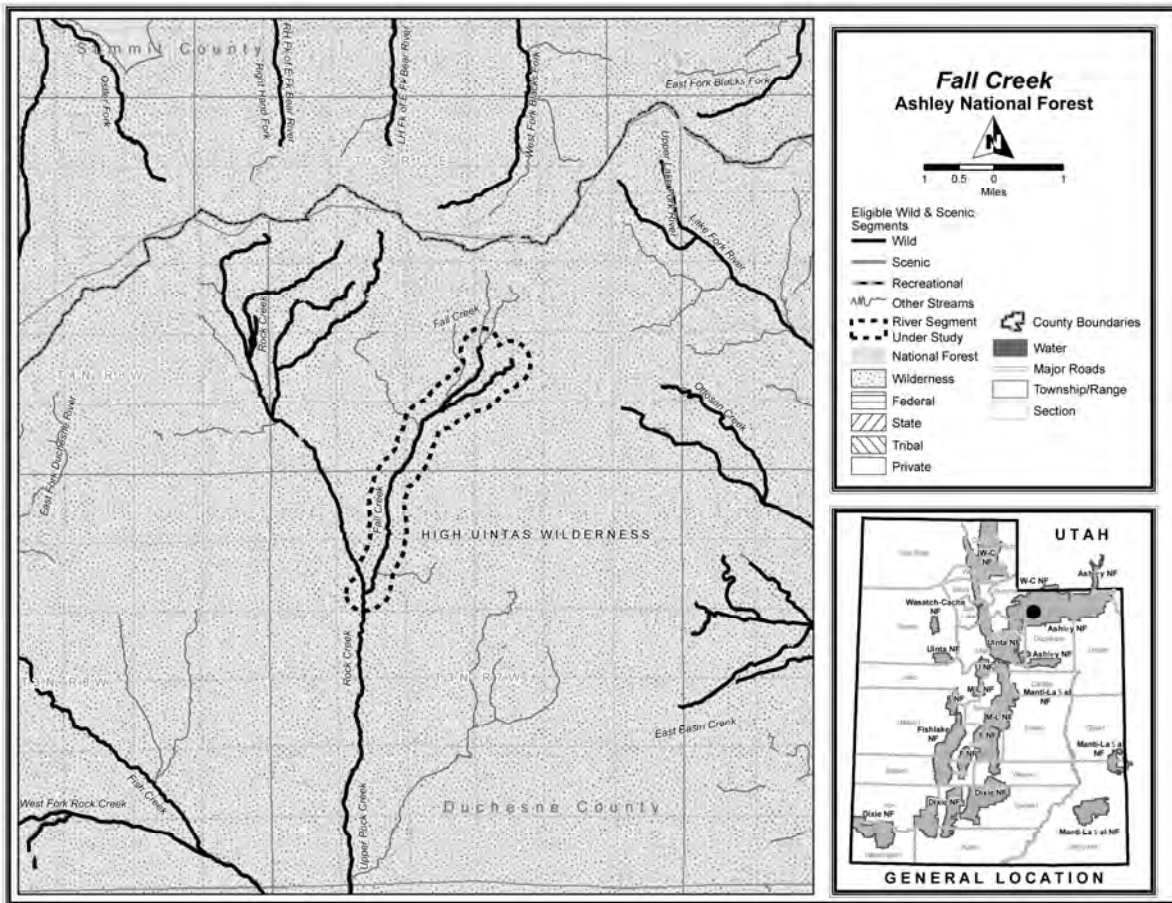
This majority of this segment is on National Forest System Lands, with the last mile on lands administered by the BLM. Designation would provide a comprehensive and holistic protection strategy between the Ashley National Forest, BLM, other cooperating agencies, and public groups. The larger basin integrity and the opportunity to design a holistic protection strategy could be improved by considering Ashley Gorge, Black Canyon, and South Fork Ashley Creek together.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Upper Rock Creek and Fall Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)





STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River(s): Upper Rock Creek and Fall Creek

River Mileage:

Upper Rock Creek

Studied: 21.26 miles headwaters to the southern boundary of the High Uintas Wilderness.

Eligible: Same

Fall Creek

Studied: 5.90 miles from the headwaters to the confluence with Upper Rock Creek.

Eligible: Same

Location:

	Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger District, Duchesne County, Utah		Congressional District UT-2	
	Start (TRS)	End (TRS)	Classification	Miles
Upper Rock Creek	NE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 13 T 4 N, R 8 W, USM	NW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 5, T 2 N, R 7 W, USM	Wild	21.26
Fall Creek	SW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 27, T 4 N, R 7 W, USM	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 8 T 3 N, R 7 W, USM	Wild	5.90

Upper Rock Creek consists of lakes within the headwaters, the watercourse corridor, and three adjacent principal perennial tributaries, 21.26 miles in all.

Fall Creek consists of lakes within the headwaters, the watercourse corridor, and an adjacent principal perennial tributary (5.90 miles).

Physical Description of River: Upper Rock Creek and Fall Creek have headwaters above tree line in a cirque basin of scoured bedrock. Downstream they enter more defined glacial valley bottoms with numerous meadows and ground morainal landforms. Many of the meadows have low gradient meandering streams that pick up gradient through the ground moraine tree covered areas. After flowing through low relief glacial valley upland, the stream enters a steep canyon with lateral moraines to either side. The glacial bottom in the main portion of Rock Creek and Fall Creek is in a glacial canyon bottom with wet meadows, springs and seeps with thin hummocky ground moraines and outwash with some inner gorges cut deep in the underlying quartzite bedrock. Boulder moraines and outwash have created a hummocky topography that covers the glacial valley floor. These hummocks have dammed some of the tributary streams and formed wet meadows, seeps and spring areas.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest USDA Forest Service July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: There are no diversions in these segments and they are free of impoundments.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – The watercourses serve as the corridor for primitive trails to the panoramic and strikingly beautiful lakes, meadows, cirque basins, and surrounding peaks and ridgelines in the headwaters. Wildflowers provide variation in color in the higher basins and meadows during mid- and late summer months. Seasonal variation in color occurs in the lower portions of the watercourses where small stands of Aspen and streamside riparian vegetation exist.

Vegetation in the canyon bottoms has great diversity, is highly variable, and contributes to the outstanding scenery. The glacial bottoms in the main portion of the watercourses are in glacial canyon bottoms with wet meadows, springs and seeps with some inner gorges cut deep in the underlying quartzite bedrock. This unit type contains most of the larger glacial lakes in the Uinta Mountains, and the wet meadows resulted from the filling of former lakes. Backpackers and horse packers are attracted to this outstandingly beautiful scenery, with the season of use from late June to mid-October.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Both rivers are classified as Wild.

All segments of these watercourses are in a designated Wilderness area and have no modifications of the waterway or shoreline. The segments are generally inaccessible except by trail and essentially primitive with little or no sign of human activity. Developments are limited to trails, trail signs and foot bridges.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – Both of these segments are located on the Ashley National Forest, Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District, and are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area.

Upper Rock Creek

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 21.26	Ashley National Forest	6803.2

Fall Creek

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 5.9	Ashley National Forest	1888.0

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Because this river segment is located entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness, where minerals and energy development activities are prohibited, no future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no existing water developments (dams, diversions or channel modifications) on these segments. As these segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, no future water developments are expected. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

There are no known Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands on these segments. Bureau of Reclamation lands withdrawn for the purposes of water development are located downstream, associated with Upper Stillwater Reservoir. Upper Stillwater Reservoir provides water to downstream communities in the Uintah Basin, as well as the Wasatch Front via a pipeline built by the Central Utah Project.

None of the proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin are on eligible Wild and Scenic river segments. All of these proposed projects are downstream of the Ashley National Forest, and are not expected to alter (or be altered by) potential Wild and Scenic designation.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Transportation routes and facilities are limited to trails, trail signs, and foot bridges. Trails run along both the Upper Rock Creek and Fall Creek segments.

Grazing Activities – The Rock Creek cattle allotment is permitted for 170 cow/calf pairs from June 1 – October 15. This allotment includes the area along Upper Rock Creek from Stillwater Reservoir to the confluence with Fall Creek. Above the confluence with Fall Creek, there is no permitted livestock use. In the Fall Creek drainage, there is a free use permit with the Ute Indian Tribe for Sheep grazing, but this allotment has been vacant for approximately 30 years. Allotments are managed under allotment management plans and annual operating procedures.

Recreation Activities – Most use is concentrated in the headwater areas and consists of backpacking, recreation stock use and dispersed camping. Some deer and elk hunting occur in the lower portion of the segment. The season of use is about four to five months, from late June to mid-October.

Other Resource Activities – As these segments are within designated wilderness, no additional resource activities such as timber harvest are planned in the area.

Special Designations – These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, which was created by the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. The establishing legislation for the High Uintas Wilderness Area specified that the purpose was to, “designate certain national forest system lands in Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in order to preserve the wilderness character

of the land and to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic resources, and promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all of the American people.”

The specific management direction for the High Uintas Wilderness was developed as amendments to the 1985 Wasatch-Cache and 1986 Ashley National Forest Plans through an EIS completed in 1997. This amendment directs land managers to maintain a wilderness where ecosystems are influenced primarily by the forces of nature, provide diverse opportunities for public use, enjoyment and understanding of wilderness, and preserve a high quality wilderness resource for present and future generations. The overall management goals for the High Uintas Wilderness are to:

- Wilderness: Manage the wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. Allow ecosystems to function naturally.
- Air: Protect air quality to wilderness standards.
- Water and Soil: Protect soil and water resources. Allow development, protection, and monitoring of water resources as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act.
- Wildlife and Fish habitats: Allow natural processes to shape terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Cooperate with Utah DWR in managing fish and wildlife resources. (FSM 2323.3)
- Vegetation: Protect the wilderness resource while allowing established livestock grazing to continue, including maintenance of improvements and predator control, as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act. Allow fire to play, as nearly as possible, its natural role in maintaining wilderness values and natural processes.
- Recreation: Manage recreation to sustain the wilderness resource.
- Minerals: Protect the wilderness resource by limiting mineral development and exploration activities to that necessary to exercise valid existing rights.

Socio-Economic Environment – Upper Rock Creek and Fall Creek are the principal tributaries to Upper Stillwater Reservoir, which provides water to the downstream communities in the Uintah Basin, as well as the Wasatch Front via a pipeline built by the Central Utah Project.

The Duchesne County General Plan (1997, amended 1998 and 2005) identifies the importance of water resources to downstream communities. The plan the infrastructure and communities of Duchesne County are dependent on water that flows to them from watersheds located on public lands. The rivers and streams flowing from these watersheds supply water for municipal, industrial, livestock, irrigation, and recreation use. As set forth in Utah Code 63-38d-401 (5) (c), “The waters of the state are the property of the citizens of the state, subject to appropriation for beneficial use, and are essential to the future prosperity of the state and the quality of life within the state.”

Some of the downstream communities in Duchesne County include Mountain Home, Talmage, Altonah, Altamont, Boneta, Mt. Emmons, Upalco, Bluebell, Cedar View Neola, and Roosevelt. The largest community in the county is Roosevelt, with an estimated population of 4,333 in 2007. These local communities are set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The economy relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas,

manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas of the county, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Unitah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution. Designation would be consistent with the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Duchesne County officials, the Duchesne Water Conservancy District, the Ute Indian Tribe, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition to designation were

that these segments are already protected by the High Uintas Wilderness, potential effects to water rights and management of reservoirs, human structures and development should preclude rivers from being classified as free flowing, and interference with grazing, hunting, and fishing rights.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values and the prevention of further development and modification of river segments.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

The Central Utah Water Conservancy District specifically addressed Rock Creek in its comment letter. They noted that a small section of the stream just above Stillwater Reservoir might be impacted by dam maintenance activities. However, the stream reach in question is below the eligible segments so this shouldn't create a conflict with suitability.

Some letters expressed support for finding all river segments within the High Uintas Wilderness to be suitable, which would include Upper Rock Creek or Fall Creek. None singled out Rock Creek or discussed values unique to this drainage.

The State of Utah, Central Utah Project Completion Act office, and various water users and water conservancy districts had general concerns about designation of stream segments adjacent to high mountain lakes currently used for water storage. These concerns involve potential impacts to water storage rights and the ability to operate reservoirs as needed to deliver water to downstream users. They also discussed the potential for additional management restrictions to impede high lakes stabilization work. Although no reservoirs have been targeted for stabilization in the Rock Creek drainage at this time, new proposals may developed as part of ongoing work in Uinta Basin.

Comments on the DEIS

Some individuals, local government officials and water user representatives commented that Wilderness protections are adequate and additional designation under the WSRA would be burdensome and unnecessary. Others specifically stated that WSRA and Wilderness protections are not duplicative, since they address different factors. Moreover, a number of respondents supported designating all segments within existing Wilderness on the basis of their pristine character and the complementary nature of WSR and Wilderness management practices.

Local governments and water conservancy districts have the following specific concerns about rivers in the High Uintas Wilderness:

- Designation may affect operation and maintenance of existing facilities, especially if it means that reservoir releases must be altered to ensure year-round flow in downstream segments or prevent releases that artificially augment flow. This would restrict the exercise of existing water rights and harm water users.
- Some high elevation reservoirs are or may be considered for stabilization in the future. WSR designation could restrict such work. (See, however, CUPCA letter #95 stating that stabilization work appears compatible and could still be completed with WSR designation).
- Since existing reservoirs alter the natural flows, no downstream segments should be considered free-flowing. Shale Creek is frequently cited as an example of this.
- Future projects downstream of eligible segments may be negatively affected, either by management restrictions or by loss of federal funding opportunities, if a segment is designated upstream. This concern is based on language in Sec. 7a of the WSRA. There is some concern that the option of expanding Moon Lake (on the Lake Fork River) would be lost if Lake Fork were designated.

Of the three organized campaigns none supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation may conflict with some elements of downstream zoning and land use, but would be completely consistent with the management direction in the High Uintas Wilderness. Since these segments are within the Wilderness boundary, designation is not expected to impede other socioeconomic goals downstream.

The Duchesne County General Plan states that special designations, including wild and scenic rivers, “may result in non-use, restricted use, or environmental impacts on public and private lands. Special designations dictate practices that restrict access or use of the land that impact other resources or their use. Such designations cause resource waste, serious impacts to other important resources and actions, and are inconsistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.” The County’s position is that:

- The objectives of special designations can be met by well-planned and managed development of natural resources.
- No special designations shall be proposed until the need has been determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data available to the public. Furthermore, it must be demonstrated that protection cannot be provided by other means and that the area in question is truly unique compared to other area lands.
- Special designations can be detrimental to the County’s economy, life style, culture, and heritage. Therefore special designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the laws and regulations that created them.

With respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers, County support will be withheld until:

- It is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of the three physiographic provinces in the state. The rationale and justification for the conclusions shall be disclosed;
- The effects of the addition on the local and state economies, private property rights, agricultural and industrial operations and interests, tourism, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal agency;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal agencies; and
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed. All valid existing rights, including grazing leases and permits shall not be affected.

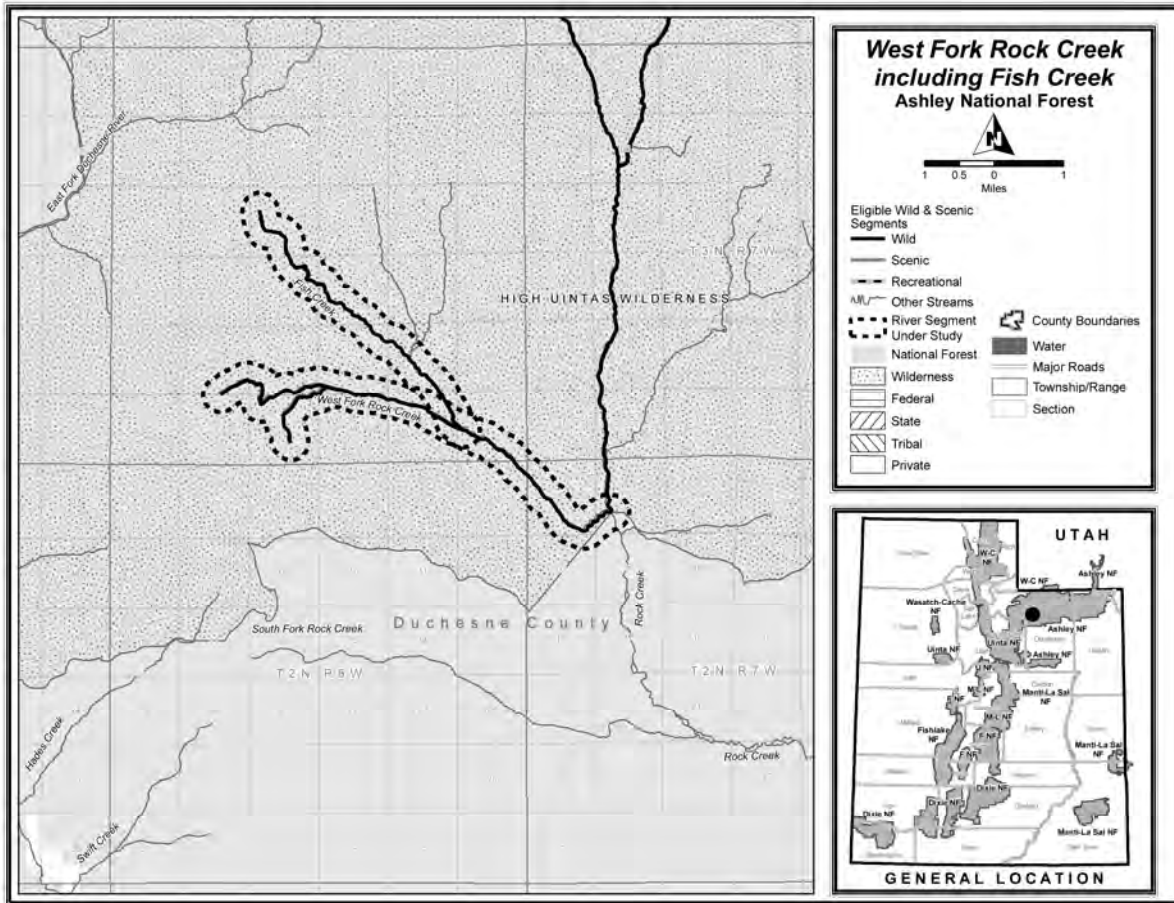
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, so designation would provide additional but similar protection. Basin integrity and ability to develop holistic protection strategies are excellent, given the existing management direction in wilderness. Basin or watershed integrity could also be improved by considering Upper Rock and Fall Creeks, together with West Fork Rock Creek and Fish Creek.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

West Fork Rock Creek, including Fish Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: West Fork Rock Creek, including Fish Creek.

River Mileage:

West Fork Rock Creek

Studied: 8.51 miles from the headwaters to the confluence with Upper Rock Creek.

Eligible: Same

Fish Creek

Studied: 4.91 miles from the headwaters to the confluence with West Fork Rock Creek.

Eligible: Same

Location:

	Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger District, Duchesne County, Utah		Congressional District UT-2	
	Start (TRS)	End (TRS)	Classification	Miles
West Fork Rock Creek	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 29, T 3 N, R 8 W, USM	NW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 5, T 2 N, R 7 W, USM	Wild	8.51
Fish Creek	SW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 16, T 3 N, R 8 W, USM	NW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 36, T 3 N, R 8 W, USM	Wild	4.91

Physical Description of River: Both West Fork and Fish Creek flow through hummocky ground moraine located along glacial valley bottoms containing lakes, ponds wet depressions and forested knolls. Both these tributaries to the main Rock Creek lack the high elevation alpine basins above tree line. Gradients are typically 1 to 15 percent in the upper basins and drop into a moderately steep to steep glacial valley with subdued step topography due to glacial scour and veneer of till and boulder glacial lateral morainal material. Gradients are typically 30 percent to 65 percent in these steepened valleys. The headwaters of West Fork of Rock Creek & Fish Creek consist of numerous lakes, basins and meadows in the Granddaddy Lakes area of the High Uintas Wilderness. Two principal tributaries are included with the West Fork Rock Creek watercourse. Pinto Lake and Granddaddy Lake are located in the northwest and southwest corners of the headwaters, respectively.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest USDA Forest Service July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: There are no diversions in these segments and they are free of impoundments.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – The watercourses serve as the corridor for primitive trails to the panoramic and strikingly beautiful lakes, meadows, cirque basins, and surrounding peaks and ridgelines in the headwaters. Wildflowers provide variation in color in the higher basins and meadows during mid- and late summer months. Seasonal variation in color occurs in the lower portions of the watercourses where small stands of Aspen and streamside riparian vegetation exist. Vegetation in the canyon bottoms has great diversity, is highly variable, and contributes to the outstanding scenery. The glacial bottoms in the main portion of the watercourses are in glacial canyon bottoms with wet meadows, springs and seeps with some inner gorges cut deep in the underlying quartzite bedrock. This unit type contains most of the larger glacial lakes in the Uinta Mountains, and the wet meadows resulted from the filling of former lakes. Backpackers and horse packers are attracted to this outstandingly beautiful scenery, with the season of use from late June to mid-October.

Historic – The historic Rhodes Cabin and Mine exist within the corridor of West Fork Rock Creek. Although the cabin walls have been vandalized, the mine dump and mine adits remain in good condition.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Both rivers are classified as Wild.

All segments of this watercourse are in a designated Wilderness area and have no modifications of the waterway or shoreline. The segments are generally inaccessible except by trail and essentially primitive with little or no sign of human activity. Developments are limited to trails, trail signs and foot bridges.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – These segments are located on the Ashley National Forest, Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District, and are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area.

West Fork Rock Creek		
River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 8.51	Ashley National Forest	2723.2

Fish Creek		
River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 4.91	Ashley National Forest	1571.2

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Because this river segment is located entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness, where minerals and energy development activities are prohibited, no future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no existing water developments (dams, diversions or channel modifications) on these segments. As these segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, no future water developments are expected. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

There are no known Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands on these segments. Bureau of Reclamation lands withdrawn for the purposes of water development are located downstream, associated with Upper Stillwater Reservoir. Upper Stillwater Reservoir provides water to downstream communities in the Uintah Basin, as well as the Wasatch Front via a pipeline built by the Central Utah Project.

None of the proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin are on eligible Wild and Scenic river segments. All of these proposed projects are downstream of the Ashley National Forest, and are not expected to alter (or be altered by) potential Wild and Scenic designation.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Transportation routes and facilities are limited to trails, trail signs, and foot bridges. Trails are along both the West Fork Rock Creek and Fish Creek segments.

Grazing Activities – There are no permitted grazing allotments in Fish Creek or West Fork Rock Creek. A minor amount of use occurs at the confluence of West Fork Rock Creek and Upper Rock Creek, but this is from the Rock Creek grazing allotment.

Recreation Activities – Recreation visits and use is moderate to heavy in headwaters. Much of this use originates from trailheads located east of the headwaters on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Most wilderness users access this area from either the Grandview Trailhead in Hades Canyon or the Granddaddy Lakes Trailhead at Mirror Lake. Fifteen large lakes are located in the headwater areas.

Most use is concentrated in the headwater areas and consists of backpacking, recreation stock use and dispersed camping. Some deer and elk hunting occur in the lower portion of the segment. The season of use is about four to five months, from late June to mid-October.

Other Resource Activities – As these segments are within designated wilderness, no additional resource activities such as timber harvest are planned in the area.

Special Designations – These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, which was created by the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. The establishing legislation for the High Uintas Wilderness Area specified that the purpose was to, “designate certain national forest system lands in Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in order to preserve the wilderness character

of the land and to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic resources, and promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all of the American people.”

The specific management direction for the High Uintas Wilderness was developed as amendments to the 1985 Wasatch-Cache and 1986 Ashley National Forest Plans through an EIS completed in 1997. This amendment directs land managers to maintain a wilderness where ecosystems are influenced primarily by the forces of nature, provide diverse opportunities for public use, enjoyment and understanding of wilderness, and preserve a high quality wilderness resource for present and future generations. The overall management goals for the High Uintas Wilderness are to:

- Wilderness: Manage the wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. Allow ecosystems to function naturally.
- Air: Protect air quality to wilderness standards.
- Water and Soil: Protect soil and water resources. Allow development, protection, and monitoring of water resources as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act.
- Wildlife and Fish habitats: Allow natural processes to shape terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Cooperate with Utah DWR in managing fish and wildlife resources. (FSM 2323.3)
- Vegetation: Protect the wilderness resource while allowing established livestock grazing to continue, including maintenance of improvements and predator control, as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act. Allow fire to play, as nearly as possible, its natural role in maintaining wilderness values and natural processes.
- Recreation: Manage recreation to sustain the wilderness resource.
- Minerals: Protect the wilderness resource by limiting mineral development and exploration activities to that necessary to exercise valid existing rights.

Socio-Economic Environment – West Fork Rock Creek and Fish Creek drain into the Upper Stillwater Reservoir, which provides water to downstream communities in the Uintah Basin, as well as the Wasatch Front via a pipeline built by the Central Utah Project.

The Duchesne County General Plan (1997, amended 1998 and 2005) identifies the importance of water resources to downstream communities. The communities of Duchesne County are dependent on water that flows to them from watersheds located on public lands. The rivers and streams flowing from these watersheds supply water for municipal, industrial, livestock, irrigation, and recreation use. As set forth in Utah Code 63-38d-401 (5) (c), “The waters of the state are the property of the citizens of the state, subject to appropriation for beneficial use, and are essential to the future prosperity of the state and the quality of life within the state.”

Some of the downstream communities in Duchesne County include Mountain Home, Talmage, Altonah, Altamont, Boneta, Mt. Emmons, Upalco, Bluebell, Cedar View Neola, and Roosevelt. The largest community in the county is Roosevelt, with an estimated population of 4,333 in 2007. These local communities are set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The economy relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas,

manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas of the county, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Unitah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution. Designation would be consistent with the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Duchesne County officials, the Duchesne Water Conservancy District, the Ute Indian Tribe, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition to designation were

that these segments are already protected by the High Uintas Wilderness, potential effects to water rights and management of reservoirs, human structures and development should preclude rivers from being classified as free flowing, and interference with grazing, hunting, and fishing rights.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values and the prevention of further development and modification of river segments.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

The Central Utah Water Conservancy District specifically addressed Rock Creek in its comment letter. They noted that a small section of the stream just above Stillwater Reservoir might be impacted by dam maintenance activities. However, the stream reach in question is below the eligible segments so this shouldn't create a conflict with suitability.

Some letters expressed support for finding all river segments within the High Uintas Wilderness to be suitable, which would include the West Fork of Rock Creek. None singled out Rock Creek or discussed values unique to this drainage.

The State of Utah, Central Utah Project Completion Act office, and various water users and water conservancy districts had general concerns about designation of stream segments adjacent to high mountain lakes currently used for water storage. These concerns involve potential impacts to water storage rights and the ability to operate reservoirs as needed to deliver water to downstream users. They also discussed the potential for additional management restrictions to impede high lakes stabilization work. Although no reservoirs have been targeted for stabilization in the Rock Creek drainage at this time, new proposals may developed as part of ongoing work in the Uinta Basin.

Comments received concerning the draft EIS

Some individuals, local government officials and water user representatives commented that Wilderness protections are adequate and additional designation under the WSRA would be burdensome and unnecessary. Others specifically stated that WSRA and Wilderness protections are not duplicative, since they address different factors. Moreover, a number of respondents supported designating all segments within existing Wilderness on the basis of their pristine character and the complementary nature of WSR and Wilderness management practices.

Local governments and water conservancy districts have the following specific concerns about rivers in the High Uintas Wilderness:

- Designation may affect operation and maintenance of existing facilities, especially if it means that reservoir releases must be altered to ensure year-round flow in downstream segments or prevent releases that artificially augment flow. This would restrict the exercise of existing water rights and harm water users.
- Some high elevation reservoirs are or may be considered for stabilization in the future. WSR designation could restrict such work. (See, however, CUPCA letter #95 stating that stabilization work appears compatible and could still be completed with WSR designation).
- Since existing reservoirs alter the natural flows, no downstream segments should be considered free-flowing. Shale Creek is frequently cited as an example of this.
- Future projects downstream of eligible segments may be negatively affected, either by management restrictions or by loss of federal funding opportunities, if a segment is designated upstream. This concern is based on language in Sec. 7a of the WSRA. The greatest concern is on the **Uinta River**, where a reservoir is being discussed on FS land below the Wilderness boundary. There is also some concern that the option of expanding Moon Lake (on the Lake Fork River) would be lost if Lake Fork were designated.

Of the three organized campaigns none supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation may conflict with some elements of downstream zoning and land use, but would be completely consistent with the management direction in the High Uintas Wilderness. Since these segments are within the Wilderness boundary, designation is not expected to impede other socioeconomic goals downstream, or change the existing situation.

The Duchesne County General Plan states that special designations, including wild and scenic rivers, “may result in non-use, restricted use, or environmental impacts on public and private lands. Special designations dictate practices that restrict access or use of the land that impact other resources or their use. Such designations cause resource waste, serious impacts to other important resources and actions, and are inconsistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.” The County’s position is that:

- The objectives of special designations can be met by well-planned and managed development of natural resources.
- No special designations shall be proposed until the need has been determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data available to the public. Furthermore, it must be demonstrated that protection cannot be provided by other means and that the area in question is truly unique compared to other area lands.
- Special designations can be detrimental to the County’s economy, life style, culture, and heritage. Therefore special designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the laws and regulations that created them.

With respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers, County support will be withheld until:

- It is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of the three physiographic provinces in the state. The rationale and justification for the conclusions shall be disclosed;
- The effects of the addition on the local and state economies, private property rights, agricultural and industrial operations and interests, tourism, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal agency;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal agencies; and
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed. All valid existing rights, including grazing leases and permits shall not be affected.

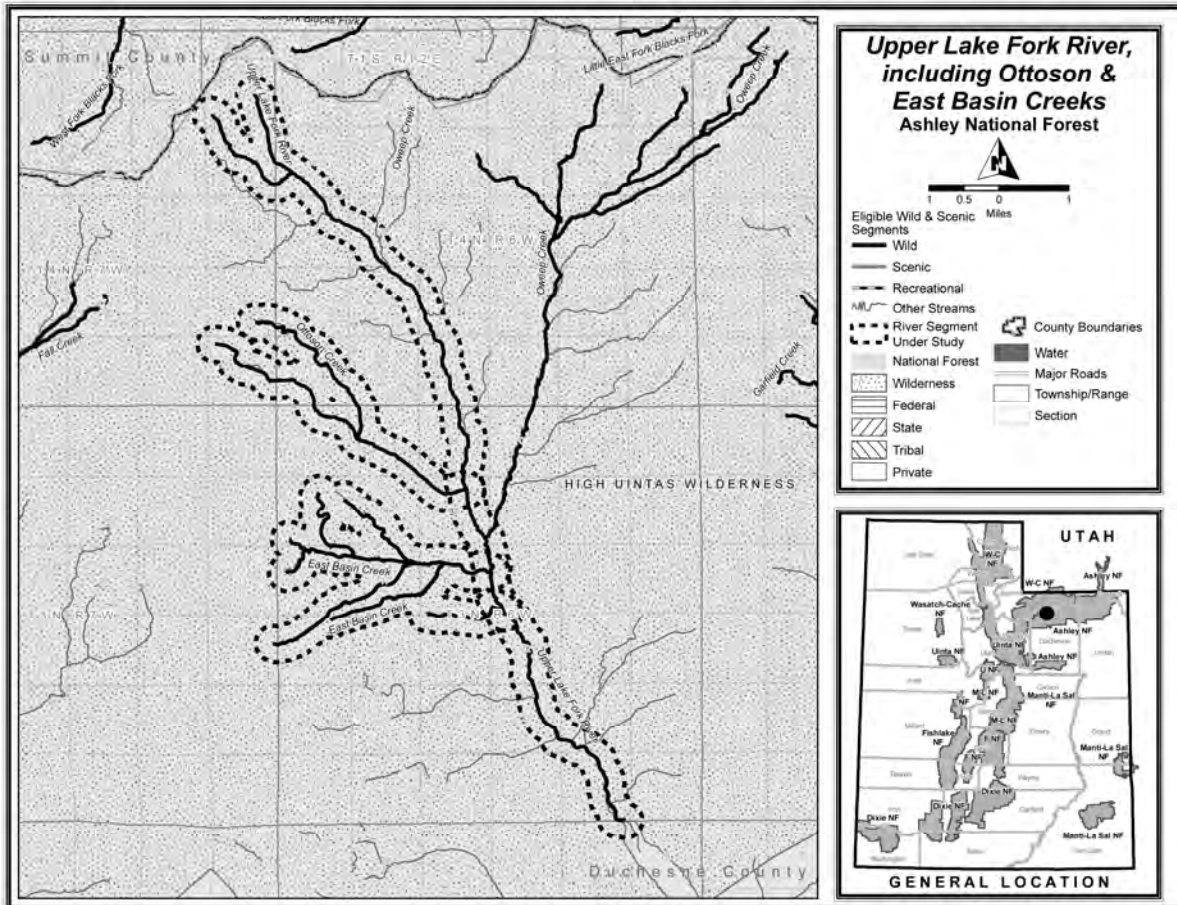
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

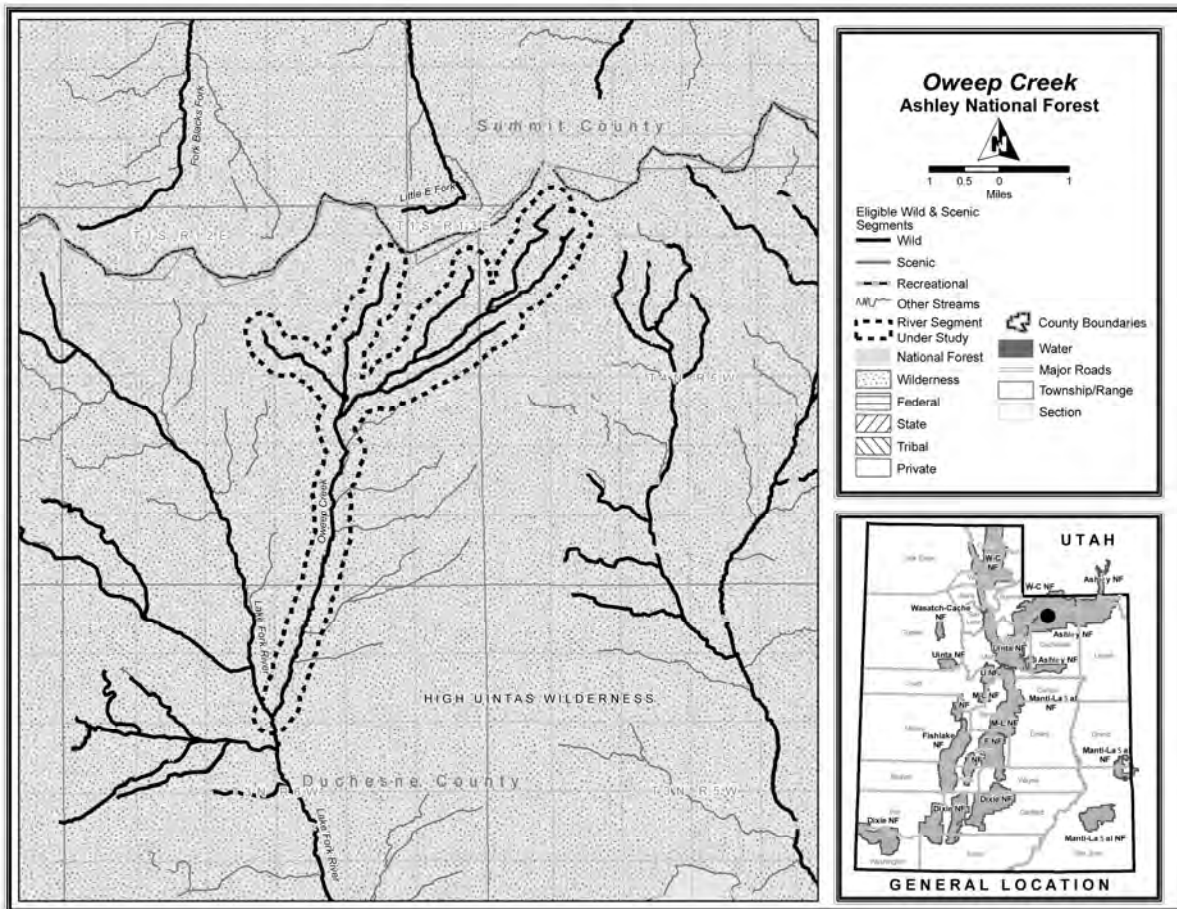
These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, so designation would provide additional but similar protection. Basin integrity and ability to develop holistic protection strategies are excellent, given the existing management direction in wilderness. Basin or watershed integrity could also be improved by considering West Fork Rock Creek and Fish Creek together with Upper Rock and Fall Creeks.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Upper Lake Fork River (including Ottoson and East Basin Creeks) and Oweep Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)





STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Upper Lake Fork and Oweep Creek

River Mileage:

Upper Lake Fork River, including Ottoson and East Basin Creeks

Studied: 34.88 miles from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the High Uintas Wilderness

Eligible: Same

Oweep Creek

Studied: 20.32 miles, from headwaters to junction with Lake Fork River

Eligible: Same

Location:

	Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger District, Duchesne County, Utah		Congressional District UT- 2	
	Start (TRS)	End (TRS)	Classification	Miles
Oweep Creek	SE ¼, NE ¼ Sect 12, T 4 N, R 6 W, USM	SE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 9 T 3 N, R 6 W, USM	Wild	20.32
Upper Lake Fork including Ottoson and East Basin Creeks	NW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 12, T 4 N, R 7 W, USM	SE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 35, T 3 N, R 6 W, USM	Wild	34.88

Physical Description of River:

Upper Lake Fork River, Ottoson Creek, East Basin Creek and Oweep Creek have the headwaters above tree line in a scoured cirque basin with ground moraine and drift. The segments enter a broad glacial valley basins consisting of hummocky ground moraine along the glacial valley bottom below tree-line. The valley bottom below tree line contains lakes, ponds, wet depressions and forested knolls. The segment then enters a mid portion of the drainage consisting of a V-shaped valley of moderately steep to steep canyon sides slopes covered with a thin veneer of boulder glacial moraine. The segment then descends the main drainage which is characterized by a relatively broad glacial canyon bottom covered by a thin veneer of hummocky ground moraine and outwash. A few wet meadows, seeps and springs are located in the main drainages, and there are thin hummocky ground moraines and outwash with gorges cut deep into the underlying quartzite bedrock. In many places the segment flows over bedrock with gradients of 3 percent to 15 percent.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest USDA Forest Service July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: There are no diversions in these segments and they are free of impoundments. The segment is free flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – Cirque basins, broad glacial valleys, lakes, numerous meadows and V-shaped canyons are the principal scenic attractions in the corridors of these watercourses. The “Scenic” value is well known, due to the popularity of the Moon Lake Reservoir area, and heavily used trails leading to the High Uintas Wilderness. The watercourses exhibit striking scenic views, especially in the upper headwaters where numerous alpine lakes, glaciated cirques and basins, and meadows are found. Seasonal variation in color is limited to the lower portion of the watercourses where large stands of Aspen and streamside riparian vegetation exist. Wildflowers provide some variation in color in the higher basins and meadows during mid- and late summer months. Similar to other wilderness areas, the streams serve as the corridors for primitive trails to the outstandingly scenic lakes, basins and meadows in the headwaters. Diversity of view and scenic attractions rate high and cultural modifications are highly appropriate.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

All segments of these watercourses are in a designated wilderness area and have no modifications of the waterway or shoreline. The segments are generally inaccessible except by trail and essentially primitive with little or no sign of human activity. The well known Highline Trail crosses the headwaters of the watercourses. Trail signs and foot bridges are located at various places on the trail.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – Both segments are located on the Ashley National Forest, Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District, and are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area.

Oweep Creek

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 20.32	Ashley National Forest	6502.4

Upper Lake Fork River, including Ottoson and East Basin Creeks

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 34.88	Ashley National Forest	11161.6

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to these river segments (www.geocommunicator.gov). Because this river segment is located entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness, where minerals and energy development activities are prohibited, no future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no existing water developments (dams, diversions or channel modifications) on these segments. As these segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, no future water developments are expected.

Clements Lake reservoir is not on any of these eligible segments, but drains into Upper Lake Fork about 3 miles upstream of Moon Lake. As part of the High Lakes stabilization project, Clements Lake Reservoir is scheduled to be stabilized in 2007, which would restore a stable lake level and natural flows. The water storage capacity of Clements Lake will be transferred downstream to Big Sand Wash reservoir.

There are no known Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands on these segments. Bureau of Reclamation lands withdrawn for the purposes of water developments are located downstream, associated with Moon Lake Reservoir, which provides water to downstream communities and hydroelectric power generation.

None of the proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin are on eligible Wild and Scenic river segments. All of these proposed projects are downstream of the Ashley National Forest, and are not expected to alter (or be altered by) potential Wild and Scenic designation.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Transportation routes and facilities are limited to trails, trail signs, and foot bridges. A trail runs along the entire length of Upper Lake Fork, and trails go through portions Ottoson, East Basin, and Oweep Creeks. The well known Highline Trail crosses the headwaters of Upper Lake Fork and Oweep Creeks.

Grazing Activities – Upper Lake Fork River from Moon Lake to the confluence with Oweep Creek is within the Lake Fork Cattle allotment, which permits 183 cow/calf pairs from June 21-September 13, but this allotment has not been used for approximately 15 years. There are no grazing allotments in East Basin Creek. Ottoson Creek and the headwaters of Upper Lake Fork River are within the Ottoson sheep allotment, which permits 1300 ewe/lamb pairs from July 15 – September 10. Oweep Creek is within the Oweep sheep allotment which permits 1400 ewe/lamb pairs from July 15 – September 10. Allotments are managed under allotment management plans and annual operating procedures.

Recreation Activities – Recreation use is light to moderate in the headwaters. Some deer and elk hunting occurs in the lower portions of the drainage. The season of use is about four to five months, from late June to mid-October.

Other Resource Activities – As these segments are within designated wilderness, no additional resource activities such as timber harvest are planned in the area.

Special Designations – These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, which was

created by the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. The establishing legislation for the High Uintas Wilderness Area specified that the purpose was to, “designate certain national forest system lands in Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in order to preserve the wilderness character of the land and to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic resources, and promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all of the American people.”

The specific management direction for the High Uintas Wilderness was developed as amendments to the 1985 Wasatch-Cache and 1986 Ashley National Forest Plans through an EIS completed in 1997. This amendment directs land managers to maintain a wilderness where ecosystems are influenced primarily by the forces of nature, provide diverse opportunities for public use, enjoyment and understanding of wilderness, and preserve a high quality wilderness resource for present and future generations. The overall management goals for the High Uintas Wilderness are to:

- Wilderness: Manage the wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. Allow ecosystems to function naturally.
- Air: Protect air quality to wilderness standards.
- Water and Soil: Protect soil and water resources. Allow development, protection, and monitoring of water resources as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act.
- Wildlife and Fish habitats: Allow natural processes to shape terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Cooperate with Utah DWR in managing fish and wildlife resources. (FSM 2323.3)
- Vegetation: Protect the wilderness resource while allowing established livestock grazing to continue, including maintenance of improvements and predator control, as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act. Allow fire to play, as nearly as possible, its natural role in maintaining wilderness values and natural processes.
- Recreation: Manage recreation to sustain the wilderness resource.
- Minerals: Protect the wilderness resource by limiting mineral development and exploration activities to that necessary to exercise valid existing rights.

Socio-Economic Environment – All of these segments drain into Moon Lake Reservoir, which provides water and hydro-electric power to communities in the Uintah Basin. The Duchesne County General Plan (1997, amended 1998 and 2005) identifies the importance of water resources to downstream communities. The plan the infrastructure and communities of Duchesne County are dependent on water that flows to them from watersheds located on public lands. The rivers and streams flowing from these watersheds supply water for municipal, industrial, livestock, irrigation, and recreation use. As set forth in Utah Code 63-38d-401 (5) (c), “The waters of the state are the property of the citizens of the state, subject to appropriation for beneficial use, and are essential to the future prosperity of the state and the quality of life within the state.”

Some of the downstream communities in Duchesne County include Mountain Home, Talmage, Altonah, Altamont, Boneta, Mt. Emmons, Upalco, Bluebell, Cedar View Neola, and Roosevelt. The largest community in the county is Roosevelt, with an estimated population of 4,333 in 2007. These local communities are set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The economy relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas, manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas of the county, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Unitah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution. Designation would be consistent with the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Duchesne County officials, the Duchesne Water Conservancy District, the Ute Indian Tribe, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition to designation were

that these segments are already protected by the High Uintas Wilderness, potential effects to water rights and management of reservoirs, human structures and development should preclude rivers from being classified as free flowing, and interference with grazing, hunting, and fishing rights.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values and the prevention of further development and modification of river segments.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

There were no comments specifically recommending Upper Lake Fork and Oweep Creeks for designation. However, several supported designation for all eligible segments within the High Uintas Wilderness, which would include these two segments.

Water users, water conservancy districts, the State of Utah and the Central Utah Project Completion Act office raised concerns about the effect of designation on management of existing reservoirs that drain into Upper Lake Fork. One concern is that designation would result in a year-round flow requirement, which would negatively impact holders of existing water rights. Some letters also described plans to stabilize some reservoirs that drain into Upper Lake Fork in the future, which might be more difficult if additional management restrictions were in place. They recommended that no designation be made until stabilization is completed and there is no possibility of water rights being affected. Furthermore, some letters stated that there is no need for additional protection through Wild and Scenic River designation since Upper Lake Fork and Oweep Creek are already protected by wilderness management policies.

Comments on the DEIS

Some individuals, local government officials and water user representatives commented that Wilderness protections are adequate and additional designation under the WSR would be burdensome and unnecessary. Others specifically stated that WSR and Wilderness protections are not duplicative, since they address different factors. Moreover, a number of respondents supported designating all segments within existing Wilderness on the basis of their pristine character and the complementary nature of WSR and Wilderness management practices.

Local governments and water conservancy districts have the following specific concerns about rivers in the High Uintas Wilderness:

- Designation may affect operation and maintenance of existing facilities, especially if it means that reservoir releases must be altered to ensure year-round flow in downstream segments or prevent releases that artificially augment flow. This would restrict the exercise of existing water rights and harm water users.
- Some high elevation reservoirs are or may be considered for stabilization in the future. WSR designation could restrict such work. (See, however, CUPCA letter #95 stating that stabilization work appears compatible and could still be completed with WSR designation).
- Since existing reservoirs alter the natural flows, no downstream segments should be considered free-flowing. Shale Creek is frequently cited as an example of this.
- Future projects downstream of eligible segments may be negatively affected, either by management restrictions or by loss of federal funding opportunities, if a segment is designated upstream. This concern is based on language in Sec. 7a of the WSR. There is some concern that the option of expanding Moon Lake (on the Lake Fork River) would be lost if Lake Fork were designated.

Of the three organized campaigns none supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation may conflict with some elements of downstream zoning and land use, but would be

completely consistent with the management direction in the High Uintas Wilderness. Since these segments are within the Wilderness boundary, designation is not expected to impede other socioeconomic goals downstream, or change the existing situation.

The Duchesne County General Plan states that special designations, including wild and scenic rivers, “may result in non-use, restricted use, or environmental impacts on public and private lands. Special designations dictate practices that restrict access or use of the land that impact other resources or their use. Such designations cause resource waste, serious impacts to other important resources and actions, and are inconsistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.” The County’s position is that:

- The objectives of special designations can be met by well-planned and managed development of natural resources.
- No special designations shall be proposed until the need has been determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data available to the public. Furthermore, it must be demonstrated that protection cannot be provided by other means and that the area in question is truly unique compared to other area lands.
- Special designations can be detrimental to the County’s economy, life style, culture, and heritage. Therefore special designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the laws and regulations that created them.

With respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers, County support will be withheld until:

- It is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of the three physiographic provinces in the state. The rationale and justification for the conclusions shall be disclosed;
- The effects of the addition on the local and state economies, private property rights, agricultural and industrial operations and interests, tourism, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal agency;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal agencies; and
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed. All valid existing rights, including grazing leases and permits shall not be affected.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

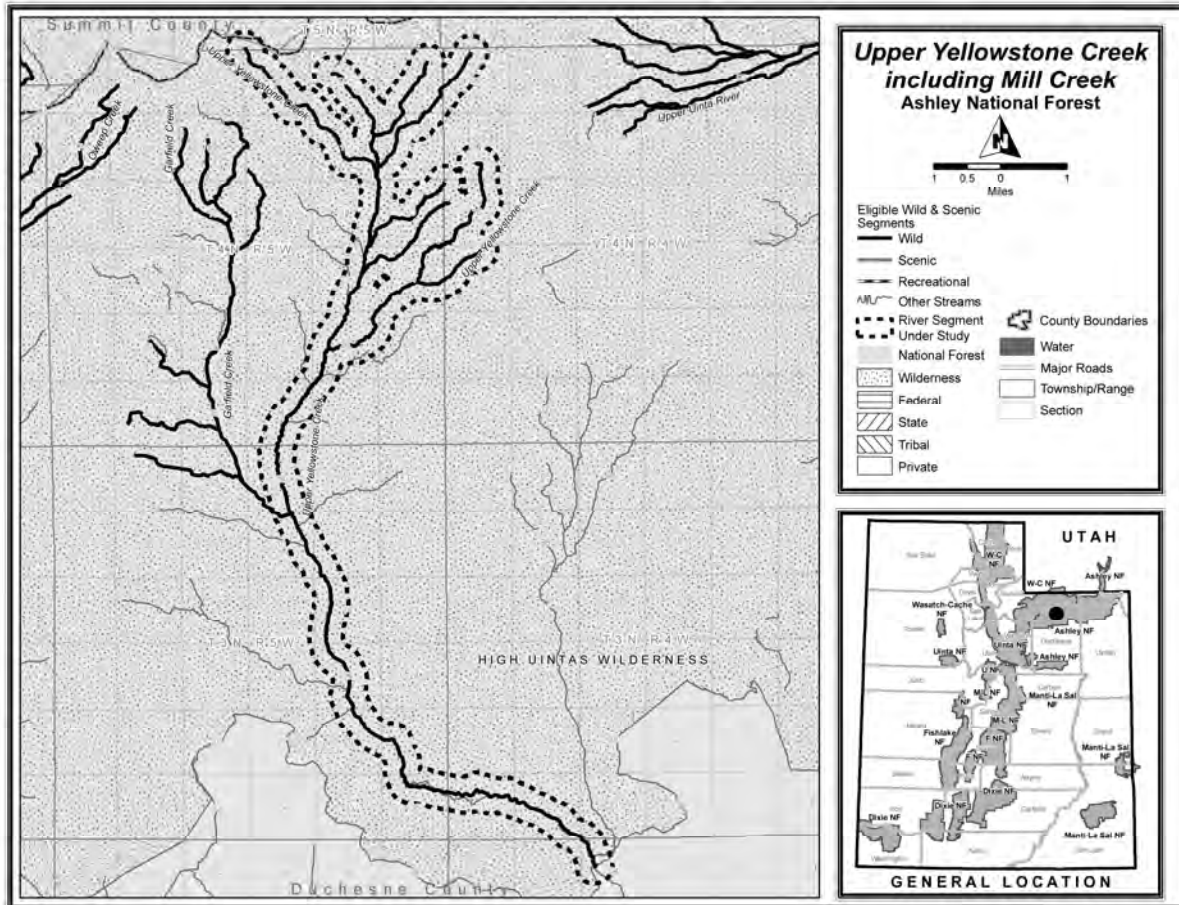
This factor reflects the benefits of a “systems” approach, i.e., expanding the designated portion of a river in the National System or developing a legislative proposal for an entire river system (headwaters to mouth) or watershed. Numerous benefits are likely to result from managing an entire river or watershed, including the ability to design a holistic protection strategy in partnership with other agencies and the public.

These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, so designation would provide additional but similar protection. Basin integrity and ability to develop holistic protection strategies are excellent, given the existing management direction in wilderness. Grouping Upper Lake Fork and Oweep Creek together improves basin integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Upper Yellowstone Creek, including Milk Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Upper Yellowstone Creek, including Milk Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 33.46 miles from the headwaters to the southern boundary of the High Uintas Wilderness

Eligible: Same

Location:

	Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger District, Duchesne County, Utah		Congressional District UT-2	
	Start (TSR)	End(TSR)	Classification	Miles
Upper Yellowstone Creek	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 2, T 4 N, R 5 W, USM	SW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 4 T 2 N, R 4 W, USM	Wild	33.46

This segment extends from the headwaters along the crest of the Uinta Mountains at Smith's Fork Pass and Anderson Pass to the southern boundary of the High Uintas Wilderness – 33.46 miles.

These watercourses consist of several lakes, including Kings Lake south of Kings Peak and Milk Lake

within the headwaters, and Upper Yellowstone Creek and adjacent intermittent and perennial tributaries.

Physical Description of River Segment:

The main drainages are characterized by a relatively broad glacial canyon bottom covered by a thin veneer of hummocky ground moraine and outwash, and a few wet meadows, seeps and springs. In many places the segment flows over bedrock with gradients of 3 percent to 15 percent. Watercourses are located on the floor of the higher cirques, and have been affected by glacial scouring more than any other areas in the Uinta Mountains. There is not much sediment in the segment, except where shale outcrops exist. The streams flow through three landform features in this area; wet meadows in the swales, dry meadows on the hummocks, and conifer covered areas on the larger hummocks. The corridors of the segment contain most of the larger glacial lakes and wet meadows in the Uinta Mountains, and consist predominantly of riparian features. The water table is close to the surface throughout most of the segment. Low gradient streams dominate this portion of the stream segment. These canyon areas are located below moderately steep to very steep glacial valley walls of lateral moraines. A few wet meadows, seeps and springs are located in the canyon areas.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest USDA Forest Service July 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The forest interdisciplinary team determined there are sufficient flows in the watercourses throughout the year to maintain the outstandingly remarkable values. All segments of this watercourse are in a designated Wilderness area and have no modifications of the waterway or shoreline.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic – There are outstanding scenic views of waterfalls and forested slopes along the stream corridors, along with alpine lakes, glaciated cirques and basin, and meadows in the upper headwaters. The Yellowstone’s headwaters collect from the alpine cirques along the crest of the Uinta Mountains. The river then descends through one of the most picturesque basins in the Uintas. Small waterfalls and cascades abound – often following one after another like a staircase. Beaver dams form deep pools throughout the canyon. Wildflowers and lush riparian areas stretch along the length of the waterways. The highest point in Utah (Kings Peak) is located north of the headwaters of Yellowstone Creek. Seasonal variation in color is limited to the lower portion of the segment where large stands of Aspen and streamside riparian vegetation exist. Wildflowers provide variation in color in the higher basins and meadows during mid- and late summer months. The segment rated high in Diversity of View, Special Features, low in Seasonal Variations, with highly appropriate cultural modifications. It rated high overall with a regional scale of importance.

Geologic/Hydrologic – The main drainages are characterized by a relatively broad glacial canyon bottom covered by a thin veneer of hummocky ground moraine and outwash, and a few wet meadows, seeps and springs. Throughout are thin hummocky ground moraines and outwash, with inner gorges cut deep into the underlying quartzite bedrock. In many places the segment flows over bedrock with gradients of 3 percent to 15 percent. The segment rated high in Feature Abundance and Diversity of Features and moderate on educational/Scientific. Overall it rated high with a regional scale of significance.

Wildlife – The watercourses have a “high” rating for winter and summer range for mountain goat; and critical summer range for big horn sheep. Valuable summer range exists for deer, elk, and moose, as well as picas, ground squirrels and marmots in the upper end of the watercourses. There is a large population of beaver and a high potential for amphibians, ptarmigan, and moose in the mid-section of each watercourse. Bear frequent the lower portions of the drainage. Lincoln sparrows and song sparrows are

also in the lower portions. There is potential goshawk habitat in the lower portions.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Wild

All segments of this watercourse are in a designated Wilderness area and have no modifications of the waterway or shoreline (with the exception of Milk Lake). The segments are generally inaccessible except by trail and essentially primitive with little or no sign of human activity. Developments are limited to trails, trail signs and foot bridges.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located on the Ashley National Forest, Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District, and is entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 33.46	Ashley National Forest	10707.2

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to this river segment (www.geocommunicator.gov). Because this river segment is located entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness, where minerals and energy development activities are prohibited, no future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions or channel modifications, except for a small dam and outlet structures on Milk Lake. As with various other dams in the High Uintas Wilderness, these structures provide additional water storage and controlled releases. As these segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, no new water developments are expected. There are no known Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands on these segments. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (1999) identifies a shortage of irrigation water that generally occurs during July and August due to inadequate reservoir storage in the Uintah basin. The recommendation of this report is that storage reservoirs should be constructed on the Yellowstone River (near Altonah), Uinta River (near Neola) and Whiterocks River (near Whiterocks), as well as upper and lower Ashley Creek (Utah State Water Plan – Uintah Basin – 1999, pages 10-6 and 13-8). The report also recommends bank stabilization along Dry Fork (near Maeser). Bank stabilization, rebuilding old meander bends, and larger bridges were also recommended along Ashley Creek.

In scoping comments, the Utah Div. of Water Resources identified three potential water developments below the studied segments:

Upper Yellowstone B, T02N R04W Section 10, 134 ft height, 6,440 ac-ft capacity. This on-stream dam site is located 1.5 miles north of the Yellowstone Ranch. The dam was proposed to be constructed of roller compacted concrete or earthfill. Nine canals would furnish irrigation water for 13,100 acres of Indian land and 30,400 of non-Indian land. The reservoir would be located on Forest Service land and

would inundate the Pineview Campground.

Upper Yellowstone C, T02N R04W Section 15, 275 ft height, 61,350 ac-ft capacity. This on-stream dam site is located 0.75 miles north of the Yellowstone Ranch. The dam was proposed to be constructed of roller compacted concrete or earthfill. Nine canals would furnish irrigation water for 13,100 acres of Indian land and 30,400 of non-Indian land. The reservoir would be located on Forest Service land and inundate both the Swift Creek and Riverview Campgrounds.

Upper Yellowstone E, T02N R04W Section 15, 330 ft height, 101,040 ac-ft capacity. This on-stream dam site is located 0.25 miles north of the Yellowstone Ranch. The dam was proposed to be constructed of roller compacted concrete or earthfill. Nine canals would furnish irrigation water for 13,700 acres of Indian land and 30,400 of non-Indian land. The reservoir would be located on Forest Service land and inundate Swift Creek, Riverview and Reservoir Campgrounds.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The well-known Highline Trail crosses the headwaters of Upper Yellowstone Creek. Wilderness trails cross and parallel Yellowstone Creek. Trail signs and foot bridges are located at various places on these trails.

Due to longer and more difficult road access to trailheads and longer stretches of trail, Yellowstone Creek is not as heavily used as other watercourses along the south slope of the Uinta Mountains. The main access points are Swift Creek Trailhead in Yellowstone Canyon at the terminus of Forest Development Road 124, and Center Park Trailhead on Forest Development Road 227 in Hells Canyon.

Grazing Activities – Upper Yellowstone Creek, from the wilderness boundary to the Swasey Hole Creek Confluence, is within the Yellowstone cattle allotment, which permits 234 cow/calf pairs from June 16 – September 25. The headwaters of Upper Yellowstone Creek, upstream of the confluence with Milk Creek are part of the Tungsten sheep allotment, which permits 1500 ewes from July 12 – September 6. The Tungsten sheep allotment is rotated on two year intervals with the Painter Basin sheep allotment (to the east in the headwaters of the Uinta River). Allotments are managed under allotment management plans and annual operating procedures.

Recreation Activities – Recreation related activities in the High Uintas Wilderness are the principal uses of this the watercourse corridors. Most visitors to Kings Peak access it from Henry's Fork on the North Slope, but horse packers frequently use Yellowstone Creek Trail (FDT 057) to travel to the peak.

The streams serve as the corridors for primitive trails to the lakes, basins and meadows in the headwaters of the segment. Most use is concentrated in these headwater areas and consists of backpacking, recreation stock use and dispersed camping.

Camping and fishing are the primary recreation activities in the corridors, with moderate to heavy use through the spring, summer and fall months.

Other Resource Activities – As these segments are within designated wilderness, no additional resource activities such as timber harvest are planned in the area.

Special Designations – These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, which was created by the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. The establishing legislation for the High Uintas Wilderness Area specified that the purpose was to, “designate certain national forest system lands in Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in order to preserve the wilderness character of the land and to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic resources, and promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all of the American people.”

The specific management direction for the High Uintas Wilderness was developed as amendments to the 1985 Wasatch-Cache and 1986 Ashley National Forest Plans through an EIS completed in 1997. This amendment directs land managers to maintain a wilderness where ecosystems are influenced primarily by the forces of nature, provide diverse opportunities for public use, enjoyment and understanding of wilderness, and preserve a high quality wilderness resource for present and future generations. The overall management goals for the High Uintas Wilderness are to:

- Wilderness: Manage the wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. Allow ecosystems to function naturally.
- Air: Protect air quality to wilderness standards.
- Water and Soil: Protect soil and water resources. Allow development, protection, and monitoring of water resources as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act.
- Wildlife and Fish habitats: Allow natural processes to shape terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Cooperate with Utah DWR in managing fish and wildlife resources. (FSM 2323.3)
- Vegetation: Protect the wilderness resource while allowing established livestock grazing to continue, including maintenance of improvements and predator control, as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act. Allow fire to play, as nearly as possible, its natural role in maintaining wilderness values and natural processes.
- Recreation: Manage recreation to sustain the wilderness resource.
- Minerals: Protect the wilderness resource by limiting mineral development and exploration activities to that necessary to exercise valid existing rights.

Socio-Economic Environment – The Duchesne County General Plan (1997, amended 1998 and 2005) identifies the importance of water resources to downstream communities. The communities of Duchesne County are dependent on water that flows to them from watersheds located on public lands. The rivers and streams flowing from these watersheds supply water for municipal, industrial, livestock, irrigation, and recreation use. As set forth in Utah Code 63-38d-401 (5) (c), “The waters of the state are the property of the citizens of the state, subject to appropriation for beneficial use, and are essential to the future prosperity of the state and the quality of life within the state.”

Some of the downstream communities in Duchesne County include Mountain Home, Talmage, Altonah, Altamont, Boneta, Mt. Emmons, Upalco, Bluebell, Cedar View Neola, and Roosevelt. The largest community in the county is Roosevelt, with an estimated population of 4,333 in 2007. These local communities are set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The economy relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas, manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas of the county, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over

the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Unitah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution. Designation would be consistent with the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Duchesne County officials, the Duchesne Water Conservancy District, the Ute Indian Tribe, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition to designation were that these segments are already protected by the High Uintas Wilderness, potential effects to water rights and management of reservoirs, human structures and development should preclude rivers from being classified as free flowing, and interference with grazing, hunting, and fishing rights.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values and the prevention of further development and

modification of river segments.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

Several letters specifically mentioned the Upper Yellowstone Creek as worthy of designation. These letters were submitted by one individual and several non-profit groups, and all discussed Garfield Creek in combination with Upper Yellowstone. Values cited included diverse and dramatic scenery, presence of native cutthroat trout populations, contributions to river system or basin integrity, and recreational values. In addition, some letters were received that recommended all eligible segments within the High Uintas Wilderness be found suitable. This would include Upper Yellowstone.

Water users, water conservancy districts, the State of Utah and the Central Utah Project Completion Act office raised concerns about the effect of designation on management of existing reservoirs that drain into Yellowstone Creek. One concern is that designation would result in a year-round flow requirement, which would negatively impact holders of existing water rights. Some letters also described plans to stabilize five reservoirs that drain into this segment in the future, which might be more difficult if additional management restrictions were in place. They recommended that no designation be made until stabilization is completed and there is no possibility of water rights being affected. Furthermore, some of these letters stated that there is no need for additional protection through Wild and Scenic River designation since Yellowstone Creek is already protected by wilderness management policies.

The State of Utah identified three potential reservoir sites on the Yellowstone River. All appear to be at least three miles below the Wilderness boundary and would not affect the Upper Yellowstone segment.

Comments concerning the draft EIS

All of the three organized campaigns supported this segment for designation.

Some individuals, local government officials and water user representatives commented that Wilderness protections are adequate and additional designation under the WSRA would be burdensome and unnecessary. Others specifically stated that WSRA and Wilderness protections are not duplicative, since they address different factors. Moreover, a number of respondents supported designating all segments within existing Wilderness on the basis of their pristine character and the complementary nature of WSR and Wilderness management practices.

Local governments and water conservancy districts have the following specific concerns about rivers in the High Uintas Wilderness:

- Designation may affect operation and maintenance of existing facilities, especially if it means that reservoir releases must be altered to ensure year-round flow in downstream segments or prevent releases that artificially augment flow. This would restrict the exercise of existing water rights and harm water users.
- Some high elevation reservoirs are or may be considered for stabilization in the future. WSR designation could restrict such work. (See, however, CUPCA letter #95 stating that stabilization work appears compatible and could still be completed with WSR designation).
- Since existing reservoirs alter the natural flows, no downstream segments should be considered free-flowing. Shale Creek is frequently cited as an example of this.
- Future projects downstream of eligible segments may be negatively affected, either by management restrictions or by loss of federal funding opportunities, if a segment is designated upstream. This concern is based on language in Sec. 7a of the WSRA. The greatest concern is on the **Uinta River**, where a reservoir is being discussed on FS land below the Wilderness boundary. There is also some concern that the option of expanding Moon Lake (on the Lake Fork River) would be lost if Lake Fork were designated.

Of the three organized campaigns all supported a positive suitability finding for these segments.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting

regional objectives.

Designation may conflict with some elements of downstream zoning and land use, but would be completely consistent with the management direction in the High Uintas Wilderness. Since these segments are within the Wilderness boundary, designation is not expected to impede other socioeconomic goals downstream, or change the existing situation.

The Duchesne County General Plan states that special designations, including wild and scenic rivers, “may result in non-use, restricted use, or environmental impacts on public and private lands. Special designations dictate practices that restrict access or use of the land that impact other resources or their use. Such designations cause resource waste, serious impacts to other important resources and actions, and are inconsistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.” The County’s position is that:

- The objectives of special designations can be met by well-planned and managed development of natural resources.
- No special designations shall be proposed until the need has been determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data available to the public. Furthermore, it must be demonstrated that protection cannot be provided by other means and that the area in question is truly unique compared to other area lands.
- Special designations can be detrimental to the County’s economy, life style, culture, and heritage. Therefore special designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the laws and regulations that created them.

With respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers, County support will be withheld until:

- It is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of the three physiographic provinces in the state. The rationale and justification for the conclusions shall be disclosed;
- The effects of the addition on the local and state economies, private property rights, agricultural and industrial operations and interests, tourism, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal agency;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal agencies; and
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed. All valid existing rights, including grazing leases and permits shall not be affected.

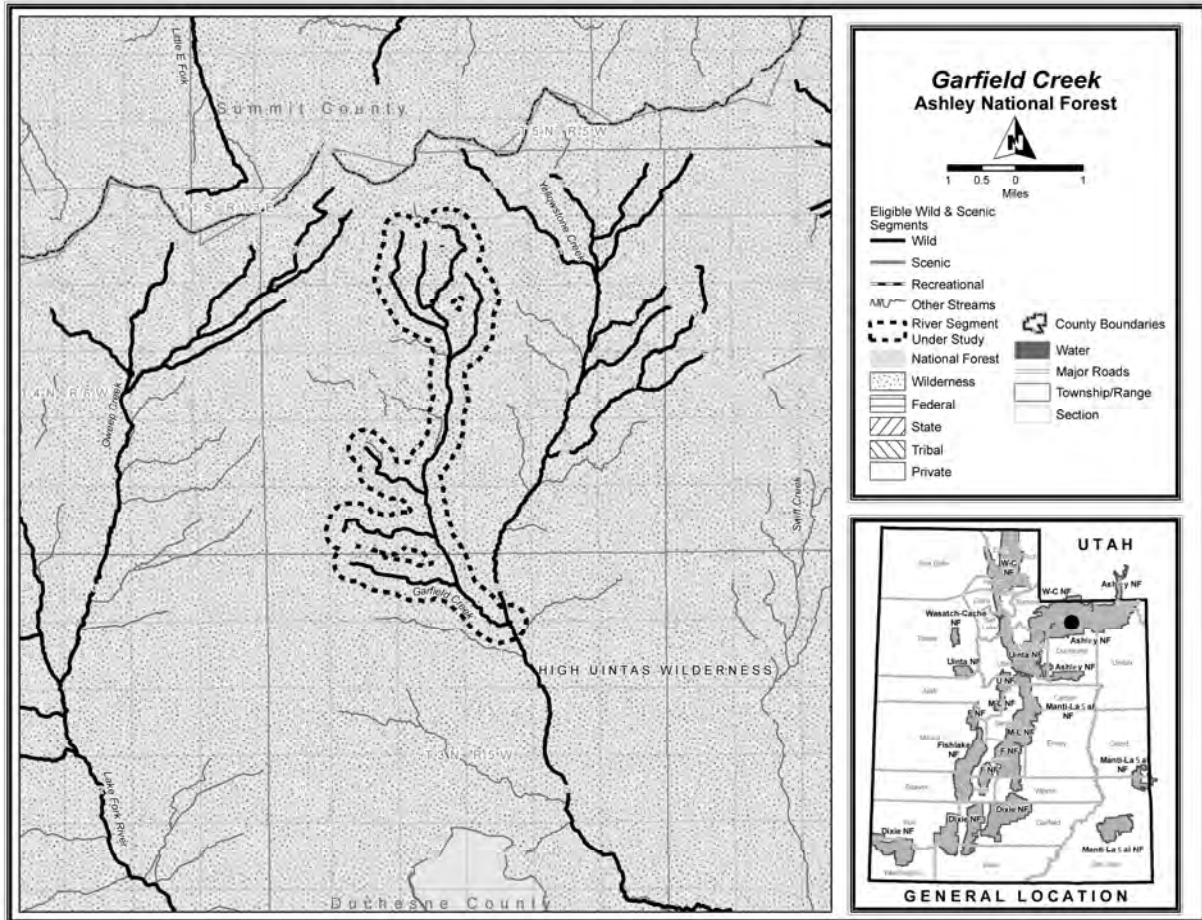
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, so designation would provide additional but similar protection. Basin integrity and ability to develop holistic protection strategies are excellent, given the existing management direction in wilderness. Basin integrity could also be improved by considering the Garfield Creek and Upper Yellowstone segments together.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Garfield Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Garfield Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 17.26 miles, this segment starts below the lakes and reservoirs within the Five Points Lake area downstream to the confluence with Upper Yellowstone Creek.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Garfield Creek	Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger District, Duchesne County, Utah		Congressional District UT-2	
	Start (TRS)	End (TRS)	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 9 T 4 N, R 5 W, USM	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 10 T 3 N, R 5 W, USM	Wild	17.26

This segment extends 17.26 miles from the from the Five Points Lake area to the confluence with Upper Yellowstone Creek. The segment consists of the tributary from Five Points Lake to Garfield Creek, the two tributaries located to the south of this tributary, and Garfield Creek.

Physical Description of River Segment:

The headwaters of Garfield Basin are located above tree line in a scoured cirque basin with ground moraine and drift. The watercourses enter a broad glacial valley basin consisting of hummocky ground moraine, and descend along the glacial valley bottom below tree-line containing lakes, ponds, wet depressions and forested knolls. The segments then enter a mid portion of the drainages, consisting of V-shaped valleys of moderately steep to very steep canyon sides slopes covered with a thin veneer of boulder glacial moraine. The segment continues descending to the main drainages. In the head of the drainages, streams flows over glacially scoured and drift deposited cirque basins in the Uinta Mountain group. Watercourses are located on the floor of the higher cirques, and have been affected by glacial scouring more than any other areas in the Uinta Mountains. There are areas of glacially polished bedrock. In most areas, the till is very thin, but it can be quite thick where glaciers have scoured out pockets. There is not much sediment in the segments, except where shale outcrops exist. There are numerous small lakes in the upper areas, with bedrock lips from the glaciation. A few wet meadows, seeps and springs are located in the canyon areas. Throughout most of the length, streams have cut a gorge in the quartzite bedrock beneath the drift. However, there are locations where the streams are still flowing through the till, and others where they are flowing over bedrock.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest USDA Forest Service July, 2005

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: Diversion and Channel Modifications—The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing. There are sufficient flows in the watercourses throughout the year to maintain the outstandingly remarkable values.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Cultural Value – There are prehistoric sites (archaic, Fremont and late prehistoric) in the upper lakes region of Garfield Creek, rating high in significance, number of cultures, site integrity, education/interpretation, and listing/eligibility, with a low rating in current uses. Overall rating is high with a Regional scale of importance.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Wild

This segment is essentially primitive with little or no evidence of human activity and there are no roads in the area. The well-known Highline Trail crosses the headwaters of Garfield Creek. Wilderness trails cross and parallel the Creek. Trail signs and foot bridges are located at various places on these trails.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located on the Ashley National Forest, Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District, and is entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 17.26	Ashley National Forest	5523.2

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or

energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to these river segments (www.geocommunicator.gov). Because this river segment is located entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness, where minerals and energy development activities are prohibited, no future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – Bluebell, Drift, Five Point, and Superior lakes have dams and outlet structures in the Garfield Basin area, the segment begins below these structures. Currently, these structures provide additional water storage and controlled releases to downstream water users. The dams are managed by Moon Lake Water Association under US Forest Service permit. However, all four of these lakes are part of the High Lakes stabilization project and will be stabilized in coming years. Stabilization of these dams will restore a stable lake level and natural flows. The water storage capacity of these lakes will be transferred downstream to Big Sand Wash reservoir. The segment between Superior Lake and Five Points Lake is a canal, and was removed from the eligible segment. As this segment is entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, no new water developments are expected. There are known Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands on this segment for the Bonneville Unit of the Central Utah Project.

The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (1999) identifies a shortage of irrigation water that generally occurs during July and August due to inadequate reservoir storage in the Uintah basin. The recommendation of this report is that storage reservoirs should be constructed on the Yellowstone River (near Altonah), Uinta River (near Neola) and Whiterocks River (near Whiterocks), as well as upper and lower Ashley Creek (Utah State Water Plan – Uintah Basin – 1999, pages 10-6 and 13-8). The report also recommends bank stabilization along Dry Fork (near Maeser). Bank stabilization, rebuilding old meander bends, and larger bridges were also recommended along Ashley Creek.

None of these proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin are on eligible Wild and Scenic river segments. All of these proposed projects are downstream of the Ashley National Forest, and are not expected to alter (or be altered by) potential Wild and Scenic designation. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The well-known Highline Trail crosses the headwaters of Garfield Creek. Wilderness trails cross and parallel Yellowstone Creek. Trail signs and foot bridges are located at various places on these trails.

Due to longer and more difficult road access to trailheads and longer stretches of trail, Garfield Creek is not as heavily used as other watercourses along the south slope of the Uinta Mountains. The main access points are Swift Creek Trailhead in Yellowstone Canyon at the terminus of Forest Development Road 124, and Center Park Trailhead on Forest Development Road 227 in Hells Canyon.

Grazing Activities – The upper half of Garfield basin, above Doll and Superior lakes, is within the Tungsten sheep allotment, which permits 1500 ewes from July 12 – September 6. The Tungsten sheep allotment is rotated on two year intervals with the Painter Basin sheep allotment (to the east in the headwaters of the Uinta River). Allotments are managed under allotment management plans and annual operating procedures.

Recreation Activities – Recreation related activities in the High Uintas Wilderness are the principal uses of these watercourse corridors. The streams serve as the corridors for primitive trails to the lakes, basins and meadows in the headwaters of the segment. Most use is concentrated in these headwater areas and consists of backpacking, recreation stock use and dispersed camping. Camping and fishing are the primary recreation activities in the corridors, with moderate to heavy use through the spring, summer and fall months.

Other Resource Activities – As these segments are within designated wilderness, no additional resource

activities such as timber harvest are planned in the area.

Special Designations – These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, which was created by the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. The establishing legislation for the High Uintas Wilderness Area specified that the purpose was to, “designate certain national forest system lands in Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in order to preserve the wilderness character of the land and to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic resources, and promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all of the American people.”

The specific management direction for the High Uintas Wilderness was developed as amendments to the 1985 Wasatch-Cache and 1986 Ashley National Forest Plans through an EIS completed in 1997. This amendment directs land managers to maintain a wilderness where ecosystems are influenced primarily by the forces of nature, provide diverse opportunities for public use, enjoyment and understanding of wilderness, and preserve a high quality wilderness resource for present and future generations. The overall management goals for the High Uintas Wilderness are to:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Wilderness: | Manage the wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. Allow ecosystems to function naturally. |
| Air: | Protect air quality to wilderness standards. |
| Water and Soil: | Protect soil and water resources. Allow development, protection, and monitoring of water resources as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act. |
| Wildlife and Fish habitats: | Allow natural processes to shape terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Cooperate with Utah DWR in managing fish and wildlife resources. (FSM 2323.3) |
| Vegetation: | Protect the wilderness resource while allowing established livestock grazing to continue, including maintenance of improvements and predator control, as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act. Allow fire to play, as nearly as possible, its natural role in maintaining wilderness values and natural processes. |
| Recreation: | Manage recreation to sustain the wilderness resource. |
| Minerals: | Protect the wilderness resource by limiting mineral development and exploration activities to that necessary to exercise valid existing rights. |

Socio-Economic Environment – Some of the downstream communities in Duchesne County include Mountain Home, Talmage, Altonah, Altamont, Boneta, Mt. Emmons, Upalco, Bluebell, Cedar View Neola, and Roosevelt. The largest community in the county is Roosevelt, with an estimated population of 4,333 in 2007. These local communities are set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The Duchesne County General Plan (1997, amended 1998 and 2005) identifies the importance of water resources to downstream communities. The plan the infrastructure and communities of Duchesne County are dependent on water that flows to them from watersheds located on public lands. The rivers and streams flowing from these watersheds supply water for municipal, industrial, livestock, irrigation, and recreation use. As set forth in Utah Code 63-38d-401 (5) (c), “The waters of the state are the property of the citizens of the state, subject to appropriation for beneficial use, and are essential to the future prosperity of the state and the quality of life within the state.”

The economy relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas,

manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas of the county, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Unitah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution. Designation would be consistent with the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Duchesne County officials, the Duchesne Water Conservancy District, the Ute Indian Tribe, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition to designation were that these segments are already protected by the High Uintas Wilderness, potential effects to water rights

and management of reservoirs, human structures and development should preclude rivers from being classified as free flowing, and interference with grazing, hunting, and fishing rights.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values and the prevention of further development and modification of river segments.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

Several letters specifically mentioned Garfield Creek as worthy of designation. These letters were submitted by one individual and several non-profit groups, and all discussed Garfield Creek in combination with Upper Yellowstone. Values cited included diverse and dramatic scenery, presence of native cutthroat trout populations, contributions to river system or basin integrity, and recreational values. In addition, some letters were received that recommended all eligible segments within the High Uintas Wilderness be found suitable. This would include Garfield Creek.

Water users, water conservancy districts, the State of Utah and the Central Utah Project Completion Act office raised concerns about the effect of designation on operation of existing reservoirs that drain into Garfield Creek. One concern is that designation would result in a year-round flow requirement, which would negatively impact holders of existing water rights. Some letters also described plans to stabilize these reservoirs in the future, which might be more difficult if additional management restrictions were in place. They recommended that no designation be made until stabilization is completed and there is no possibility of water rights being affected. Furthermore, some of these letters stated that there is no need for additional protection through Wild and Scenic River designation since Garfield Creek is already protected by wilderness management policies.

The State of Utah identified three potential reservoir sites on the Yellowstone River. All appear to be at least three miles below the Wilderness boundary and would not affect the Upper Yellowstone or Garfield Creek segments.

Comments on DEIS

Some individuals, local government officials and water user representatives commented that Wilderness protections are adequate and additional designation under the WSRA would be burdensome and unnecessary. Others specifically stated that WSRA and Wilderness protections are not duplicative, since they address different factors. Moreover, a number of respondents supported designating all segments within existing Wilderness on the basis of their pristine character and the complementary nature of WSR and Wilderness management practices.

Local governments and water conservancy districts have the following specific concerns about rivers in the High Uintas Wilderness:

- Designation may affect operation and maintenance of existing facilities, especially if it means that reservoir releases must be altered to ensure year-round flow in downstream segments or prevent releases that artificially augment flow. This would restrict the exercise of existing water rights and harm water users.
- Some high elevation reservoirs are or may be considered for stabilization in the future. WSR designation could restrict such work. (See, however, CUPCA letter #95 stating that stabilization work appears compatible and could still be completed with WSR designation).
- Since existing reservoirs alter the natural flows, no downstream segments should be considered free-flowing. Shale Creek is frequently cited as an example of this.
- Future projects downstream of eligible segments may be negatively affected, either by management restrictions or by loss of federal funding opportunities, if a segment is designated upstream. This concern is based on language in Sec. 7a of the WSRA. The greatest concern is on the Uinta River, where a reservoir is being discussed on FS land below the Wilderness boundary.

There is also some concern that the option of expanding Moon Lake (on the Lake Fork River) would be lost if Lake Fork were designated.

Of the three organized campaigns two supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation may conflict with some elements of downstream zoning and land use, but would be completely consistent with the management direction in the High Uintas Wilderness. Since these segments are within the Wilderness boundary, designation is not expected to impede other socioeconomic goals downstream, or change the existing situation.

The Duchesne County General Plan states that special designations, including wild and scenic rivers, “may result in non-use, restricted use, or environmental impacts on public and private lands. Special designations dictate practices that restrict access or use of the land that impact other resources or their use. Such designations cause resource waste, serious impacts to other important resources and actions, and are inconsistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.” The County’s position is that:

- The objectives of special designations can be met by well-planned and managed development of natural resources.
- No special designations shall be proposed until the need has been determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data available to the public. Furthermore, it must be demonstrated that protection cannot be provided by other means and that the area in question is truly unique compared to other area lands.
- Special designations can be detrimental to the County’s economy, life style, culture, and heritage. Therefore special designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the laws and regulations that created them.

With respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers, County support will be withheld until:

- It is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of the three physiographic provinces in the state. The rationale and justification for the conclusions shall be disclosed;
- The effects of the addition on the local and state economies, private property rights, agricultural and industrial operations and interests, tourism, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal agency;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal agencies; and
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed. All valid existing rights, including grazing leases and permits shall not be affected.

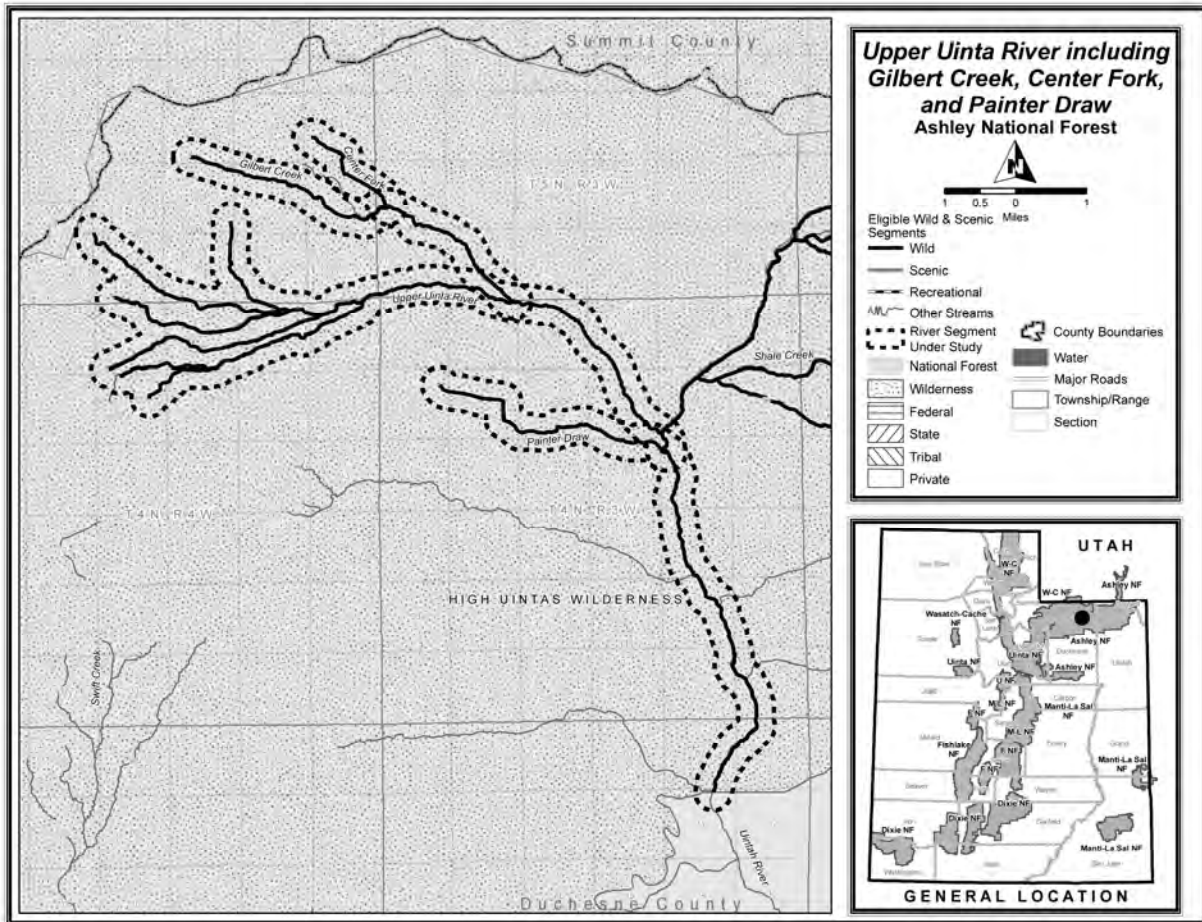
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, so designation would provide additional but similar protection. Basin integrity and ability to develop holistic protection strategies are excellent, given the existing management direction in wilderness. Basin integrity could also be improved by considering the Garfield Creek and Upper Yellowstone segments together.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork and Painter Draw Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork and Painter Draw

River Mileage:

Studied: 39.87 miles

Eligible: Same

Location:

Upper Uinta River	Ashley National Forest, Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger Districts, Duchesne County, Utah		Congressional District UT-2	
	Start (TWR)	End (TWR)	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 28 T 5 N, R 4 W, USM	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 11 T 3 N, R 3 W, USM	Wild	39.87

This segment extends 39.87 miles from the headwaters along the crest of the High Uintas Mountains to the Uinta River crossing at the southern boundary of the High Uintas Wilderness. The segment consists of the numerous lakes along the divide, Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, the lakes in Painter Draw, the Upper Uinta River, and adjacent intermittent and perennial tributaries.

Physical Description of River Segment:

Upper Uinta River and its tributaries, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork and Painter Draw have their headwaters above tree line in a scoured cirque basin with ground moraine and drift. The watercourses enter a broad glacial valley basin along a glacial valley bottom consisting of hummocky ground moraine. As the watercourses descend below tree line, they pass by or through lakes, ponds, wet depressions and forested knolls. The segment then enters a mid portion of the drainage consisting of a V-shaped valley of moderately steep to very steep canyon side slopes that are covered with a thin veneer of boulder glacial moraine. They enter the main drainage, which is characterized by a relatively broad glacial canyon bottom covered by a thick veneer of hummocky ground moraine and outwash, and scattered wet meadows, seeps and springs. In many places this segment flows over bedrock with gradients of 3 percent to 15 percent. The unit contains most of the larger glacial lakes and wet meadows in the Uinta Mountains, and consists predominantly of riparian features. The water table is close to the surface throughout most of the unit. Low gradient streams dominate this portion of the stream segments.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest USDA Forest Service July 2005.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: There are sufficient flows in the watercourses throughout the year to maintain the outstandingly remarkable values of “Geologic/Hydrologic” and “Wildlife” values.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Geologic/Hydrologic – The watercourses are located on the floor of the higher cirques, and have been affected by glacial scouring. There are areas of glacially polished bedrock. In most areas, the till is very thin, but it can be quite thick where glaciers have scoured out pockets. There is not much sediment in this segment, except where there are shale outcrops. There are numerous small lakes in the upper area, with bedrock lips from the glaciations. The broad glaciated basins below tree line occur in hummocky ground moraine along the glacial valley bottoms that exhibit a well-developed drainage pattern. The streams flow through three landform features in this area: wet meadows in the swales, dry meadows on the hummocks, and conifer-covered areas on the larger hummocks. The unit contains most of the larger glacial lakes and wet meadows in the Uinta Mountains, and consists predominantly of riparian features.

The V-shaped canyons at mid elevation have many benches with bedrock outcrops of the Uinta Mountain quartzite. Frost action is active along the stream courses where the low cohesion and steep stream gradients have combined to form the V-shaped valley. The coarse material eroded from these slopes is deposited in the wider glacial bottom below. The wider canyon bottom below the above-described steep V-shaped canyon is characterized by thin veneer of hummocky ground moraine and outwash, which is located below moderately steep to very steep glacial valley walls of lateral moraines. Wet meadows, seeps and springs are located in the wide canyon bottom. Throughout much of the length, the streams have cut a gorge in the quartzite bedrock beneath the drift. However, there are locations where the streams are still flowing through the till, and others where they are flowing over bedrock.

Wildlife – The watercourses have a “high” rating for winter range for mountain goat; and critical summer range for mountain goat and sheep, deer, elk, moose, beaver, raptors, grouse, and pine martin. Picas, ground squirrels, and marmots are also found in this high elevation area. Bear are found in the lower portion. Lincoln sparrow and song sparrows are also in the lower portion, and there is potential goshawk habitat in the lower portion.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Wild

All segments of this watercourse are in a designated Wilderness area and have no modifications of the waterway or shoreline. The segments are generally inaccessible except by trail and essentially primitive with little or no sign of human activity. Developments are limited to trails, trail signs and foot bridges.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located on the Ashley National Forest, Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District, and is entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 39.87	Ashley National Forest	12758.4

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to these river segments (www.geocommunicator.gov). Because this river segment is located entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness, where minerals and energy development activities are prohibited, no future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – There are no existing water developments (dams, diversions or channel modifications) on these segments. As these segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, no future water developments are expected. Lake Atwood reservoir is not on any of these eligible segments, but Atwood Creek drains into the Upper Uinta River about 3 miles upstream from the wilderness boundary. Upper and Lower Chain Lake reservoirs drain down Krebs Creek to the mainstem Uintah River, but the confluence is at the lower boundary of the eligible segment.

There are Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands along the Uinta River corridor that extend approximately 4.5 upstream of the wilderness boundary.

The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (1999) identifies a shortage of irrigation water that generally occurs during July and August due to inadequate reservoir storage in the Uintah basin. The recommendation of this report is that storage reservoirs should be constructed on the Yellowstone River (near Altonah), Uinta River (near Neola) and Whiterocks River (near Whiterocks), as well as upper and lower Ashley Creek (Utah State Water Plan – Uintah Basin – 1999, pages 10-6 and 13-8). The report also recommends bank stabilization along Dry Fork (near Maeser). Bank stabilization, rebuilding old meander bends, and larger bridges were also recommended along Ashley Creek. The Central Utah Water Conservancy District submitted a Water Development Prospectus identifying the Uinta River Basin as having good potential for future water developments. A map of “potential reservoirs that could be considered” was submitted with their comment letter, showing various proposals below the Forest Service boundary and one that appears to be just above the USFS boundary. All sites are several miles or more outside the Wilderness, and do not overlap with the eligible segment. However, a withdrawal on the Uinta River encompasses the potential Forest Service reservoir site and extends into the Wilderness, overlapping the bottom 4.6 miles (approx.) of the eligible segment.

None of these proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin are on eligible Wild and Scenic river segments. All of these proposed projects are downstream of the Ashley

National Forest, and are not expected to alter (or be altered by) potential Wild and Scenic designation. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Grazing Activities – The headwaters of the Uinta River, in the Painter Basin, are part of the Painter Basin sheep allotment, which permits 1200 ewe/lamb pairs from July 12 – September 6. The Painter Basin sheep allotment is rotated on two year intervals with the Tungsten sheep allotment (to the west in the headwaters of Yellowstone Creek). Allotments are managed under allotment management plans and annual operating procedures.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Uinta Canyon Trailhead near U-Bar Ranch provides access to the trails leading to the Upper Uinta River. Forest development trails (FDTs), including the High Line Trail cross the upper headwaters of the segment. FDT 044 and 043 are within the corridors of Upper Uinta River.

Recreation Activities – Uses in the wilderness portion of this watershed are similar or the same as those occurring in the North Fork of the Duchesne River, Rock Creek, Upper Lake Fork River, and Yellowstone Creek. Wilderness recreation related activities annually attract hundreds of visitors. Areas of concentration exist around the perimeter of the lakes in the headwaters, while the stream corridors receive light to moderate use as part of trail access to lake areas. Camping and fishing are the primary recreation activities in the corridors, with moderate to heavy use through the spring, summer and fall months. Deer and elk hunting occur in the lower portions of the segment. The season of use for the segment is about four to five months, from late June to mid-October.

Other Resource Activities – As these segments are within designated wilderness, no additional resource activities such as timber harvest are planned in the area.

Special Designations – These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, which was created by the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. The establishing legislation for the High Uintas Wilderness Area specified that the purpose was to, “designate certain national forest system lands in Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in order to preserve the wilderness character of the land and to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic resources, and promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all of the American people.”

The specific management direction for the High Uintas Wilderness was developed as amendments to the 1985 Wasatch-Cache and 1986 Ashley National Forest Plans through an EIS completed in 1997. This amendment directs land managers to maintain a wilderness where ecosystems are influenced primarily by the forces of nature, provide diverse opportunities for public use, enjoyment and understanding of wilderness, and preserve a high quality wilderness resource for present and future generations. The overall management goals for the High Uintas Wilderness are to:

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| Wilderness: | Manage the wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. Allow ecosystems to function naturally. |
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- Vegetation: Protect the wilderness resource while allowing established livestock grazing to continue, including maintenance of improvements and predator control, as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act. Allow fire to play, as nearly as possible, its natural role in maintaining wilderness values and natural processes.
- Recreation: Manage recreation to sustain the wilderness resource.
- Minerals: Protect the wilderness resource by limiting mineral development and exploration activities to that necessary to exercise valid existing rights.

Socio-Economic Environment – Downstream communities in the Uintah Basin include both Duchesne and Uintah counties. Roosevelt and Vernal are the largest communities in the Uintah Basin with populations of 4,333 and 7, 577 respectively (2007 estimates). The smaller, surrounding communities are set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The Duchesne County General Plan (1997, amended 1998 and 2005) identifies the importance of water resources to downstream communities. The plan the infrastructure and communities of Duchesne County are dependent on water that flows to them from watersheds located on public lands. The rivers and streams flowing from these watersheds supply water for municipal, industrial, livestock, irrigation, and recreation use. As set forth in Utah Code 63-38d-401 (5) (c), “The waters of the state are the property of the citizens of the state, subject to appropriation for beneficial use, and are essential to the future prosperity of the state and the quality of life within the state.”

The economy in the Uintah Basin relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas, manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Unitah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn’t account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution. Designation would be consistent with the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Duchesne County officials, the Duchesne Water Conservancy District, the Ute Indian Tribe, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition to designation were that these segments are already protected by the High Uintas Wilderness, potential effects to water rights and management of reservoirs, human structures and development should preclude rivers from being classified as free flowing, and interference with grazing, hunting, and fishing rights.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values and the prevention of further development and modification of river segments.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

Several letters specifically mentioned the Upper Uinta River as worthy of designation. These letters were submitted by one individual and several non-profit groups, and all discussed Shale Creek in combination with the Upper Uinta. Values cited included diverse and dramatic glacial scenery, wildlife habitat, contributions to river system or basin integrity, and recreational values. In addition, some letters were received that recommended all eligible segments within the High Uintas Wilderness be found suitable. This would include Upper Uinta.

Water users, water conservancy districts, the State of Utah and the Central Utah Project Completion Act office raised concerns about the effect of designation on management of existing reservoirs that drain into the Uinta River. One concern is that designation would result in a year-round flow requirement, which would negatively impact holders of existing water rights. The Duchesne County Water Conservancy District and Dry Gulch Irrigation Company also stated that Ditch Bill easements have been issued in relation to Fox and Crescent Reservoirs, which they believe should have affected the eligibility finding. Although this comment was made in reference to the Upper Uinta River, both of those reservoirs are actually on Shale Creek which is a separate eligible segment.

The Central Utah Water Conservancy District submitted a Water Development Prospectus identifying the Uinta River Basin as having good potential for future water developments. A map of “potential reservoirs that could be considered” was submitted with their comment letter, showing various proposals below the Forest Service boundary and one that appears to be just above the USFS boundary. All sites are several miles or more outside the Wilderness, and do not overlap with the eligible segment. However, a withdrawal on the Uinta River encompasses the potential Forest Service reservoir site and extends into the Wilderness, overlapping the bottom 4.6 miles (approx.) of the eligible segment.

The State of Utah, Central Utah Project Completion Act office, and various water users and water conservancy districts were concerned about the potential for additional management restrictions to impede high lakes stabilization work in general. Although no reservoirs have been targeted for stabilization in the Uinta River drainage at this time, new proposals may developed as part of ongoing work in the Uinta Basin.

Finally, some of these letters stated that there is no need for additional protection through Wild and Scenic River designation since Upper Uinta River is already protected by wilderness management policies.

Comments on the DEIS

Some individuals, local government officials and water user representatives commented that Wilderness protections are adequate and additional designation under the WSRA would be burdensome and unnecessary. Others specifically stated that WSRA and Wilderness protections are not duplicative, since they address different factors. Moreover, a number of respondents supported designating all segments within existing Wilderness on the basis of their pristine character and the complementary nature of WSR and Wilderness management practices.

Local governments and water conservancy districts have the following specific concerns about rivers in the High Uintas Wilderness:

- Designation may affect operation and maintenance of existing facilities, especially if it means that reservoir releases must be altered to ensure year-round flow in downstream segments or prevent releases that artificially augment flow. This would restrict the exercise of existing water rights and harm water users.
- Some high elevation reservoirs are or may be considered for stabilization in the future. WSR designation could restrict such work. (See, however, CUPCA letter #95 stating that stabilization work appears compatible and could still be completed with WSR designation).
- Since existing reservoirs alter the natural flows, no downstream segments should be considered free-flowing. Shale Creek is frequently cited as an example of this.
- Future projects downstream of eligible segments may be negatively affected, either by management restrictions or by loss of federal funding opportunities, if a segment is designated upstream. This concern is based on language in Sec. 7a of the WSRA. The greatest concern is on the Uinta River, where a reservoir is being discussed on FS land below the Wilderness boundary. There is some concern that the option of expanding Moon Lake (on the Lake Fork River) would be lost if Lake Fork were designated.

Of the three organized campaigns all supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation may conflict with some elements of downstream zoning and land use, but would be completely consistent with the management direction in the High Uintas Wilderness. Since these segments are within the Wilderness boundary, designation is not expected to impede other socioeconomic goals downstream, or change the existing situation.

The Duchesne County General Plan states that special designations, including wild and scenic rivers, “may result in non-use, restricted use, or environmental impacts on public and private lands. Special designations dictate practices that restrict access or use of the land that impact other resources or their use. Such designations cause resource waste, serious impacts to other important resources and actions, and are inconsistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.” The County’s position is that:

- The objectives of special designations can be met by well-planned and managed development of natural resources.
- No special designations shall be proposed until the need has been determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data available to the public. Furthermore, it must be demonstrated that protection cannot be provided by other means and that the area in question is truly unique compared to other area lands.
- Special designations can be detrimental to the County’s economy, life style, culture, and heritage. Therefore special designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the laws and regulations that created them.

With respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers, County support will be withheld until:

- It is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of the three physiographic provinces in the state. The rationale and justification for the conclusions shall be disclosed;
- The effects of the addition on the local and state economies, private property rights, agricultural and industrial operations and interests, tourism, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal agency;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal agencies; and
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed. All valid existing rights, including grazing leases and permits shall not be affected.

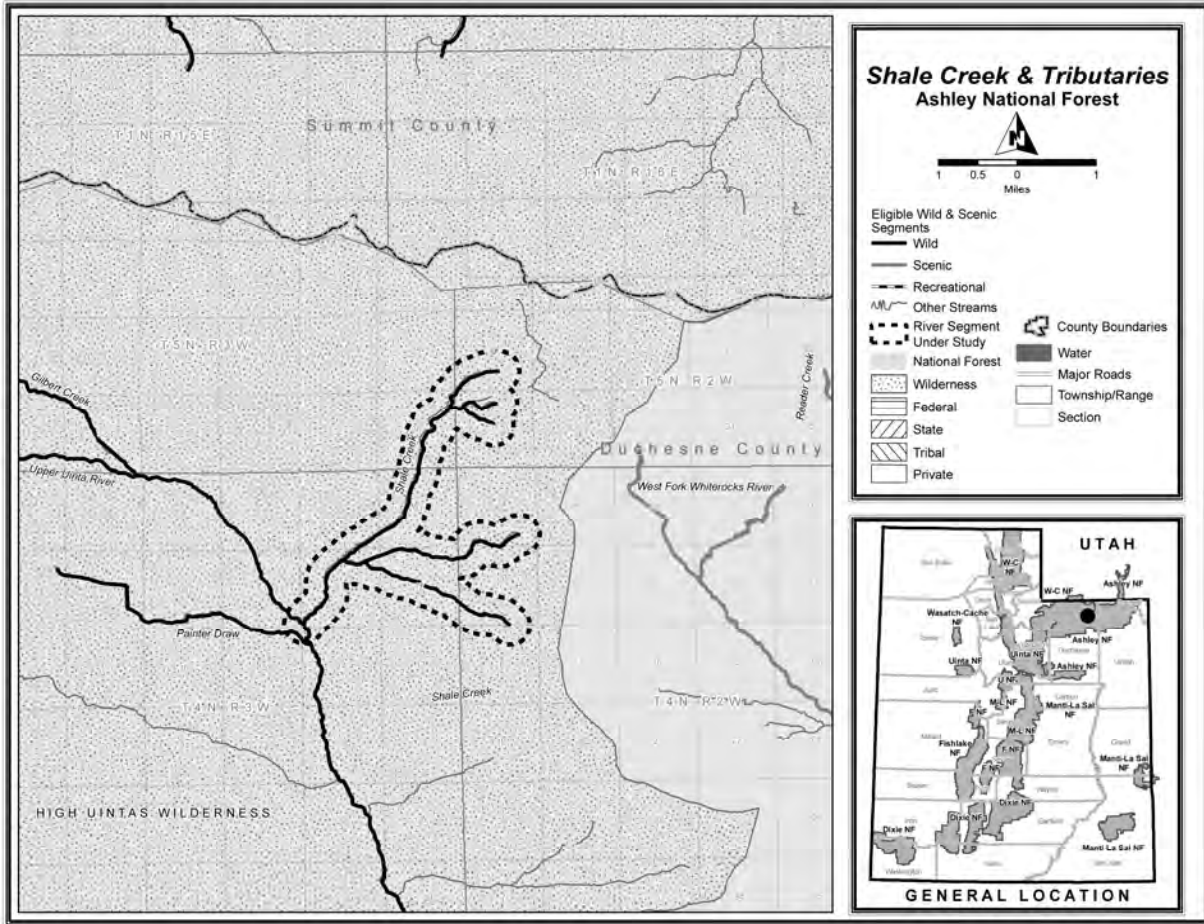
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, so designation would provide additional but similar protection. Basin integrity and ability to develop holistic protection strategies are excellent, given the existing management direction in wilderness. Basin integrity could also be improved by considering the Upper Uinta River and Shale Creek segments together.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

Shale Creek and Tributaries Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Shale Creek and tributaries

River Mileage:

Studied: 10 miles, from below Fox and Crescent Reservoirs to the confluence with the Upper Uinta River

Eligible: Same

Location:

Shale Creek and Tributaries	Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger District, Duchesne County, Utah		Congressional District UT-2	
	Start (TRS)	End (TRS)	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 31, T 5 N, R 2 W, USM	SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 11, T 4 N, R 3 W, USM	Wild	10

Segment extends 10 miles from the outlets of Fox and Crescent Reservoirs to the confluence with Upper Uinta River. Fox and Crescent Reservoirs, surrounding smaller lakes, glaciated cirques, basins and meadows within the headwaters, and Shale Creek and adjacent intermittent and perennial streams are included in this segment.

Physical Description of River Segment:

The watercourses enter a broad glacial valley basin along a glacial valley bottom consisting of hummocky ground moraine. As the watercourses descend below tree line, they pass by or through lakes, ponds, wet depressions and forested knolls. The segment then enters a mid portion of the drainage consisting of a V-shaped valley of moderately steep to very steep canyon side slopes that are covered with a thin veneer of boulder glacial moraine. The streams flow over glacially scoured and drift deposited cirque basins in the Uinta Mountain group in the head of the drainage.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility of Wild & Scenic Rivers - Ashley National Forest USDA Forest Service July 2005.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: There are sufficient flows in the watercourses throughout the year to maintain the historic and cultural outstandingly remarkable values.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Historic –Historic themes include water supply systems, forest management, dispersed recreation and hunting. The historic Fox and Crescent Reservoirs and Dams are located in the upper headwaters of this watercourse.

Cultural – There are large numbers of prehistoric sites (archaic, Fremont and late prehistoric) in the upper area of Shale Creek and several professional archeological publications exist for this area.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Wild

This segment is essentially primitive with little or no evidence of human activity and there are no roads in the area. River is not accessible by road. The High Line Trail (Forest Development Trail 025) crosses the upper headwaters of the segment. These water developments are located upstream of the segment.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located on the Ashley National Forest, Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger District, and is entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 10	Ashley National Forest	3900.8

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no large past or currently active minerals or energy development activities, mining claims, or minerals leases located adjacent to these river segments (www.geocommunicator.gov). Because this river segment is located entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness, where minerals and energy development activities are prohibited, no future mineral or energy extraction activities would be expected.

Water Resources Development – Dams and outlet structures exist on Fox and Crescent Lakes which are upstream of the segment. As with various other dams in the High Uintas Wilderness, these structures provide additional water storage and controlled releases. The dams are managed by Dry Gulch Irrigation

Co. under US Forest Service permit. As these segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, no new water developments are expected. Fox and Crescent Lakes are not a part of the High Lakes Stabilization Project, and will continue to store and release water. There are no known Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands on these segments.

The Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin (1999) identifies a shortage of irrigation water that generally occurs during July and August due to inadequate reservoir storage in the Uintah basin. The recommendation of this report is that storage reservoirs should be constructed on the Yellowstone River (near Altonah), Uinta River (near Neola) and Whiterocks River (near Whiterocks), as well as upper and lower Ashley Creek (Utah State Water Plan – Uintah Basin – 1999, pages 10-6 and 13-8). The report also recommends bank stabilization along Dry Fork (near Maeser). Bank stabilization, rebuilding old meander bends, and larger bridges were also recommended along Ashley Creek.

None of these proposed water development projects in the Utah State Water Plan for the Uintah Basin are on eligible Wild and Scenic river segments. All of these proposed projects are downstream of the Ashley National Forest, and are not expected to alter (or be altered by) potential Wild and Scenic designation. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Uinta Canyon Trailhead near U-Bar Ranch provides access to the trails leading to Shale Creek. The High Line Trail (Forest Development Trail 025) crosses the upper headwaters of the segment. Many visitors use the West Forks Whiterocks Trailhead and Trail (FDR 047) in the adjacent Whiterocks River Watershed to access Fox Lake and Shale Creek.

Grazing Activities – There are no permitted grazing allotments on these segments.

Recreation Activities – Uses in the wilderness portion of this watershed are similar or the same as those occurring in the North Fork of the Duchesne River, Rock Creek, Upper Lake Fork River, and Yellowstone Creek. Wilderness recreation related activities annually attract hundreds of visitors. Areas of concentration exist around the perimeter of the lakes in the headwaters, while the stream corridors receive light to moderate use as part of trail access to lake areas. Camping and fishing are the primary recreation activities in the corridors, with moderate to heavy use through the spring, summer and fall months. Deer and elk hunting occur in the lower portions of the segment. The season of use for the segment is about four to five months, from late June to mid-October.

Other Resource Activities – As these segments are within designated wilderness, no additional resource activities such as timber harvest are planned in the area.

Special Designations – These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, which was created by the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. The establishing legislation for the High Uintas Wilderness Area specified that the purpose was to, “designate certain national forest system lands in Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in order to preserve the wilderness character of the land and to protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic resources, and promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all of the American people.”

The specific management direction for the High Uintas Wilderness was developed as amendments to the 1985 Wasatch-Cache and 1986 Ashley National Forest Plans through an EIS completed in 1997. This amendment directs land managers to maintain a wilderness where ecosystems are influenced primarily by the forces of nature, provide diverse opportunities for public use, enjoyment and understanding of wilderness, and preserve a high quality wilderness resource for present and future generations. The overall management goals for the High Uintas Wilderness are to:

Wilderness: Manage the wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984. Allow ecosystems to function naturally.

Air:	Protect air quality to wilderness standards.
Water and Soil:	Protect soil and water resources. Allow development, protection, and monitoring of water resources as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act.
Wildlife and Fish habitats:	Allow natural processes to shape terrestrial and aquatic habitats. Cooperate with Utah DWR in managing fish and wildlife resources. (FSM 2323.3)
Vegetation:	Protect the wilderness resource while allowing established livestock grazing to continue, including maintenance of improvements and predator control, as provided for in Title III of the Utah Wilderness Act. Allow fire to play, as nearly as possible, its natural role in maintaining wilderness values and natural processes.
Recreation:	Manage recreation to sustain the wilderness resource.
Minerals:	Protect the wilderness resource by limiting mineral development and exploration activities to that necessary to exercise valid existing rights.

The Uinta Shale Creek RNA, established in 1996 encompasses the southern tributaries to Shale Creek. Direction for RNAs is to allow natural processes to occur, with little or no management intervention.

Socio-Economic Environment – Downstream communities in the Uintah Basin include both Duchesne and Uintah counties. Roosevelt and Vernal are the largest communities in the Uintah Basin with populations of 4,333 and 7, 577 respectively (2007 estimates). The smaller, surrounding communities are set in a picturesque rural environment, where traditional land uses such as agriculture, timber harvest and grazing have been important over time.

The Duchesne County General Plan (1997, amended 1998 and 2005) identifies the importance of water resources to downstream communities. The plan the infrastructure and communities of Duchesne County are dependent on water that flows to them from watersheds located on public lands. The rivers and streams flowing from these watersheds supply water for municipal, industrial, livestock, irrigation, and recreation use. As set forth in Utah Code 63-38d-401 (5) (c), “The waters of the state are the property of the citizens of the state, subject to appropriation for beneficial use, and are essential to the future prosperity of the state and the quality of life within the state.”

The economy in the Uintah Basin relies largely on agriculture, industry, traditional land uses, and tourism. Oil and gas, manufacturing, and construction are important growth industries. In recent years, oil and gas activities have increased dramatically. Oil and gas operations are evident in many areas, consisting of well sites, gathering lines and distribution sites. The Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation lies within and adjacent to the county boundaries, which provides an important social and economic context to the Uintah Basin (<http://duchesne.net/demo/>)

The Uintah Basin has been affected by the boom and bust cycles related to the oil and gas industry over the years, but in spite of these cycles the population and economy are expected to grow. The long term outlook for the economy in the Uintah Basin is positive, with growth in oil and gas, minerals, and tourism (http://www.water.utah.gov/planning/SWP/Unitah/swp_ub02.pdf).

Travel and tourism in the area is generally related to the abundant outdoor opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized recreation, camping, hunting, fishing, Dinosaur National Monument etc.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in the designation of these segments. Local county officials do not support Wild and Scenic designation, and would not share in the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

In Duchesne County, National Forest System Lands are zoned as A-10, agricultural 10 acre minimum lot size. Purposes related to Forest management in this zone include the protection of the economic base of the county for such uses as forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution and the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat, and range livestock (Zoning Ordinance 05-240).

<http://www.duchesnegov.net/planning/05240zoningordfinal.pdf>

Wild and Scenic designation would be inconsistent with the stated purposes of forestry, oil and gas drilling, pipelines, petroleum storage and distribution. Designation would be consistent with the protection of significant natural features of land, creeks, lakes, wetlands, air and the preservation of open areas for wildlife habitat.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments received during the eligibility study

Duchesne County officials, the Duchesne Water Conservancy District, the Ute Indian Tribe, and various members of the public were opposed to designation. Some reasons for opposition to designation were that these segments are already protected by the High Uintas Wilderness, potential effects to water rights and management of reservoirs, human structures and development should preclude rivers from being classified as free flowing, and interference with grazing, hunting, and fishing rights.

The High Uintas Preservation Council, the Uinta Mountain Club, the Utah Rivers Council, and various members of the public were in support of designation. Some reasons in support of designation were the preservation of various outstandingly remarkable values and the prevention of further development and modification of river segments.

Comments received during scoping for the suitability study

Several letters specifically mentioned Shale Creek as worthy of designation. These letters were submitted by one individual and several non-profit groups, and all discussed Shale Creek in combination with the Upper Uinta. Values cited included diverse and dramatic glacial scenery, wildlife habitat, contributions to river system or basin integrity, and recreational values. In addition, some letters were received that recommended all eligible segments within the High Uintas Wilderness be found suitable. This would include Shale Creek.

Water users, water conservancy districts, the State of Utah and the Central Utah Project Completion Act

office raised concerns about the effect of designation on management of existing reservoirs that drain into Shale Creek. One concern is that designation would result in a year-round flow requirement, which would negatively impact holders of existing water rights. The Duchesne County Water Conservancy District and Dry Gulch Irrigation Company also stated that Ditch Bill easements have been issued in relation to Fox and Crescent Lakes, which they believe should have affected the eligibility finding. Although this comment was made in reference to the Upper Uinta River, both of those reservoirs are actually on Shale Creek. Some letters also commented on stream sections between Fox and Crescent Lakes, and above Fox Lake, describing them as intermittent and/or carrying very little water - therefore not appropriate for further study.

The Central Utah Water Conservancy District submitted a Water Development Prospectus identifying the Uinta River Basin as having good potential for future water developments. A map of “potential reservoirs that could be considered” was submitted with their comment letter, showing various proposals below the Forest Service boundary and one that appears to be just above the USFS boundary. All sites are several miles or more outside the Wilderness, and do not overlap with the eligible segment. A withdrawal on the Uinta River encompasses the potential Forest Service reservoir site and extends into the Wilderness, but does not extend as far as the confluence with Shale Creek.

The State of Utah, Central Utah Project Completion Act office, and various water users and water conservancy districts were concerned about the potential for additional management restrictions to impede high lakes stabilization work in general. Although no reservoirs have been targeted for stabilization in the Uinta River drainage at this time, new proposals may developed as part of ongoing work in the Uinta Basin.

Finally, some of these letters stated that there is no need for additional protection through Wild and Scenic River designation since Shale Creek is already protected by wilderness management policies.

Comments on DEIS

Some individuals, local government officials and water user representatives commented that Wilderness protections are adequate and additional designation under the WSRA would be burdensome and unnecessary. Others specifically stated that WSRA and Wilderness protections are not duplicative, since they address different factors. Moreover, a number of respondents supported designating all segments within existing Wilderness on the basis of their pristine character and the complementary nature of WSR and Wilderness management practices.

Local governments and water conservancy districts have the following specific concerns about rivers in the High Uintas Wilderness:

- Designation may affect operation and maintenance of existing facilities, especially if it means that reservoir releases must be altered to ensure year-round flow in downstream segments or prevent releases that artificially augment flow. This would restrict the exercise of existing water rights and harm water users.
- Some high elevation reservoirs are or may be considered for stabilization in the future. WSR designation could restrict such work. (See, however, CUPCA letter #95 stating that stabilization work appears compatible and could still be completed with WSR designation).
- Since existing reservoirs alter the natural flows, no downstream segments should be considered free-flowing. Shale Creek is frequently cited as an example of this.
- Future projects downstream of eligible segments may be negatively affected, either by management restrictions or by loss of federal funding opportunities, if a segment is designated upstream. This concern is based on language in Sec. 7a of the WSRA. The greatest concern is on the **Uinta River**, where a reservoir is being discussed on FS land below the Wilderness boundary. There is also some concern that the option of expanding Moon Lake (on the Lake Fork River) would be lost if Lake Fork were designated.

Of the three organized campaigns two supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation may conflict with some elements of downstream zoning and land use, but would be completely consistent with the management direction in the High Uintas Wilderness. Since these segments are within the Wilderness boundary, designation is not expected to impede other socioeconomic goals downstream, or change the existing situation.

The Duchesne County General Plan states that special designations, including wild and scenic rivers, “may result in non-use, restricted use, or environmental impacts on public and private lands. Special designations dictate practices that restrict access or use of the land that impact other resources or their use. Such designations cause resource waste, serious impacts to other important resources and actions, and are inconsistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.” The County’s position is that:

- The objectives of special designations can be met by well-planned and managed development of natural resources.
- No special designations shall be proposed until the need has been determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data available to the public. Furthermore, it must be demonstrated that protection cannot be provided by other means and that the area in question is truly unique compared to other area lands.
- Special designations can be detrimental to the County’s economy, life style, culture, and heritage. Therefore special designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the laws and regulations that created them.

With respect to Wild and Scenic Rivers, County support will be withheld until:

- It is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison consisting of one of the three physiographic provinces in the state. The rationale and justification for the conclusions shall be disclosed;
- The effects of the addition on the local and state economies, private property rights, agricultural and industrial operations and interests, tourism, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal agency;
- It is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal agencies; and
- The rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed. All valid existing rights, including grazing leases and permits shall not be affected.

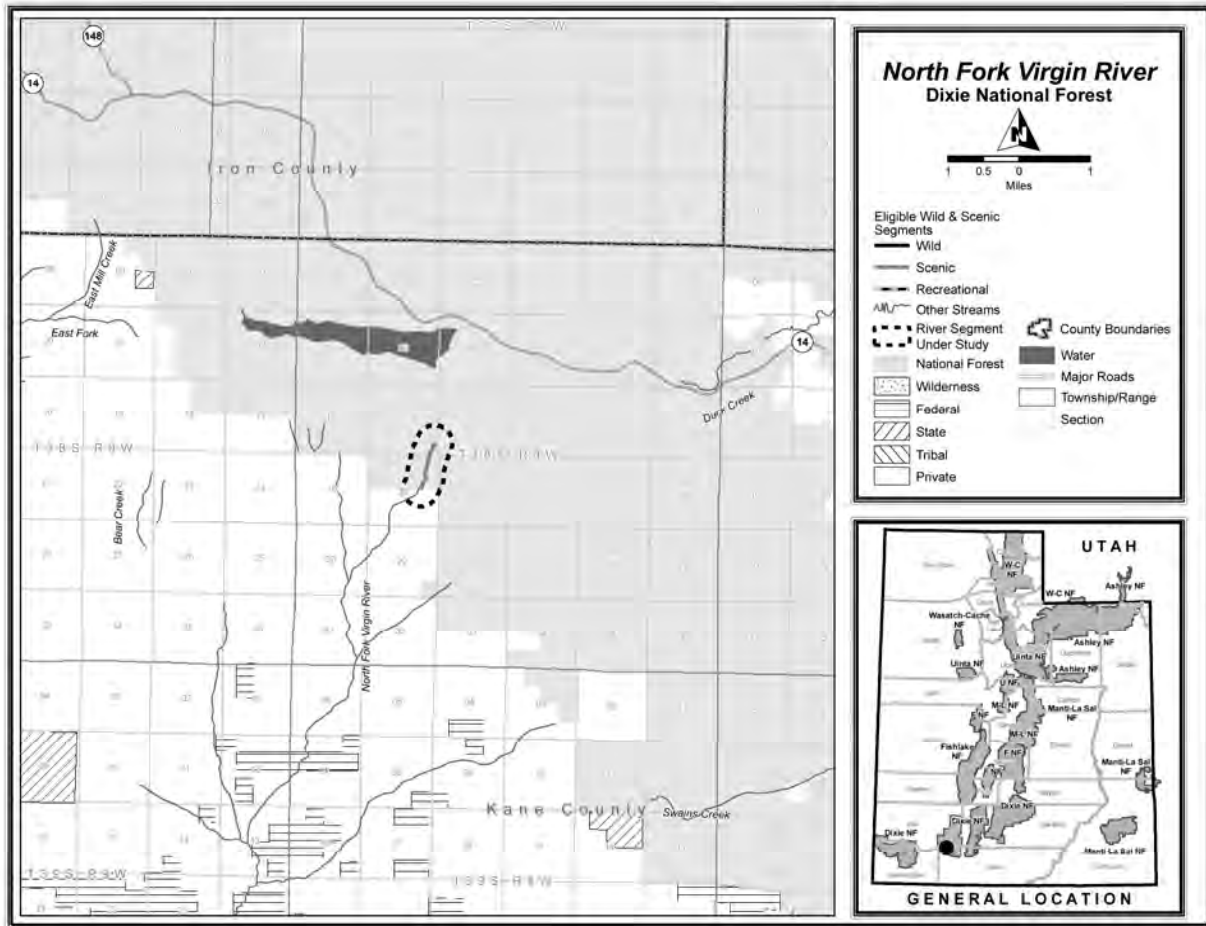
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

These segments are entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, so designation would provide additional but similar protection. Basin integrity and ability to develop holistic protection strategies are excellent, given the existing management direction in wilderness. Basin integrity could also be improved by considering the Shale Creek and Upper Uinta River segments together.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has not been a demonstrated interest or disinterest in public volunteers, partnerships or stewardship commitments.

North Fork Virgin River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: North Fork Virgin River

River Mileage:

North Fork Virgin River

Studied: 25 miles, from its head waters to confluence with the Virgin River

Eligible: 0.68 miles, from its headwaters to the Forest boundary

Location:

North Fork Virgin River	Dixie National Forest, Cedar City Ranger District, Kane County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 17, T 38 S, R 8 W, SLM	SW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 20, T 38 S, R 8 W, SLM	Scenic	0.68

Physical Description of River Segment:

The North Fork of the Virgin River begins at Cascade Falls, a perennial spring that is fed by Navajo Lake through underground lava tubes and a limestone solution channel. Cascade Falls is located in the Pink Cliffs on the south edge of the Markagunt Plateau. From here, the river flows as a boulder dominated, cascading to step-pool stream system through the Cretaceous rocks of the Grey Cliffs before cutting down

through the Kolob Terrace into the Jurassic and Triassic rocks that define the regional landscape and Zion National Park. The stream corridor supports a diverse riparian plant community. Near Cascade Falls the watershed supports an abundance of bristlecone pine trees.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Fishlake and Dixie National Forest Wild and Scenic River Evaluation (Pg. 16)

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions of the North Fork of the Virgin River on the National Forest.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic and Geological – The North Fork of the Virgin River begins at Cascade Falls, a spring that is fed by Navajo Lake through underground lava tubes and limestone solution channel. The river flows down the south face of the Markagunt Plateau through high elevation landscapes of Jurassic and Cretaceous sediment deposits, with extensive viewsheds and examples of stream erosion in Utah including views of Zion National Park. The upper portions of the watershed are located amidst the pink cliffs of the Virgin River rim. The stream corridor supports a diverse riparian plant community. Near Cascade Falls the watershed supports an abundance of bristlecone pine trees.

Recreational – The North Fork of the Virgin River provides a unique recreational opportunity for hiking, sightseeing, and studying the ecology of Southern Utah. The Cascade Falls National Recreation Trail (#32055) is one of the most popular and heavily used trails on the Dixie National Forest. The trail terminates at a viewpoint looking directly into the limestone cavern from which water exits onto the steep slope below, thus forming Cascade Falls. The Virgin River Rim Trail (#32011) also provides visitors a view of the river segment as it traverses the Virgin River rim above the falls.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the classification of river: Scenic

No vehicular access to the river exists on National Forest. A four-wheel-drive road provides access to private property below the Forest Service boundary. The Cascade Falls Trail (#32055) begins at a trailhead 0.8 mile southeast of the falls and terminates at a viewing platform. Most of the river segment is not easily accessible from the trail.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire river corridor is located on the Cedar City Ranger District of the Dixie National Forest

River Mile	Ownership
0 – 0.68	Dixie National Forest (Cedar City Ranger District)

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no existing salable, locatable, or leasable mineral and energy resources development in the eligible segment. The NW corner of section 21 is, however, in a Utah Coal Land Withdrawal Area and is withdrawn from appropriation. The area is considered to have low potential for oil and gas resources.

Water Resources Development – There are no known existing water developments (dams, diversions or channel modifications) on this segment. Due to the steep terrain and limited access to the river, the potential for hydroelectric power generation is low. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The North Fork of the Virgin River flows in a

southern direction on the National Forest. No vehicular access to the river exists on the National Forest. A four-wheel-drive road provides access to private property below the Forest Service boundary. The Cascade Falls Trail (#32055) provides access to a viewpoint at Cascade Fall. The trail is 0.80 miles long and is recognized as a National Recreation Trail. The trail begins at the trailhead that is located at the ending terminus of Forest Service Road #054. The trailhead is also accessible by the Virgin River Rim Trail (#32011) and the Markagunt ATV System (Trail #51). The trailhead facilities include restrooms and a large parking area.

Grazing Activities – The entire river segment is located in the North Fork Allotment (#00211). The allotment consists of 1967 acres and is currently vacant. The allotment has a capacity of 50 head of cattle and was last grazed in 1994 by 16 head of cattle.

Recreation Activities – The North Fork of the Virgin River provides a unique recreational opportunity for hiking, sightseeing, and studying the ecology of Southern Utah. The Cascade Falls National Recreation Trail (#32055) is one of the most popular and heavily used trails on the Dixie National Forest. The trail terminates at a viewpoint looking directly into the limestone cavern from which water exits onto the steep slope below, thus forming Cascade Falls. The Virgin River Rim Trail (#32011) also provides visitors a view of the river segment as it traverses the Virgin River rim above the falls.

Other Resource Activities – The river corridor is relatively small in size and located within rugged steep terrain. Below the Virgin River Rim, there is a notable die off of Douglas fir trees due to drought, age, and beetles. In the future, district managers may pursue projects (e.g., helicopter logging) to enhance scenery of the area. Other resource activities in the area are not foreseeable.

Special Designations – The Cascade Falls Trail (#32011) that accesses the eligible segment is one of over 900 trails listed as a National Recreation Trail. This trail was recognized for its caves, geological features, meadows, scenic viewpoints, valleys/canyons, and waterfall. The trail was designated as a National Recreation Trail on November 16, 1979.

Approximately 0.7 miles of this stream is recognized by the State of Utah as a Drinking Water Source Protection Zone. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which groundwater flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Socio-Economic Environment – The river segment, associated National Recreation Trail, and corridor are all located within Kane County. Local visitors and adjacent landowners in the North Fork area also come from Iron County to the west and Garfield County to the north. There are almost 1,000 cabins in this area. A growing number of these cabins are inhabited year round. If incorporated the Duck Creek Village area would have the potential to be the largest town in Kane County. Garfield County and Kane County contain gateway communities to large, heavily visited, and internationally significant and known national parks (Bryce Canyon, Grand Canyon, and Zion National Parks). Utah Heritage Highway 89 was designated by law by President George W. Bush. The highway connects Kane and Garfield counties near the river segment. It was designated to promote economic development and preserve the unique pioneer traditions of the area for future generations. Garfield and Kane County are largely rural counties where traditional natural resource economic endeavors have dominated historically. In recent years, there has been a growth in recreation, tourism, and services. Iron County is a fast growing urban area with a strong diversified economy.

Garfield, Iron, and Kane counties are all struggling to retain rural traditions and lifestyles as well as “working” connections with the land. In the face of rising land values and globalization, traditional industries such as farming and ranching are becoming more difficult.

One manifestation of these trends is the rise in second home ownership; the private lands near the North Fork Virgin River are increasingly occupied by residents from out of the area. Over 50% of the tax notifications in the three counties were sent out of county, many of them out of state, and even out of country. Educating these occasional land users about special values and proper use is becoming more difficult.

More specifically, trends and conditions by county:

Garfield County, the fifth largest county in the state has the highest percentage of federal land (over 90%) in a county in the state of Utah.¹ The county contains over one million acres of National Forest System lands (including the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area) and large areas of other federal land, including portions of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. There are only about 170,000 acres of private land in the county. Public lands provide both challenges and opportunities for economic development in the county. The county is sparsely populated and is only projected to grow at a 1.0 percent rate between 2005 and 2050, a rate below the state average.

According to a 2003 Utah Bureau of Economic Analysis Report, Garfield County residents had one of the five lowest levels of total personal income in the state for 2003. Additionally, Garfield County had the second highest unemployment rate (10.8 percent) in the state according to 2003 Utah Department of Workforce Services information, exceeded only by Emery County's 11.0 percent unemployment rate (2003). Slow job growth and unemployment are recurrent problems for the county. Traditionally, county residents have relied primarily upon ranching and timber. While there is a desire to retain these traditional sources of economic opportunity, services related to recreation and tourism are growing quickly in the county.

Services are projected to increase from a 30.1 percent share in the Garfield County economy in 2005 to a 37.8 percent share in 2030 (State of Utah 2003).

According to Garfield County, the growth in the recreation and tourism industries has not been strong enough to provide the economic growth that has been achieved in more diverse parts of the state (Bremner 2006).² While these services (mostly related to leisure and hospitality) represent the largest sector in the Garfield County economy, government jobs (the sector ranked second) make up a much higher percentage of payroll wages (State of Utah 2003). There is a perception that leisure and hospitality jobs will not pay as much as jobs in other more traditional sectors.³ According to Garfield County, “. . . Garfield County is struggling economically. Schools are showing declining enrollment, and additional natural resource based industries have been all but eliminated in the county. . . Garfield County is struggling and unless changes [in land management and opportunities] are made relatively soon, things will get tougher” (Bremner 2006). Also according to Garfield County Commissioner Maloy Dodds in testimony to Congress, “. . . most tourist-generated jobs generally are minimal skill, minimum wage jobs – not the kind that can support a family.” Another important fact that the Commissioner noted, “Federal

³ In the book *Visions of the Grand Staircase-Escalante* (compiled at the time of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument planning process in the 1990s), Gail Blattenberger and David Kiefer acknowledge, “[m]inimum wages plus tips at Ruby's Inn are what the locals [in Garfield County] envisage from the service industry, but high tech service enterprises are also viable given an investment in communications infrastructure.” Blattenberger and Kiefer suggest that while based on past performance “economic well-being” is clearly an issue in Kane and Garfield counties, “[e]xtractive industries are not an optimal or even a viable solution to the economic situation in these counties.” Furthermore, “change will certainly come to these economies” and be met with “resistance (because of) the desire for a land-based economy (which is) seen as crucial to the quality of life in the rural West.” According to the authors, the key is to “find ways of preserving our land-based Western heritage and lifestyle (which are so important to rural residents) along with the natural treasures of the countryside.” Roughly 10 years later, we seem to face the same conditions, trends, attitudes, fears, opportunities, and challenges (Blattenberger and Kiefer 1998).

destination areas [are] a mixed blessing at best” for Garfield County because increased visitors can be a burden to the county in terms of increased cost of garbage and search and rescue operations (Testimony to House Resources Committee’s Forest and Forest Health Subcommittee, June 15, 2005).

The closest community to the North Fork Virgin River, Hatch Town, is not expected to grow by more than 100 people in the next fifty years (2005 State of Utah Baseline projections).

Iron County has the largest acreage of available private lands of all the counties in the planning area. More specifically, there is a large amount of private land located from the Dixie National Forest boundary south to Zion National Park. Once North Fork Virgin River exits the forest, it flows across this private land before entering Zion National Park. Nonetheless, well over 50 percent of the county is comprised of federal land, including 200,000 acres of National Forest System land (including the Ashdown Gorge Wilderness Area). Iron County is one of the fastest growing areas of the state. From 2004 to 2005 Iron County grew at a rate of 6.4 percent (exceeded only by its neighbor to the south, Washington County, which grew at 8.4 percent) (State of Utah 2006). In a press release to announce these growth rates, the Governor states, “The southwestern counties of Washington and Iron, where the urban cities of St. George and Cedar City are located, experienced rapid growth in 2005. These are considered high amenity counties, offering a diversity of educational, tourism, retirement, and economic opportunities for local residents. Both Iron and Washington counties experienced population growth over twice the state rate in 2005,” (State of Utah 2005c). Population in Iron County is projected to grow from 40,212 in 2005 to 103,920 in 2050 – a 2.3 percent annual increase (one-half a percent above the statewide projection).

Government is the largest sector of the Iron County economy, but the service sector is projected to grow the fastest through 2030. The *People and the Forests* report projects services to grow from a 21.6 percent share in the Iron County economy to a 25.5 percent share in 2030. Government jobs are projected to retain about a 21 percent share (State of Utah 2003). Overall, Iron County has a relatively balanced and broad-based economy. County businesses have learned to leverage their unique geographic location in close proximity to several national parks and other public lands, and the presence of Southern Utah University and the Utah Shakespearean Festival to support economic development and growth. There is concern that rapid growth may compromise high quality of life that county residents have come to appreciate.

There is a proposal to reopen the historic iron mines west of Cedar City, though it remains to be seen if this development will proceed. Mineral development of iron ore could provide future growth. Despite a robust economy and high growth rate, Iron County continues to struggle with issues of poverty. According to *People and the Forests*, the Iron County poverty rate in 1999 was double the state rate. Furthermore, in the period from 1989 to 1999, Iron County saw its poverty rate increase, while the state saw a decrease of the population in poverty (State of Utah 2003).

Kane County is another county that is dominated by federal land, the majority of which is managed by the BLM. Although almost 85 percent of the county is managed by federal land management agencies, the Forest Service manages only about 125,000 acres.⁴ Kane County experienced a 2.6% growth rate in 2004-05, this exceeds the State’s rate of 2.0% (State of Utah 2006). State population projections anticipate that Kane County will continue to grow at 1.4 percent annually from 2005 to 2050, below the state average of 1.8 percent (State of Utah 2005). The Kane County Commission feels that this projection is very low. The Commission believes that they are seeing a great deal of spillover growth from Washington County. Additionally, the Commission suggests that rapid growth in neighboring Fredonia, Arizona, should be noted because Kanab and Fredonia are in such close proximity that residents of the areas compete for the same jobs and other resources (Hulet 2006). Nonetheless, much of the growth in Kane County will likely be found in areas adjacent to or surrounded by National Forest System lands. Duck Creek Village, one of the largest communities surrounded by the Dixie National Forest, continues

⁴ Kane County maintains a close relationship with the Kaibab National Forest across the state border in Arizona.

to grow rapidly, creating challenges for both the county and the Forest Service.⁵

Some of the economic fortunes of Kane County seem to be improving. Kane County had one of the higher percent changes in the state in personal income from 2000 to 2003 (Bureau of Economic Analysis 2003). Some – including the Kane County Commission – suggest that this number is heavily influenced by retirees. They also suggest that annual income and working wages are going down in the county, an issue of much concern for the County Commission (Hulet 2006). As with many other counties in the planning area, Kane County is projected to rely more heavily upon the service sector in the future. As in Garfield County, the leisure and hospitality sector provides the most jobs in the county, but the government sector makes the largest contribution to payroll wages (State of Utah 2003).

The closest incorporated communities to the North Fork Virgin River in Kane County—Alton, Glendale, and Orderville—are expected to double in size from about 1,000 residents collectively to about 2,000 residents collectively in the next fifty years (2005 Utah Baseline Population Projections).

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS. If downstream segments were designated, then Kane County, Washington County, and Iron County, along with private land owners and the National Park Service could partner in management.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is not known demonstrated commitment to share in the costs of administering the river as part of the National System.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Several of the private ranches downstream from the forest river segment are in conservation easements. These conservation easements are designed to control population growth, enhance vegetation and water quality, and protect river related values. These easements were created prior to this process, but would likely help to protect values of the river segment. Some of the properties that are not currently under conservation easement are considering similar easements for the future.

According to Kane County Planning and Zoning Department, most the ranch properties downstream from the forest in the area are zoned for 40 acre ranches. This is called Recreation/Residential 36 and used to be called Forest Recreation 40. There are a few stray small ranch properties. The Kane County General Plan indicates, "Protection of watersheds is critical to the continued development of the county" (page 35).

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

⁵ "A substantial amount of lands in the higher elevation forest lands have been developed for recreation homes and cabins, and many are being used year-round," explains the 1999 Kane County General Plan. That plan states that the county does not intend to provide municipal level services to these areas.

The North Fork Virgin River drainage contains some historic ranch property. There seems to be a tendency in the area towards conservation of the historic landscapes.

During the public process for the Dixie and Fishlake National Forest eligibility process, public meetings were held at Ruby's Inn and in St. George, Utah. The public did not make any "support or opposition" statements during this public process. The Kane County Commission and the Forest Service did a field trip to the area on July 6, 2004. The Commission expressed concerns related to downstream private properties, potential fire in the area, and manageability of such a small segment. Additional concerns were expressed concerning whether or not the stream has flow in drought years or if it had regular flow before the Navajo Lake dike was created in the 1920s. Commissioners also suggested that access and development levels suggest that the tentative classifications should be scenic rather than wild. Overall, however, the Commissioners said that it was a place worthy of serious consideration on both eligibility and suitability grounds (notes from Field Trip).

In 2007, Senator Robert Bennett introduced land use legislation on behalf of Washington County, Utah. The legislation was not passed in 2007. It has since been updated and reintroduced. The legislation would designate the Virgin River and all its Tributaries in Zion National Park as a Wild and Scenic River. The river segment on forest lands is upstream from Zion and represents one of these tributaries. There appears to be some public support for designation by virtue of this proposed legislation. Additionally, the recently completed Kanab Field Office RMP found several additional segments upstream of the park within the Virgin River system to be suitable.

When representatives of the Forest met with staff from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation in July 2006, the Tribes indicated that they favored "preservation" of forest resources including Wild and Scenic Rivers. No official communications from the Tribes confirming this support have been received.

During the scoping and DEIS comment periods, the forest received many comments on North Fork Virgin River. Many people expressed interest in seeing this river segment designated. It was part of a group of rivers suggested for a positive suitability finding by a group of conservation organizations. All of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment. The Kane County Commission, Kane County Water Conservancy District, Kane County Resource Development Committee, and other oppose the suitability of this segment. Iron County and Garfield County, which are very close to this segment, are also opposed to this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Downstream segments of the river have been found suitable on land managed by the National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

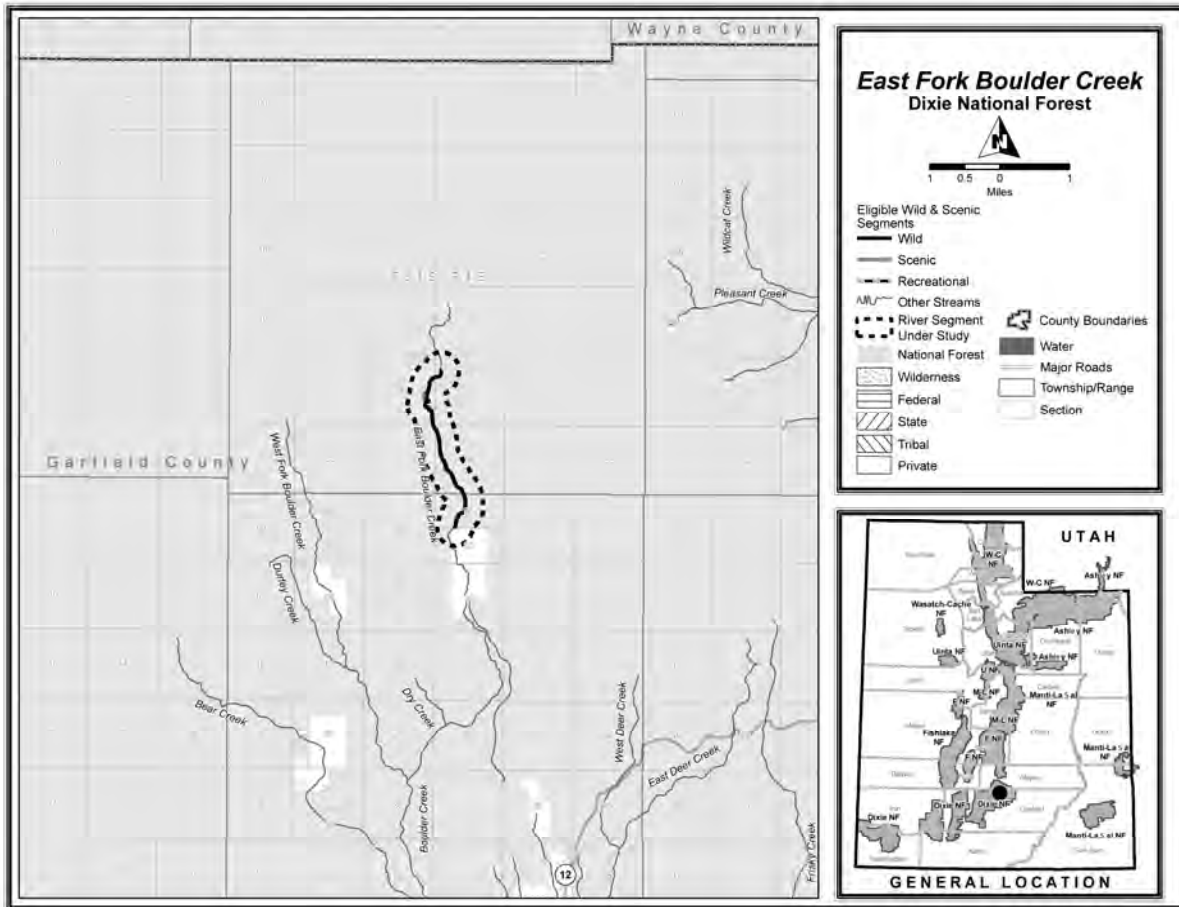
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

North Fork Virgin River is one of many tributaries to the Virgin River system that are located on Dixie National Forest lands. It crosses a long distance of private land before it reenters public domain. Without coordination across the private land this segment alone does not likely contribute significantly to the integrity of the Virgin River system.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are several homeowners associations and civic groups in the area that may have an interest in volunteer projects; however, there has not been any official written or verbal indication of interest from these potential partners.

East Fork Boulder Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: East Fork Boulder Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 2.8 miles, from headwaters to private property

Eligible: Same

Location:

East Fork Boulder Creek	Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District, Garfield County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 27, T 31 S, R 4E, SLM	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 3, T 32S, R 4E, SLM	Wild	2.8

Physical Description of River:

The East Fork of Boulder Creek originates along the southern rim of the Aquarius Plateau known as the Boulder Top. The upper reaches of the river are dominated by wet marshy meadows highlighted by a band of aspen trees that spill off the edge of the plateau. Downstream of the plateau, the creek is a boulder dominated step-pool system through a mixed conifer forest that boasts large Engelmann Spruce and Douglas fir trees. The stream corridor supports a diverse riparian plant community and wildlife

community that includes mule deer, black bear, and large herds of Rocky Mountain elk.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Appendix 4, Wild and Scenic River Eligibility, Grand Staircase National Monument (GSENM), 1998

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of East Fork Boulder Creek on this segment.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – The East Fork of Boulder Creek is located at the base of the ledge dominated face of the Aquarius Plateau known as the Boulder Top. The upper reaches of the creek are dominated by wet marshy meadows speckled with small beaver ponds, highlighted with a band of aspen trees. The lower reaches of the creek are located in a mixed conifer forest that boasts large Engelmann Spruce and Douglas-fir trees. The scenic qualities of the creek corridor are frequently enhanced by the presence of mule deer, black bear, and large herds of Rocky Mountain elk.

Recreational – The East Boulder Creek Trail (#34019) provides a backcountry hiking experience and creek access as it loops the river corridor. The trail receives low to moderate amounts of use during the summer and fall months. The creek is regionally known as a highly productive Colorado River cutthroat trout and brook trout fishery. The predominant recreational uses in this area are hiking, recreational fishing and hunting.

Fish – The East Fork of Boulder Creek supports a self-sustaining trout fishery with Colorado River cutthroat trout and brook trout present. The upper half mile reach of the creek is inhabited exclusively by native Colorado River cutthroat trout. Natural cascades prevent upstream movement of non-native brook trout into this upper stream segment. The Colorado River cutthroat trout within the stream are a remnant population and a genetically pure population.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

There are no roads present in the river corridor. There is access to the river corridor via a non-motorized trail.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The eligible river corridor is a 2.8 mile-long river segment and encompasses 895 acres and is entirely on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Dixie National Forest.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 2.8	Dixie National Forest (Escalante Ranger District)	895
	Total:	895 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no existing salable, locatable, or leasable mineral and energy resources development in the eligible segment.

East Fork Boulder Creek is located in the Boulder Mountain/Boulder Top/Deer Lake Roadless Area. According to the Dixie National Forest Roadless Area Minerals Evaluation the potential for this area was as follows:

Mineral Potential:

Oil and Gas: Currently there are no producing wells or fields in this area. It has been only lightly explored. There are no leases but industry has expressed interest in the areas to the east and south.

Oil potential associated with four possible plays (Late Proterozoic/Cambrian, Devonian-Pennsylvanian, Late Paleozoic, and Permo-Triassic Unconformity) is ranked as moderate to high (low certainty) along the eastern and southern portions of the Teasdale and Escalante Ranger Districts. The occurrence potential is lower in this roadless area due to the occurrence of volcanic activity and occurrence of carbon dioxide gas. Development potential is ranked as low by the UGS due to the volcanic rocks, occurrence of carbon dioxide, and lack of defined targets. If leases are issued, exploratory drilling on a limited basis could occur.

This area is not prospective for natural gas/methane due to uplift and erosion of known source/reservoir Cretaceous sedimentary rocks.

Carbon Dioxide: Moderate potential for occurrence (low certainty). Development potential is low-none because there is no market.

Geothermal: Occurrence potential is unknown due to the lack of identified thermal wells and springs. Due to the lack of known geothermal springs and wells and overall information, the development potential is considered low.

Coal: There are no known coal deposits in this area

Locatable Minerals: There are no known valuable deposits of base or precious metals or other locatable minerals. Development potential is low.

Common Variety: Tertiary volcanic rocks cover nearly the entire area. Volcanic rock could be developed for riprap, decorative stone, and building stone. Development potential is considered moderate, most likely on a small scale, localized basis.

References:

Utah Geological Survey, 2004, The Oil, Gas, Coalbed Gas, Carbon Dioxide and Geothermal Resources of the Fishlake National Forest, Southwestern Utah, April 30, 2004.

Doelling, H.H., 1972. Southwestern Utah Coal Fields: Alton, Kaiparowits Plateau and Kolob-Harmony. Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, Monograph Series No. 1, 1972.

Water Resources Development – The area of study is the section of stream beginning at the Escalante Ranger District northern boundary in NW/NW Section 27, T. 31 S, R. 4 E and ending at the private property boundary in SE/NW Section 3, T. 32 S, R. 4 E. There are no known existing water developments (dams, diversions or channel modifications) on this segment. There are no historic, current, or known planned Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits or license applications for this corridor. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The East Boulder Creek Trail (#34019) provides access to the river's headwaters and loops the river corridor, within the corridor. This non-motorized trail is 6.5 miles long and receives low to moderate use. The trailhead is accessed by Forest Service Road #30165, but neither the trailhead nor the road are in the river corridor. There are no other facilities and/or other developments located in the river corridor.

Grazing Activities – The river segment is located within the Boulder Allotment. The Boulder Allotment consists of 89,568 acres and is an active allotment with eight permittees.

Boulder Allotment		
<u>Permittee Name</u>	<u>Number of mature cow/Nursing</u>	<u>Active Grazing Dates</u>
M.G. Nelson	60	06/16 to 10/15
L.J. & B.C. Gardener	70	06/16 to 10/15
A. & D. Coombs	152	06/16 to 10/15
H.D & G. Lefevre	7	06/16 to 10/15
B.K. & A.H. Roundy	80	06/16 to 10/15
G.T. Roundy	80	06/16 to 10/15
Roundy Land & Cattle Co.	371	06/16 to 10/15
G.W. Haws	223	06/16 to 10/15

Recreation Activities – See recreational ORV discussion above.

Other Resource Activities – Due to the limited access and steep terrain, other river corridor uses, such as timber harvest and farming, are not foreseeable uses.

Special Designations – The East Fork Boulder Creek river corridor is entirely located in the Boulder Mountain/Boulder Top/Deer Lake Roadless Area (1999 Roadless Areas). The purpose of designated roadless areas under the 1999 Road Rule was “to restrict certain activities such as road construction and reconstruction into the unroaded portions of inventoried roadless areas and to establish a process for evaluating possible limitations on activities in other uninventoried unroaded areas through forest planning at the local level.”

Socio-Economic Environment – The river segment is located within Garfield County. Boulder and Escalante are the two closest towns. Access to the area is provided by Highway 12 – an All-American Road.

Garfield County is a largely rural county where traditional natural resource economic endeavors have dominated historically. In recent years, there has been a growth in recreation, tourism, and services. Much of this growth in recreation and tourism can be attributed to the designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996. The county is struggling to retain rural traditions and lifestyles as well as “working” connections with the land. In the face of rising land values and globalization, traditional industries such as farming and ranching are becoming more difficult. Second home ownership has increased in the county dramatically. Over 60% of property tax notices in Garfield County are sent out of the county (39% out of state or country). Educating these occasional land users about special values and proper use is becoming more difficult.

A recent visitor study of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument indicates that approximately 600,000 people visit the area every year. While most of the visitors remain in the frontcountry visitor areas, exploration into the backcountry is increasing. Visitors come from throughout the United States and the world. About 14% of visitors are from Utah, 13% from California, 6% from Arizona, 5% from Colorado, and 10% from other western states. About 30% come from the other 39 states leaving 23% from other countries. The average visitor spends three days in the area. Only 20% of these visitors indicated that the Monument was their primary destination. Many of these visitors end up exploring the forest. The most common visitor activities reported were hiking, photography, scenic driving, and viewing natural features. Escalante and Bryce Canyon are the two most visited communities near the Monument. Boulder also experienced high visitation. The average amount spent by a group of three to

the area was just under \$500. This means that more than \$20.6 million is being directly spent in Garfield and Kane counties because of the designated Monument. This is the equivalent of more than 430 full-time jobs. (A Front Country Visitor Study for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah State University, Professional Report IORT PR2006-01, April 2006).

More specifically, trends and conditions:

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House Resources Committee's Forest and Forest Health Subcommittee, June 15, 2005).

The closest communities to the river segment are Escalante and Boulder. Escalante is projected to grow from about 800 people in 2000 to about 1300 in 2050. Boulder is projected to grow from 180 in 2000 to around 300 in 2050.

The river segment and the areas below Highway 12 are also used regularly by residents of Wayne County. Wayne County has the second highest percentage of federal land of any county in the state. The county contains about 160,000 acres of National Forest System lands. The county contains the second fewest acres of private land in the state, trailing only Daggett County (which is four times smaller than Wayne County) by about 8,000 acres. From 2004 to 2005, Wayne County was only one of three counties to register negative population growth. The county had a -0.6% growth rate (the lowest in the State) (State of Utah 2006). However, from 2005 to 2050, the county is projected to almost double in population and grows at a 1.2 percent annual growth rate (State of Utah 2005).

Education and health services are the largest sector in the Wayne County economy. This sector is buoyed by the presence of Aspen Health Services' Aspen Achievement Academy, a wilderness therapy program that is a major county employer. Headquartered in Loa, the program operates on BLM and Forest Service lands. Government is the second largest sector in the county. Since 1980 agriculture has decreased dramatically and services have increased, a trend that is projected to continue into 2030. In 1980, agriculture made up 26.9 percent of the economy, while services took only a 3.5 percent share. By 2002, agriculture had declined to 13.8 percent and services had increased to 24.9 percent. In 2030, *People and the Forests* projects that agriculture will take a 6.5 percent share, while services will have increased to 30.3 percent (State of Utah 2003). This increase is visible in the increasingly popular tourist venue of Torrey at the gateway to Capitol Reef National Park.

While agriculture continues to decline, it is an important part of the county's traditions and customs. Many county residents work multiple jobs to keep the traditions of the past alive. The Wayne County General Plan identifies tourism promotion as an important economic development tool; however, there is concern over preserving quality of life while implementing this strategy.

Wayne County continues to struggle with issues of poverty. The county's 1999 poverty rate exceeded 15 percent, almost one and one-half times the state average (State of Utah 2003). Total personal income in Wayne County is the fourth lowest in the state. Growth rates of total personal income were second to last in the state from 2000 to 2003 (Bureau of Economic Analysis 2003).

Teasdale, Grover, and Torrey are the closest towns in Wayne County to the river segment. Torrey, population 171 (2005), is not expect to grow dramatically in the next 50 years. Other communities in Wayne County (e.g., Teasdale and Grover) are not expected to grow rapidly.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

Not applicable; all lands adjacent to river segment are managed by the Forest Service.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not applicable; all lands adjacent to river segment are managed by the Forest Service.

(3) Support or opposition to designation. Garfield County is working on a Resource Management Plan for all lands in the county. They have included an analysis of Wild and Scenic Rivers in their discussions. While their RMP supports the designation of Cataract Canyon (Colorado River) and the Dirty Devil River as Wild and Scenic Rivers, the county does not support the designation of East Fork Boulder Creek.

During the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests eligibility process, the county expressed repeated concern over the eligibility determinations made for this and other river segments on the Escalante Ranger District. The county does not believe that the Escalante River system is suitable because its flow is too regulated by irrigators.

When representatives of the Forest met with staff from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation in July 2006, the Tribes indicated that they favored "preservation" of forest resources including Wild and Scenic Rivers. No official communication from the Tribes confirming this support has been received.

During the scoping and DEIS comment periods, the forest received many comments on East Fork of Boulder Creek. Many local residents of Boulder Town and others have expressed an interest in this river segment being found suitable. However, Garfield County and others have expressed strong opposition to this segment due to concerns over competing water uses and values. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Downstream from the Forest Service boundary, GSENM found East Fork Boulder Creek to be suitable for designation (Appendix 11, GSENM FEIS Monument Plan).

The Dixie National Forest, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Bryce Canyon National Park, and GSENM all worked together on eligibility for this river segment. Final determinations of suitability were reserved for individual agencies to make on their own.

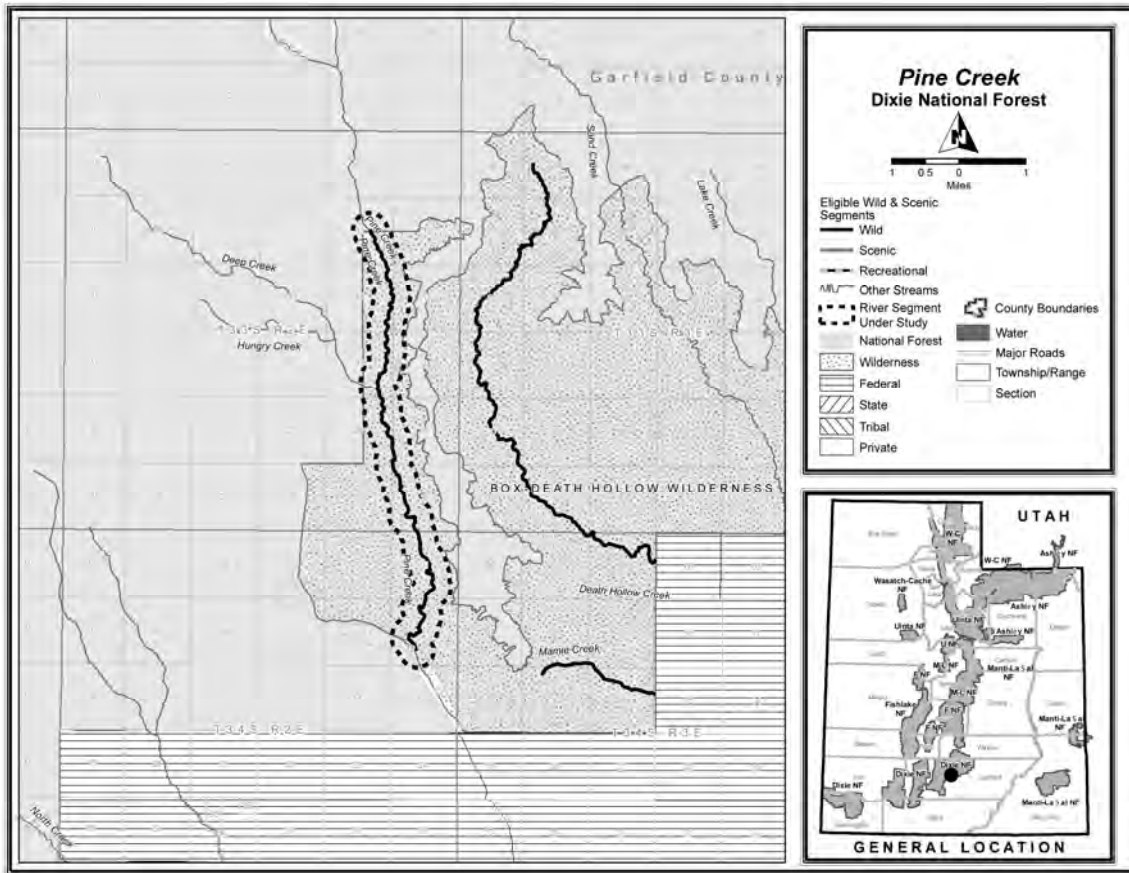
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

East Fork Boulder Creek is one of the tributaries identified in the GSENM plan that contributes significantly to the flow of the Escalante River. As a perennial stream it provides flow consistently to the system.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed.

Pine Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Pine Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 7.8 miles, from north wilderness boundary to south wilderness boundary

Eligible: Same

Location:

Pine Creek	Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District, Garfield County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 11, T 33S, R 2E, SLM	SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 12, T 33S, R 2E, SLM	Wild	7.8

Physical Description of River: Pine Creek is a small, fast running creek that flows down a narrow tree lined canyon in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness know as “The box”. The creek is predominantly a step-pool system that carves its way through the Escalante Monocline and into Navajo Sandstone. The upper reaches of the creek are particularly scenic with steep cliffs ranging from 800 to 1200 feet tall that descend to the creek’s edge which is vegetated with large spruce and ponderosa pine trees. The creek and riparian corridor are home to a diverse community of fish and wildlife, including Colorado cutthroat, brown trout , black bear, mule deer, owls, and various canyon dwelling birds.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Appendix 4, Wild and Scenic River Eligibility, Grand Staircase National Monument (GSENM), 1998

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of Pine Creek on National Forest System lands.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – Pine Creek is a small, fast running creek that flows down a narrow tree lined canyon in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness know as “The box”. The creek is predominantly a step-pool system that carves its way through the Escalante Monocline and into Navajo Sandstone. The upper reaches of the creek are particularly scenic with steep cliffs ranging from 800 to 1200 feet tall that descend to the creek’s edge which is vegetated with large spruce and ponderosa pine trees. The lower reaches transition into sandy benches thick with willows and ponderosa pines, but maintain the spectacular cliff walls.

Recreational – The Box Trail (#43009) provides river-side hiking access the entire length of the creek as it carves its way down through the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area. The trail is approximately 7.8 miles, begins and ends on the “Hells Backbone Road” (FS Road #30153) and usually takes an entire day to hike. Although the trail is rough and requires hikers to wade through the river and navigate the slot canyon, the trail receives an average of 2 to 3 hikers per day during the summer months.

Geological – Pine Creek is part of the Escalante River System which is noted for colorful canyon walls composed of layers of limestone, siltstone and sandstone. The geologic record contained in these layers speaks volumes about past history of the area. Weathering and erosion have created a variety of unique features within the canyon.

Ecological – Pine Creek supports a self-sustaining trout fishery that is dominated by brown trout, with native Colorado River cutthroat trout also present.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

There are no roads present in the river corridor. There is access to the river via a non-motorized hiking trail. The river corridor is located entirely in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The eligible river corridor is a 7.8 mile-long river segment and encompasses about 2234 acres, and is entirely on National Forest System (NFS) lands in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness that is administered by the Dixie National Forest.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 7.8	Dixie National Forest (Escalante Ranger District)	2234
	Total:	2234

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There is one authorized oil and gas lease within the river corridor. The lease was filed on 08/06/1976 for C02 mining in the west half of section 13. Currently there is no activity for associated with this lease. The development associated with this lease consists of a well located on Antone’s Bench, outside of the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness.

Pine Creek is located in the Box-Death Hollow Roadless Area. According to the Dixie National Forest Roadless Area Minerals Evaluation the potential for this area was as follows:

Mineral Potential:

Oil and Gas: Currently there are no producing oil or natural gas wells or fields in this area. However, Escalante Carbon Dioxide Field (Known Geologic Structure) which contains and has been developed for carbon dioxide gas lies partially within the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area and adjacent lands of this roadless area being evaluated. Current leases within the wilderness area that predated wilderness designation have been suspended by BLM, pending further analysis. Wells within the wilderness area are shut-in. No additional leasing can occur with the wilderness because the Utah Wilderness Act of 1983 prohibits additional leasing. The shut-in wells with prior existing rights could be developed. The adjacent areas within this roadless area are available for leasing.

Oil potential associated with four possible plays (Late Proterozoic/Cambrian, Devonian-Pennsylvanian, Late Paleozoic, and Permo-Triassic Unconformity) is ranked as moderate to high (low certainty) along the eastern and southern portions of the Teasdale and Escalante Ranger Districts. This roadless area lies within this prospective area. Petroleum development potential is ranked by the UGS as low-moderate with the highest potential relative to the Devonian-Pennsylvanian and Permo-Triassic Plays. However, this area probably has lower potential due to the volcanic activity to the north and carbon dioxide gas occurrence. Natural gas occurrence and development potential is low-none.

Carbon Dioxide: The Escalante Carbon Dioxide Known Geologic Structure lies within this area as described above. Several expressions of interest for leasing and pre-sale offers have been made in this area for additional leasing, which are currently pending. If leases are issued, additional exploratory drilling and development could occur, however there is no market for carbon dioxide within a reasonable distance of the field and there are no pipelines in the general area to connect to for transport to existing market areas. Carbon dioxide occurrence potential is high but development potential is ranked as low-moderate due to the lack of a market.

Geothermal: Occurrence potential is unknown due to the lack of identified thermal wells and springs. Due to the lack of information, the development potential is considered low.

Coal: There are known mineable coal deposits in this area.

Locatable Minerals: There are no known valuable deposits of base or precious metals or other locatable minerals. Development potential is low.

Common Variety: There are known deposits of sandstones and colluvium derived from volcanic rocks to the north. There is potential for the development of sandstone and rounded colluvium for decorative or building stone, and riprap.

References:

Utah Geological Survey, 2004, The Oil, Gas, Coalbed Gas, Carbon Dioxide and Geothermal Resources of the Fishlake National Forest, Southwestern Utah, April 30, 2004.

Doelling, H.H., 1972. Southwestern Utah Coal Fields: Alton, Kaiparowits Plateau and Kolob-Harmony. Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, Monograph Series No. 1, 1972.

Water Resources Development – The area of study is the stream section of Pine Creek located within the Box Death Hollow Wilderness. The section begins in the SE1/4 of Section 11, T33S, R2E and ends at the Forest/Wilderness boundary in the NW1/4 of section 13, T34S, R2E. This is also the northern boundary of a strip of private land extending to the Forest boundary. There are no historic, current, or known planned Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits or license applications for this corridor. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Box Trail (#34009) provides access to the river and is located in the river corridor. This non-motorized trail is 7.8 miles long and receives low to moderate use. The trail is a low-level class 2 trail.

There are no roads within the river corridor.

There is a cattle fence at both the top and bottom of the river that exist within the river corridor. There are no other facilities and/or other developments located in the river corridor.

Grazing Activities – The river segment is located within the Pine Creek Allotment. The Pine Creek Allotment consists of 49,660 acres and is an active allotment with one permittee. Although the river corridor is within the allotment, there is no grazing within the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness and therefore no grazing on the riverbanks.

Oak Creek Allotment		
<u>Permittee Name</u>	<u>Number of mature cow/Nursing</u>	<u>Active Grazing Dates</u>
S.D.Sorensen	254	06/01 to 09/30

Recreation Activities – Recreational use of Pine Creek is considered low to moderate. The Box Trail (#43009) provides river-side hiking access the entire length of the river as it carves its way down through the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area. The trail is approximately 7.8 miles, begins and ends on the “Hells Backbone Road” (FS Road #30153) and usually takes an entire day to hike. Although the trail is rough and requires hikers to wade through the river, the trail receives an average of 2 to 3 hikers per day during the summer months. The steep winding canyon provides solitude and a primitive experience.

Other Resource Activities – Due to the limited access, steep terrain, and designated wilderness status other river corridor uses, such as timber harvest and farming, are not foreseeable uses.

Special Designations – The Pine Creek river corridor is entirely located in the Box-Death Hollow Roadless Area (1999 Roadless Areas). The purpose of designated roadless areas under the 1999 Road Rule was “to restrict certain activities such as road construction and reconstruction into the unroaded portions of inventoried roadless areas and to establish a process for evaluating possible limitations on activities in other uninventoried unroaded areas through forest planning at the local level.”

The river corridor is also entirely located within the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area. This area was designated in 1984 under the Utah Wilderness Act. The purpose of the wilderness designation was to ensure this area was free from modern human control or manipulation, was undeveloped and natural, and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Socio-Economic Environment – The river segment is located within Garfield County. Boulder and Escalante are the two closest towns. Access to the area is provided by Highway 12 – an All-American Road. Cottonwood Canyon flows from the Dixie National Forest onto the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Garfield County is a largely rural county where traditional natural resource economic endeavors have dominated historically. In recent years, there has been a growth in recreation, tourism, and services. Much of this growth in recreation and tourism can be attributed to the designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996. The county is struggling to retain rural traditions and lifestyles as well as “working” connections with the land. In the face of rising land values and globalization, traditional industries such as farming and ranching are becoming more difficult. Second home ownership has increased in the county dramatically. Over 60% of property tax notices in Garfield County are sent out of the county (39% out of state or country). Educating these occasional land users about special values and proper use is becoming more difficult.

A recent visitor study of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument indicates that approximately 600,000 people visit the area every year. While most of the visitors remain in the Front Country visitor areas, exploration into the backcountry is increasing. Visitors come from throughout the United States

and the world. About 14% of visitors are from Utah, 13% from California, 6% from Arizona, 5% from Colorado, and 10% from other western states. About 30% come from the other 39 states leaving 23% from other countries. The average visitor spends three days in the area. Only 20% of these visitors indicated that the Monument was their primary destination. Many of these visitors end up exploring the forest. The most common visitor activities reported were hiking, photography, scenic driving, and viewing natural features. Escalante and Bryce Canyon are the two most visited communities near the Monument. Boulder also experienced high visitation. The average amount spent by a group of three to the area was just under \$500. This means that more than \$20.6 million is being directly spent in Garfield and Kane counties because of the designated Monument. This is the equivalent of more than 430 full-time jobs. (A Front Country Visitor Study for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah State University, Professional Report IORT PR2006-01, April 2006).

More specifically, trends and conditions:

Garfield County, the fifth largest county in the state has the highest percentage of federal land (over 90%) in a county in the state of Utah.⁹ The county contains over one million acres of National Forest System lands (including the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area) and large areas of other federal land, including portions of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. There are only about 170,000 acres of private land in the county. Public lands provide both challenges and opportunities for economic development in the county. The county is sparsely populated and is only projected to grow at a 1.0 percent rate annually between 2005 and 2050, a rate below the state average.

According to a 2003 Utah Bureau of Economic Analysis Report, Garfield County residents had one of the five lowest levels of total personal income in the state for 2003. Additionally, Garfield County had the second highest unemployment rate (10.8 percent) in the state according to 2003 Utah Department of Workforce Services information, exceeded only by Emery County's 11.0 percent unemployment rate. Slow job growth and unemployment are recurrent problems for the county. Traditionally, county residents have relied primarily upon ranching and timber. While there is a desire to retain these traditional sources of economic opportunity, services related to recreation and tourism are growing quickly in the county. Services are projected to increase from a 30.1 percent share in the Garfield County economy in 2005 to a 37.8 percent share in 2030 (State of Utah 2003).

According to Garfield County, the growth in the recreation and tourism industries has not been strong enough to provide the economic growth that has been achieved in more diverse parts of the state (Bremner 2006).¹⁰ While these services (mostly related to leisure and hospitality) represent the largest sector in the Garfield County economy, government jobs (the sector ranked second) make up a much higher percentage of payroll wages (State of Utah 2003). There is a perception that leisure and hospitality jobs will not pay as much as jobs in other more traditional sectors.¹¹ According to Garfield County, “. . . Garfield County is struggling economically. Schools are showing declining enrollment and additional natural resource based industries have been all but eliminated in the county. . . . Garfield County is struggling and unless changes [in land management and opportunities] are made relatively soon, things

¹¹ In the book *Visions of the Grand Staircase-Escalante* (compiled at the time of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument planning process in the 1990s), Gail Blattenberger and David Kiefer acknowledge, “[m]inimum wages plus tips at Ruby’s Inn are what the locals [in Garfield County] envisage from the service industry, but high tech service enterprises are also viable given an investment in communications infrastructure.” Blattenberger and Kiefer suggest that while based on past performance “economic well-being” is clearly an issue in Kane and Garfield counties, “[e]xtractive industries are not an optimal or even a viable solution to the economic situation in these counties.” Furthermore, “change will certainly come to these economies” and be met with “resistance (because of) the desire for a land-based economy (which is) seen as crucial to the quality of life in the rural West.” According to the authors, the key is to “find ways of preserving our land-based Western heritage and lifestyle (which are so important to rural residents) along with the natural treasures of the countryside.” Roughly 10 years later, we seem to face the same conditions, trends, attitudes, fears, opportunities, and challenges (Blattenberger and Kiefer 1998).

will get tougher” (Bremner 2006). Also according to Garfield County Commissioner Maloy Dodds in testimony to Congress, “...most tourist-generated jobs generally are minimal skill, minimum wage jobs – not the kind that can support a family.” Another important fact that the Commissioner noted, “Federal destination areas [are] a mixed blessing at best” for Garfield County because increased visitors can be a burden to the county in terms of increased cost of garbage and search and rescue operations (Testimony to House Resources Committee’s Forest and Forest Health Subcommittee, June 15, 2005).

The closest communities to the river segment are Escalante and Boulder. Escalante is projected to grow from about 800 people in 2000 to about 1300 in 2050. Boulder is projected to grow from 180 in 2000 to around 300 in 2050.

The river segment and the areas below Highway 12 are also used regularly by residents of Wayne County. Wayne County has the second highest percentage of federal land of any county in the state. The county contains about 160,000 acres of National Forest System lands. The county contains the second fewest acres of private land in the state, trailing only Daggett County (which is four times smaller than Wayne County) by about 8,000 acres. From 2004 to 2005, Wayne County was only one of three counties to register negative population growth. The county had a -0.6% growth rate (the lowest in the State) (State of Utah 2006). However, from 2005 to 2050, the county is projected to almost double in population and growth at a 1.2 percent annual growth rate (State of Utah 2005).

Education and health services are the largest sector in the Wayne County economy. This sector is buoyed by the presence of Aspen Health Services’ Aspen Achievement Academy, a wilderness therapy program that is a major county employer. Headquartered in Loa, the program operates on BLM and Forest Service lands. Government is the second largest sector in the county. Since 1980 agriculture has decreased dramatically and services have increased, a trend that is projected to continue into 2030. In 1980, agriculture made up 26.9 percent of the economy, while services took only a 3.5 percent share. By 2002, agriculture had declined to 13.8 percent and services had increased to 24.9 percent. In 2030, *People and the Forests* projects that agriculture will take a 6.5 percent share, while services will have increased to 30.3 percent (State of Utah 2003). This increase is visible in the increasingly popular tourist venue of Torrey at the gateway to Capitol Reef National Park.

While agriculture continues to decline, it is an important part of the county’s traditions and customs. Many county residents work multiple jobs to keep the traditions of the past alive. The Wayne County General Plan identifies tourism promotion as an important economic development tool; however, there is concern over preserving quality of life while implementing this strategy.

Wayne County continues to struggle with issues of poverty. The county’s 1999 poverty rate exceeded 15 percent, almost one and one-half times the state average (State of Utah 2003). Total personal income in Wayne County is the fourth lowest in the state. Growth rates of total personal income were second to last in the state from 2000 to 2003 (Bureau of Economic Analysis 2003).

Teasdale, Grover, and Torrey are the closest towns in Wayne County to the river segment. Torrey, population 171 (2005), is not expect to grow dramatically in the next 50 years. Other communities in Wayne County (e.g., Teasdale and Grover) are not expected to grow rapidly.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS. The U.S. Forest Service and BLM would share management of the segment.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn’t account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using

an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

Not applicable as the segment is entirely on land managed by the Forest Service.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not applicable as the segment is entirely on land managed by the Forest Service.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Garfield County is working on a Resource Management Plan for all lands in the county. They have included an analysis of Wild and Scenic Rivers in their discussions. While their RMP supports the designation of Cataract Canyon (Colorado River) and the Dirty Devil River as Wild and Scenic Rivers, the county does not support the designation of Pine Creek.

During the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests eligibility process, the county expressed repeated concern over the eligibility determinations made for this and other river segments on the Escalante Ranger District. The county does not believe that the Escalante River system is suitable because its flow is too regulated by irrigators.

When representatives of the Forest met with staff from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation in July 2006, the Tribes indicated that they favored "preservation" of forest resources including Wild and Scenic Rivers. No official communications from the Tribes confirming this support have been received.

During the scoping and DEIS comment periods, the forest received comments on Pine Creek. Some people expressed interest in seeing this river segment designated. Garfield County is opposed to designation. Opposition doesn't appear to be as strong given that the segment is already protected by Wilderness designation. Many have questioned whether the additional protections available under wild and scenic rivers designation are necessary to protect the river segment. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Downstream from the Forest Service boundary, GSENM found the Escalante River from its confluence with Pine Creek to be suitable for designation (Appendix 11, GSENM FEIS Monument Plan).

The Dixie National Forest, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Bryce Canyon National Park, and GSENM all worked together on eligibility for this river segment. Final determinations of suitability were reserved for individual agencies to make on their own.

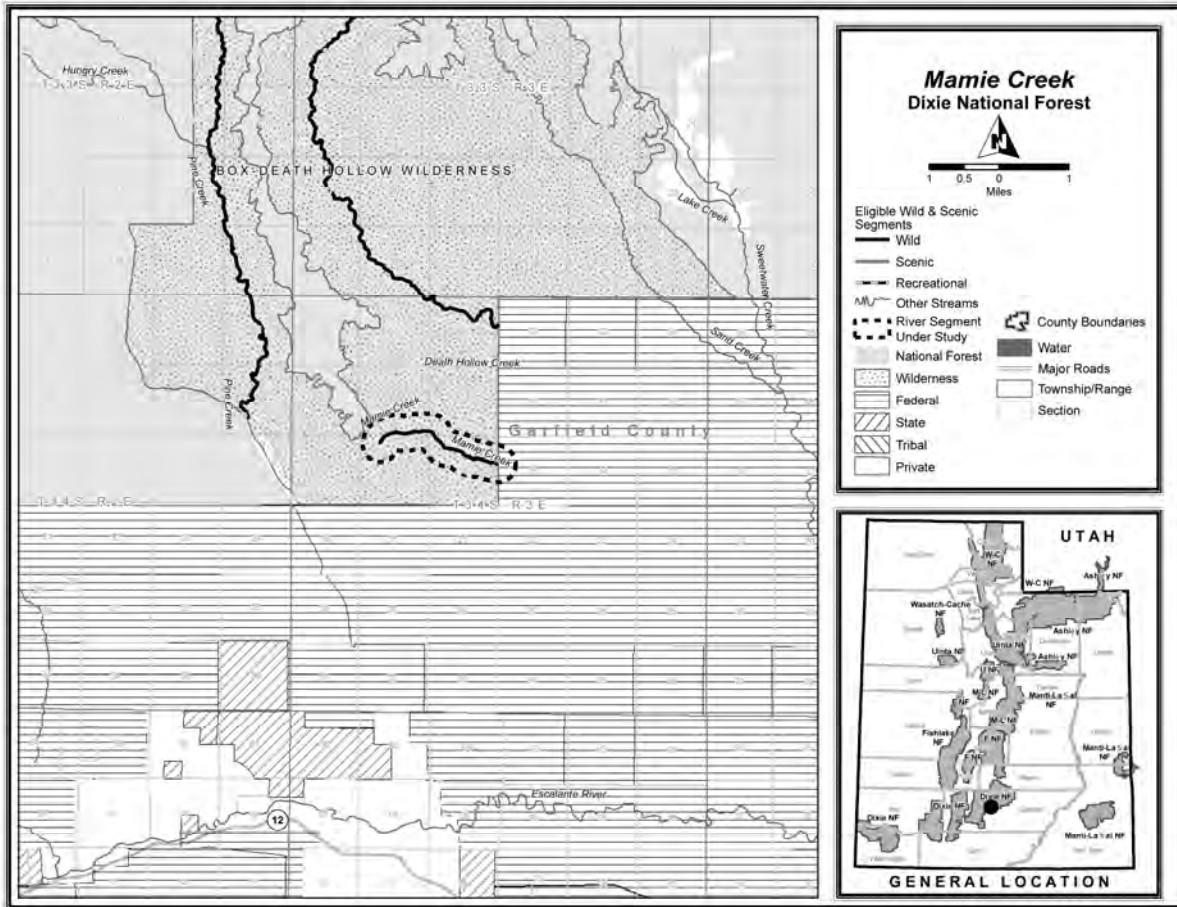
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Pine Creek is one of the tributaries identified in the GSENM plan that contributes significantly to the flow of the Escalante River. As a perennial stream it provides flow consistently to the system.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed.

Mamie Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Mamie Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 11.2 miles, from headwaters to Escalante River

Eligible: 2.0 miles, from the headwaters to the forest boundary (Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Boundary)

Location:

Mamie Creek	Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District, Garfield County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 17, T 34S, R 3E, SLM	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 16, T 34S, R 3E, SLM	Wild	2.0

Physical Description of River: Mamie Creek is a small creek that runs through a scenic canyon in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness. Mamie Creek is located in open ponderous pine stand with a Manzanita understory. The river typically is ephemeral with flows typically occurring December through May, and following localized late summer thunderstorms. The river flows through the Escalante Monocline and into Navajo Sandstone where the canyon narrows into a slot canyon and slickrock as it leaves the forest.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Appendix 4, Wild and Scenic River Eligibility, Grand Staircase National Monument (GSENM), 1998

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of Mamie Creek on National Forest System lands.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Scenic – Mamie Creek provides unique scenic views as it carves through the Navajo Sandstone. A geological mixture of shapes, textures, and colors that are complimented by waterfalls and scenic pools creates the unique scenic value.

Recreational – There are no Forest Service system trails that access the river, but the river itself is used as a route to access the river as it carves its way down through the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area. The route receives very low use and is primarily use by hikers hiking up from Death Hollow while attempting to travel the brutal 3 to 4 day trip to the Escalante River. This route requires swimming, rock climbing, and advanced navigation skills. The lower half of the drainage is managed by the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Geological, Ecological, Fish, Wildlife, Cultural, Historic – During the interagency process (between the Dixie National Forest, Grand Staircase-Escalante N.M., and Glen Canyon NRA), eligible river segments were identified across agency boundaries. ORVs were determined across the interagency segments. At the beginning of this Forest Service Utah Statewide Suitability project, the Forest Service revalidated the presence of individual ORVs on these river segments. Some ORVs were present on lands administered by other agencies (e.g., downstream on GSENM), but not found on the Forest Service administered segment. The ecological, cultural, wildlife, fish and geological ORVs identified in the interagency report is not found to be regionally significant on the Forest Service portions of the segment

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

There are no roads present in the river corridor. There are no Forest Service system trails that access the river. The river corridor is located entirely in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The eligible river corridor is a 2 mile-long river segment and encompasses about 697 acres, and is entirely on National Forest System (NFS) lands in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness that is administered by the Dixie National Forest.

River Mile	Ownership
0 – 2	Dixie National Forest (Escalante Ranger District)

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are two suspended authorized oil and gas lease within the river corridor. The leases were filed in 1968 by D. Rowell for C02 mining at T 34S, R 3E, Section 9 and Section 16. Currently there is no activity or development associated with this lease.

Mamie Creek is located in the Box-Death Hollow Roadless Area. According to the Dixie National Forest Roadless Area Minerals Evaluation the potential for this area was as follows:

Mineral Potential:

Oil and Gas: Currently there are no producing oil or natural gas wells or fields in this area. However, Escalante Carbon Dioxide Field (Known Geologic Structure) which contains and has been developed for carbon dioxide gas lies partially within the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area and adjacent lands of this roadless area being evaluated. Current leases within the wilderness area that predated wilderness designation have been suspended by BLM, pending further analysis. Wells within the wilderness area are shut-in. No additional leasing can occur with the wilderness because the Utah Wilderness Act of 1983 prohibits additional leasing. The shut-in wells with prior existing rights could be developed. The adjacent areas within this roadless area are available for leasing.

Oil potential associated with four possible plays (Late Proterozoic/Cambrian, Devonian-Pennsylvanian, Late Paleozoic, and Permo-Triassic Unconformity) is ranked as moderate to high (low certainty) along the eastern and southern portions of the Teasdale and Escalante Ranger Districts. This roadless area lies within this prospective area. Petroleum development potential is ranked by the UGS as low-moderate with the highest potential relative to the Devonian-Pennsylvanian and Permo-Triassic Plays. However, this area probably has lower potential due to the volcanic activity to the north and carbon dioxide gas occurrence. Natural gas occurrence and development potential is low-none.

Carbon Dioxide: The Escalante Carbon Dioxide Known Geologic Structure lies within this area as described above. Several expressions of interest for leasing and pre-sale offers have been made in this area for additional leasing, which are currently pending. If leases are issued, additional exploratory drilling and development could occur, however there is no market for carbon dioxide within a reasonable distance of the field and there are no pipelines in the general area to connect to for transport to existing market areas. Carbon dioxide occurrence potential is high but development potential is ranked as low-moderate due to the lack of a market.

Geothermal: Occurrence potential is unknown due to the lack of identified thermal wells and springs. Due to the lack of information, the development potential is considered low.

Coal: There are known mineable coal deposits in this area.

Locatable Minerals: There are no known valuable deposits of base or precious metals or other locatable minerals. Development potential is low.

Common Variety: There are known deposits of sandstones and colluvium derived from volcanic rocks to the north. There is potential for the development of sandstone and rounded colluvium for decorative or building stone, and riprap.

References:

Utah Geological Survey, 2004, The Oil, Gas, Coalbed Gas, Carbon Dioxide and Geothermal Resources of the Fishlake National Forest, Southwestern Utah, April 30, 2004.

Doelling, H.H., 1972. Southwestern Utah Coal Fields: Alton, Kaiparowits Plateau and Kolob-Harmony. Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, Monograph Series No. 1, 1972.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – There are no roads, trails, other facilities and/or other developments located in the river corridor.

Grazing Activities – The river segment is not located within any grazing allotment, therefore there is no grazing activities or development related to grazing.

Recreation Activities – There are no Forest Service system trails that access the river and most of the recreational use of the river corridor is from hikers traveling up the river from where it joins Death Hollow Creek. The area is very remote and access is difficult.

Other Resource Activities – Due to the limited access, steep terrain, and designated wilderness status other river corridor uses, such as timber harvest and farming, are not foreseeable uses.

Special Designations – The Mamie Creek river corridor is entirely located in the Box-Death Hollow Roadless Area (1999 Roadless Areas). The purpose of designated roadless areas under the 1999 Road Rule was “to restrict certain activities such as road construction and reconstruction into the unroaded portions of inventoried roadless areas and to establish a process for evaluating possible limitations on activities in other uninventoried unroaded areas through forest planning at the local level.”

The river corridor is also entirely located within the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area. This area was designated in 1984 under the Utah Wilderness Act. The purpose of the wilderness designation was to ensure this area was free from modern human control or manipulation, was undeveloped and natural, and provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Socio-Economic Environment – The river segment is located within Garfield County. Boulder and Escalante are the two closest towns. Access to the area is provided by Highway 12 – an All-American Road.

Garfield County is a largely rural county where traditional natural resource economic endeavors have dominated historically. In recent years, there has been a growth in recreation, tourism, and services. Much of this growth in recreation and tourism can be attributed to the designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996. The county is struggling to retain rural traditions and lifestyles as well as “working” connections with the land. In the face of rising land values and globalization, traditional industries such as farming and ranching are becoming more difficult. Second home ownership has increased in the county dramatically. Over 60% of property tax notices in Garfield County are sent out of the county (39% out of state or country). Educating these occasional land users about special values and proper use is becoming more difficult.

A recent visitor study of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument indicates that approximately 600,000 people visit the area every year. While most of the visitors remain in the Front Country visitor areas, exploration into the backcountry is increasing. Visitors come from throughout the United States and the world. About 14% of visitors are from Utah, 13% from California, 6% from Arizona, 5% from Colorado, and 10% from other western states. About 30% come from the other 39 states leaving 23% from other countries. The average visitor spends three days in the area. Only 20% of these visitors indicated that the Monument was their primary destination. Many of these visitors end up exploring the forest. The most common visitor activities reported were hiking, photography, scenic driving, and viewing natural features. Escalante and Bryce Canyon are the two most visited communities near the Monument. Boulder also experienced high visitation. The average amount spent by a group of three to the area was just under \$500. This means that more than \$20.6 million is being directly spent in Garfield and Kane counties because of the designated Monument. This is the equivalent of more than 430 full-time jobs. (A Front Country Visitor Study for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah State University, Professional Report IORT PR2006-01, April 2006).

More specifically, trends and conditions:

Garfield County, the fifth largest county in the state has the highest percentage of federal land (over

90%) in a county in the state of Utah.¹² The county contains over one million acres of National Forest System lands (including the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area) and large areas of other federal land, including portions of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. There are only about 170,000 acres of private land in the county. Public lands provide both challenges and opportunities for economic development in the county. The county is sparsely populated and is only projected to grow at a 1.0 percent rate annually between 2005 and 2050, a rate below the state average.

According to a 2003 Utah Bureau of Economic Analysis Report, Garfield County residents had one of the five lowest levels of total personal income in the state for 2003. Additionally, Garfield County had the second highest unemployment rate (10.8 percent) in the state according to 2003 Utah Department of Workforce Services information, exceeded only by Emery County's 11.0 percent unemployment rate. Slow job growth and unemployment are recurrent problems for the county. Traditionally, county residents have relied primarily upon ranching and timber. While there is a desire to retain these traditional sources of economic opportunity, services related to recreation and tourism are growing quickly in the county. Services are projected to increase from a 30.1 percent share in the Garfield County economy in 2005 to a 37.8 percent share in 2030 (State of Utah 2003).

According to Garfield County, the growth in the recreation and tourism industries has not been strong enough to provide the economic growth that has been achieved in more diverse parts of the state (Bremner 2006).¹³ While these services (mostly related to leisure and hospitality) represent the largest sector in the Garfield County economy, government jobs (the sector ranked second) make up a much higher percentage of payroll wages (State of Utah 2003). There is a perception that leisure and hospitality jobs will not pay as much as jobs in other more traditional sectors.¹⁴ According to Garfield County, ". . . Garfield County is struggling economically. Schools are showing declining enrollment, and additional natural resource based industries have been all but eliminated in the county. . . Garfield County is struggling and unless changes [in land management and opportunities] are made relatively soon, things will get tougher" (Bremner 2006). Also according to Garfield County Commissioner Maloy Dodds in testimony to Congress, "...most tourist-generated jobs generally are minimal skill, minimum wage jobs – not the kind that can support a family." Another important fact that the Commissioner noted, "Federal destination areas [are] a mixed blessing at best" for Garfield County because increased visitors can be a burden to the county in terms of increased cost of garbage and search and rescue operations (Testimony to House Resources Committee's Forest and Forest Health Subcommittee, June 15, 2005).

The closest communities to the river segment are Escalante and Boulder. Escalante is projected to grow from about 800 people in 2000 to about 1300 in 2050. Boulder is projected to grow from 180 in 2000 to around 300 in 2050.

The river segment and the areas below Highway 12 are also used regularly by residents of Wayne County. Wayne County has the second highest percentage of federal land of any county in the state. The county

¹⁴ In the book *Visions of the Grand Staircase-Escalante* (compiled at the time of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument planning process in the 1990s), Gail Blattenberger and David Kiefer acknowledge, "[m]inimum wages plus tips at Ruby's Inn are what the locals [in Garfield County] envisage from the service industry, but high tech service enterprises are also viable given an investment in communications infrastructure." Blattenberger and Kiefer suggest that while based on past performance "economic well-being" is clearly an issue in Kane and Garfield counties, "[e]xtractive industries are not an optimal or even a viable solution to the economic situation in these counties." Furthermore, "change will certainly come to these economies" and be met with "resistance (because of) the desire for a land-based economy (which is) seen as crucial to the quality of life in the rural West." According to the authors, the key is to "find ways of preserving our land-based Western heritage and lifestyle (which are so important to rural residents) along with the natural treasures of the countryside." Roughly 10 years later, we seem to face the same conditions, trends, attitudes, fears, opportunities, and challenges (Blattenberger and Kiefer 1998).

contains about 160,000 acres of National Forest System lands. The county contains the second fewest acres of private land in the state, trailing only Daggett County (which is four times smaller than Wayne County) by about 8,000 acres. From 2004 to 2005, Wayne County was only one of three counties to register negative population growth. The county had a -0.6% annual growth rate (the lowest in the State) (State of Utah 2006). However, from 2005 to 2050, the county is projected to almost double in population and grow at a 1.2 percent annual growth rate (State of Utah 2005).

Education and health services is the largest sector in the Wayne County economy. This sector is buoyed by the presence of Aspen Health Services' Aspen Achievement Academy, a wilderness therapy program that is a major county employer. Headquartered in Loa, the program operates on BLM and Forest Service lands. Government is the second largest sector in the county. Since 1980 agriculture has decreased dramatically and services have increased, a trend that is projected to continue into 2030. In 1980, agriculture made up 26.9 percent of the economy, while services took only a 3.5 percent share. By 2002, agriculture had declined to 13.8 percent and services had increased to 24.9 percent. In 2030, *People and the Forests* projects that agriculture will take a 6.5 percent share, while services will have increased to 30.3 percent (State of Utah 2003). This increase is visible in the increasingly popular tourist venue of Torrey at the gateway to Capitol Reef National Park.

While agriculture continues to decline, it is an important part of the county's traditions and customs. Many county residents work multiple jobs to keep the traditions of the past alive. The Wayne County General Plan identifies tourism promotion as an important economic development tool; however, there is concern over preserving quality of life while implementing this strategy.

Wayne County continues to struggle with issues of poverty. The county's 1999 poverty rate exceeded 15 percent, almost one and one-half times the state average (State of Utah 2003). Total personal income in Wayne County is the fourth lowest in the state. Growth rates of total personal income were second to last in the state from 2000 to 2003 (Bureau of Economic Analysis 2003).

Teasdale, Grover, and Torrey are the closest towns in Wayne County to the river segment. Torrey, population 171 (2005), is not expect to grow dramatically in the next 50 years. Other communities in Wayne County (e.g., Teasdale and Grover) are not expected to grow rapidly.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS. U.S. Forest Service and BLM would share management of the segment.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

Not applicable as the segment is entirely on land managed by the Forest Service.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with

protection of river values.

Not applicable as the segment is entirely on land managed by the Forest Service.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Garfield County is working on a Resource Management Plan for all lands in the county. They have included an analysis of Wild and Scenic Rivers in their discussions. While their RMP supports the designation of Cataract Canyon (Colorado River) and the Dirty Devil River as Wild and Scenic Rivers, the county does not support the designation of Mamie Creek.

During the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests eligibility process, the county expressed repeated concern over the eligibility determinations made for this and other river segments on the Escalante Ranger District. The county does not believe that the Escalante River system is suitable because its flow is too regulated by irrigators.

When representatives of the Forest met with staff from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation in July 2006, the Tribes indicated that they favored “preservation” of forest resources including Wild and Scenic Rivers. No official communications from the Tribes confirming this support has been received.

During the scoping and DEIS comment periods, the forest did not receive many comments in support or opposition to the suitability of this river segment. Garfield County expressed some opposition. Opposition from these entities doesn’t appear to be as strong given that the segment is already protected by Wilderness designation. Many have questioned whether the additional protections available under wild and scenic rivers designation are necessary to protect the river segment. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Downstream from the Forest Service boundary, GSENM found Mamie Creek on BLM lands below the forest boundary to be suitable for designation because of “high scenic quality, part of an ONA, high recreational use, natural bridge, fish and wildlife habitat, prehistoric and historic sites including an historic mail trail, and riparian areas” (Appendix 11, GSENM FEIS Monument Plan).

The Dixie National Forest, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Bryce Canyon National Park, and GSENM all worked together on eligibility for this river segment. Final determinations of suitability were reserved for individual agencies to make on their own.

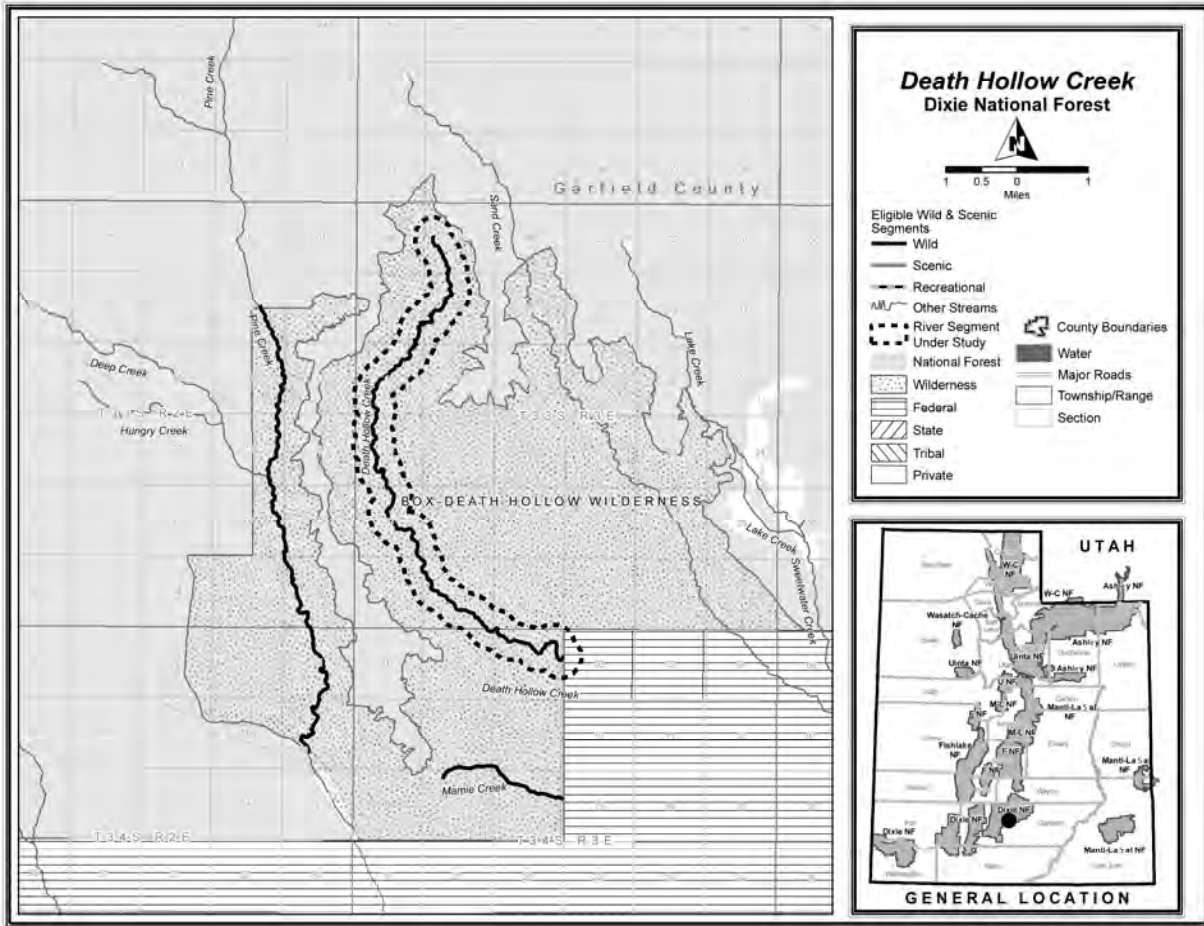
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Mamie Creek was not noted by the GSENM as one of the Escalante River tributaries that contributes significantly to the flow of the Escalante River.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed.

Death Hollow Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Death Hollow Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 19.5 miles, from headwaters to Mamie Creek

Eligible: 9.6 miles, from the headwaters to the forest boundary (Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Boundary)

Location:

Death Hollow Creek	Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District, Garfield County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 15, T 33S, R 3E, SLM	SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 4, T 34S, R 3E, SLM	Wild	9.6

Physical Description of River:

Death Hollow Creek is a small creek that runs down a broad canyon in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness know as “Death Hollow”. The upper headwaters of Death Hollow Creek are located in open ponderosa pine stand with a manzanita understory that is surrounded by thousand foot cliffs. The upper reach of the river typically is ephemeral with flows typically occurring December through May, and following localized late summer thunderstorms. The lower reaches of the river flow through the Escalante

Monocline and into Navajo Sandstone where the canyon narrows into a slot canyon and slickrock pocket catch and hold water year-round.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Appendix 4, Wild and Scenic River Eligibility, Grand Staircase National Monument, 1998

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of Death Hollow Creek on National Forest System lands.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic – Death Hollow Creek is a small creek that runs down a broad canyon in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness known as “Death Hollow”. The upper headwaters of Death Hollow Creek are located in an open ponderous pine stand with a manzanita understory that is surrounded by thousand foot cliffs. The upper reach of the river typically is ephemeral with flows typically occurring December through May, and following localized late summer thunderstorms. The lower reaches of the river flow through the Escalante Monocline and into Navajo Sandstone where the canyon narrows into a slot canyon and slickrock pocket catch and hold water year-round.

Recreational – There are no Forest Service system trails that access the river, but there is a route that is used to access the river as it carves its way down through the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area. The access route starts on the “Hells Backbone Road” (FS Road #30153) and steeply descends down a rocky rough route. This access point acts as the only way to enter or leave the drainage without hiking 20 or more miles. The route receives very low use and is primarily used by hikers attempting to travel the brutal 3 to 4 day trip to the Escalante River. This route requires swimming, rock climbing, and advanced navigation skills. The lower half of the drainage is managed by the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Ecological, cultural, wildlife, and paleontological – During the interagency process (between the Dixie National Forest, Grand Staircase-Escalante N.M., and Glen Canyon NRA), eligible river segments were identified across agency boundaries. ORVs were determined across the interagency segments. At the beginning of this Forest Service Utah Statewide Suitability project, the Forest Service revalidated the presence of individual ORVs on these river segments. Some ORVs were present on lands administered by other agencies (e.g., downstream on GSENM), but not found on the Forest Service administered segment. The ecological, cultural, wildlife, and paleontological ORVs identified in the interagency report is not found to be regionally significant on the Forest Service portions of the segment.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

There are no roads present in the river corridor. There are no Forest Service system trails that access the river. The river corridor is located entirely in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The eligible river corridor is a 9.6 mile-long river segment that encompasses about 2801 acres, and is entirely on National Forest System (NFS) lands in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness, administered by the Dixie National Forest.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 9.6	Dixie National Forest (Escalante Ranger District)	2801

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are two suspended authorized oil and gas lease within the river corridor. The leases were filed in 1968 by D. Rowell for CO₂ mining at T 34S, R 3E, Section 4 and Section 6. Currently there is no activity or development associated with this lease.

Death Hollow Creek is located in the Box-Death Hollow Roadless Area. According to the Dixie National Forest Roadless Area Minerals Evaluation the potential for this area is as follows:

Mineral Potential:

Oil and Gas: Currently there are no producing oil or natural gas wells or fields in this area. However, Escalante Carbon Dioxide Field (Known Geologic Structure)—which contains and has been developed for carbon dioxide gas—lies partially within the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area and adjacent lands of this roadless area are being evaluated. Current leases within the wilderness area that predated wilderness designation have been suspended by BLM, pending further analysis. Wells within the wilderness area are shut-in. No additional leasing can occur with the wilderness because the Utah Wilderness Act of 1983 prohibits additional leasing. The shut-in wells with prior existing rights could be developed. The adjacent areas within this roadless area are available for leasing.

Oil potential associated with four possible plays (Late Proterozoic/Cambrian, Devonian-Pennsylvanian, Late Paleozoic, and Permo-Triassic Unconformity) is ranked as moderate to high (low certainty) along the eastern and southern portions of the Teasdale and Escalante Ranger Districts. This roadless area lies within this prospective area. Petroleum development potential is ranked by the UGS as low-moderate with the highest potential relative to the Devonian-Pennsylvanian and Permo-Triassic Plays. However, this area probably has lower potential due to the volcanic activity to the north and carbon dioxide gas occurrence. Natural gas occurrence and development potential is low-none.

Carbon Dioxide: The Escalante Carbon Dioxide Known Geologic Structure lies within this area as described above. Several expressions of interest for leasing and pre-sale offers have been made in this area for additional leasing, which are currently pending. If leases are issued, additional exploratory drilling and development could occur, however there is no market for carbon dioxide within a reasonable distance of the field and there are no pipelines in the general area to connect to for transport to existing market areas. Carbon dioxide occurrence potential is high but development potential is ranked as low-moderate due to the lack of a market.

Geothermal: Occurrence potential is unknown due to the lack of identified thermal wells and springs. Due to the lack of information, the development potential is considered low.

Coal: There are known mineable coal deposits in this area.

Locatable Minerals: There are no known valuable deposits of base or precious metals or other locatable minerals. Development potential is low.

Common Variety: There are known deposits of sandstones and colluvium derived from volcanic rocks to the north. There is potential for the development of sandstone and rounded colluvium for decorative or building stone, and riprap.

References:

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Water Resources Development – The study area is the stream section of Death Hollow Creek located within the Box Death Hollow Wilderness. The section begins at the Wilderness boundary in NWNE Section 6, T33S, R3E and ends at the Forest/Wilderness boundary in SENE Section 4, T34S, R3E.

According to the Utah State Division of Water Rights database, the only claim directly on Death Hollow Creek belongs to the Forest Service (97-540), claiming the portion of the stream in Section 4, T34S, R3E to the Forest boundary for stock watering. The BLM claims the portion of the stream just outside the boundary in Section 3, T34S, R3E (97-791).

There are no other claims within the Death Hollow and Right Fork Death Hollow sections of the Wilderness. There are two tributaries that appear to be the headwaters of Death Hollow Creek, but these are north of the Wilderness near Roger Peak, and the only claims within two miles of the tributaries belong to the Forest Service. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – There are no roads, trails, other facilities and/or other developments located in the river corridor.

Grazing Activities – The river segment is not located within any grazing allotment, therefore there is no grazing activities or development related to grazing.

Recreation Activities – There are no Forest Service system trails that access the river, but there is a route that is used to access the river as it carves its way down through the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area. The access route starts on the “Hells Backbone Road” (FS Road #30153) and steeply descends down a rocky rough route. This access point acts as the only way to enter or leave the drainage without hike 20 or miles. The route receives very low use and is primarily use by hikers attempting to travel the brutal 3 to 4 day trip to the Escalante River. This route requires swimming, rock climbing, and advanced navigation skills. The lower half of the drainage is managed by the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

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Socio-Economic Environment – The river segment is located within Garfield County. Boulder and Escalante are the two closest towns. Access to the area is provided by Highway 12 – an All-American Road. Cottonwood Canyon flows from the Dixie National Forest onto the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Garfield County is a largely rural county where traditional natural resource economic endeavors have dominated historically. In recent years, there has been a growth in recreation, tourism, and services. Much of this growth in recreation and tourism can be attributed to the designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996. The county is struggling to retain rural traditions and lifestyles as well as “working” connections with the land. In the face of rising land values and globalization, traditional industries such as farming and ranching are becoming more difficult. Second home ownership has increased in the county dramatically. Over 60% of property tax notices in Garfield County are sent out of the county (39% out of state or country). Educating these occasional land users about special values and proper use is becoming more difficult.

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Teasdale, Grover, and Torrey are the closest towns in Wayne County to the river segment. Torrey, population 171 (2005), is not expected to grow dramatically in the next 50 years. Other communities in Wayne County (e.g., Teasdale and Grover) are not expected to grow rapidly.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS. The Dixie National Forest in cooperation with the GSENM would administer and manage a designated river segment.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

Not applicable as the segment is entirely on land managed by the National Forest.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not applicable as the segment is entirely on land managed by the National Forest.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Garfield County is working on a Resource Management Plan for all lands in the county. They have included an analysis of Wild and Scenic Rivers in their discussions. While their RMP supports the designation of Cataract Canyon (Colorado River) and the Dirty Devil River as Wild and Scenic Rivers, the county does not support the designation of Death Hollow Creek.

During the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests eligibility process, the county expressed repeated concern over the eligibility determinations made for this and other river segments on the Escalante Ranger District. The county does not believe that the Escalante River system is suitable because its flow is too regulated by irrigators.

When representatives of the Forest met with staff from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation in July 2006, the Tribes indicated that they favored "preservation" of forest resources including Wild and Scenic Rivers. No official communications from the Tribes confirming this support have been received.

During the scoping and DEIS comment periods, the forest received many comments on Death Hollow Creek. Many people and groups expressed interest in seeing this river segment designated. It was part of a group of rivers suggested for a positive suitability finding by a group of conservation organizations. All

of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment. Garfield County and others are opposed to designation. Opposition from these entities doesn't appear to be as strong given that the segment is already protected by Wilderness designation. Many have questioned whether the additional protections available under wild and scenic rivers designation are necessary to protect the river segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Downstream from the forest boundary, the GSENM found Death Hollow Creek to be suitable for designation because of “high scenic quality, part of an ONA, southwestern willow flycatcher habitat, prehistoric sites, dinosaur tracks, and riparian areas” (Appendix 11, GSENM FEIS Monument Plan).

The Dixie National Forest, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Bryce Canyon National Park, and GSENM all worked together on eligibility for this river segment. Final determinations of suitability were reserved for individual agencies to make on their own.

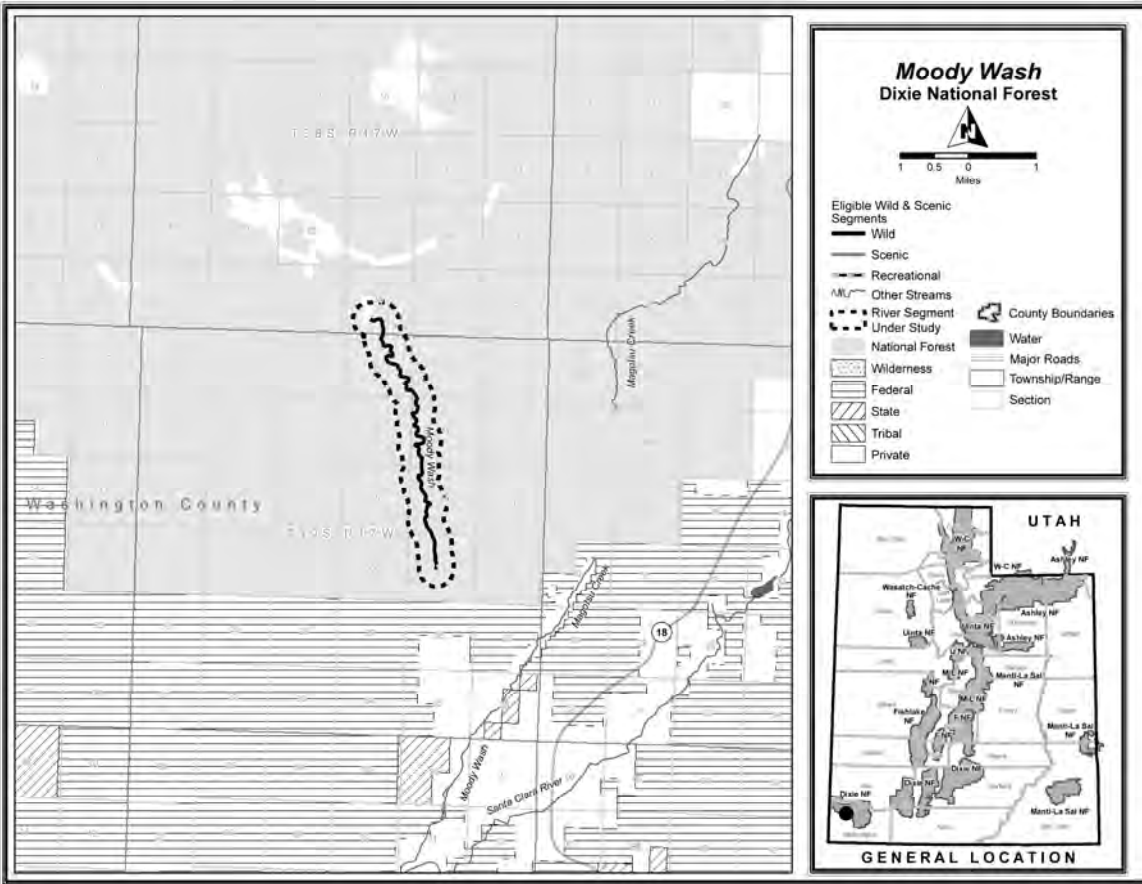
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The GSENM Management Plan and associated analysis identified Death Hollow Creek among the primary contributors to the Escalante River system.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed.

Moody Wash River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Moody Wash

River Mileage:

Studied: 12 miles, from headwaters to Santa Clara River

Eligible: 5 miles, from headwaters to Forest boundary

Location:

Moody Wash	Dixie National Forest, Pine Valley Ranger District, Washington County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW/SW 34 T 38 S R 17 E, SLM	SW/NW 23 T 39 S R 17 E, SLM	Wild	5*

*Eligibility determinations were made pending “ground truthing” of ORVs. Upon ground truthing Moody Wash, it was determined that only 5.08 miles contained the ORV. The new segment reflects the segment that is truly eligible.

Physical Description of River:

Moody Wash is a semi-arid desert stream system that is very closely connected to and dependant upon a shallow alluvial groundwater table. The mainstem of Moody Wash from its beginning approximately one mile above the Racer Canyon confluence to near the Forest boundary is considered a mid-elevation, transitional reach characterized by regular upwelling and downwelling of surface flow. Summer low

flows become intermittent, with areas of downwelling and upwelling that support and maintain a cottonwood and willow riparian plant community. The area is semi-arid, with average annual precipitation of approximately 12-18 inches. High flows typically occur December through May, but peak flows also occur from localized late summer thunderstorms. The upper headwaters of Moody Wash are typically more ephemeral in nature due to the small catchment's area that supplies runoff. The middle mainstem reach of Moody Wash primarily consists of narrow, single channel reaches with occasional wider sediment deposition zones. Seeps at the beginning of the mainstem, as well as flow from Racer Canyon, contribute to perennial surface flows in this reach. The approximately last 1.5 miles of the stream to the Forest boundary broaden out into a large depositional area that tends towards a multi-threaded channel system. This depositional area extends below the Forest boundary and is naturally more ephemeral in nature due to regular subbing of surface water into the streambed sediments. Moody Wash develops surface flow again just upstream of the confluence with Magotsu Creek.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Fishlake and Dixie National Forests Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Evaluation, June 2007

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of Moody Wash on National Forest System lands. The river segment is intermittent in the traditional sense with water flowing at the surface in some places and below the surface in other places. Where the river flows below ground, the shallow water table supports riparian vegetation and often puddles.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Ecological – Moody Wash is a semi-arid desert stream system that is very closely connected to and dependant upon a shallow alluvial groundwater table. Summer low flows become intermittent, with areas of downwelling and upwelling that support and maintain a cottonwood and willow riparian plant community. Flows also support year-round populations of Virgin spinedace, speckled dace, and desert sucker, and amphibians such as the Arizona toad and canyon tree frog. The shallow groundwater table is recharged from winter-spring flows and summer thunderstorm flows, which also provide periods of perennial flow throughout the drainage, connecting populations of fish species during these high flows. Unlike the majority of similar systems in southwest Utah and the southwest U.S. that have been impacted by development, groundwater pumping, channel modifications, and invasive species such as tamarisk, Moody Wash is still a fully functioning semi-arid desert stream system. Moody Wash supports healthy, self-sustaining populations of native wildlife, including State of Utah sensitive species, and diverse, resilient riparian plant communities.

Geological/Hydrological – Moody Wash's close connectivity to a shallow alluvial groundwater table as well as its regular inundation by flood events play a primary role in the support of the riparian and aquatic ecosystem. The mainstem of Moody Wash from its beginning approximately 1 mile above the Racer Canyon confluence to near the Forest boundary is considered a midelevation, transitional reach characterized by regular upwelling and downwelling of surface flow. Because of these conditions, this kind of system is particularly sensitive to human disturbances such as dams, diversions, and groundwater pumping. Moody Wash is unique to other semi-arid streams in southwest Utah in that it is a rare system that has not been impaired by these common kinds of disturbances, and is still intact and functioning. In addition, Moody Wash is unique to the majority of other stream systems in southwest Utah draining into the Virgin River Basin in that it is dominated by volcanic geology versus the more typical sedimentary limestone and sandstone well known to the area.

Fish – Moody Wash is considered a very important refuge area for Virgin spinedace (*Lepidomeda mollispinis mollispinis*), a state sensitive species, in the Virgin River Basin. It is the only tributary to the

Santa Clara River that has its historic range intact and occupied. During annual periods of high flow spinedace are connected throughout the drainage; in periods of low flow spinedace recede to upper areas of perennial flow as refugia habitat. The population of Virgin spinedace in Moody Wash is a self-sustaining, breeding population, and is considered an important population that could be used to restock other areas. Moody Wash also contains desert sucker (*Catostomus clarkia*), also a state sensitive species list, speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*), and habitat for the Arizona toad (*Bufo microscaphus*) (also called southwestern toad), another state sensitive species.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

There are approximately two miles of motorized four-wheel-drive route along the lower section of Moody Wash to the Forest boundary. The rest of the access in Moody Wash and Racer Canyon is via a non-motorized trail. A major utility corridor crosses Moody Wash near the Forest boundary.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The eligible river corridor consist is a 8.85 mile-long river segment encompasses about 2615.3 acres, and is predominantly on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Dixie National Forest. The segment does have a 14.79 acre privately-owned section of property that is located within the corridor. In addition, there is a 39.47 acre section of privately-owned property directly bisects the river segment, and occurs entirely within the corridor. The river segment through the privately-owned property is 0.2 miles long.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 3.07	Dixie National Forest (Pine Valley Ranger District)	982
3.07 – 3.27	Private land (40 acres lot size, 0.2 mile segment)	40
3.27 – 5.08	Dixie National Forest (Pine Valley Ranger District)	1786
Total:		2802 acres

Moody Wash	Start	End	Miles
Dixie National Forest	SE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 30, T 38S, R 17W, SLM	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 34, T 38S, R 17W, SLM	3.07
Private Land	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 34, T 38S, R 17W, SLM	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 34, T 38S, R 17W, SLM	0.2
Dixie National Forest	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 34, T 38S, R 17W, SLM	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 23, T 39S, R 17W, SLM	1.81

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no existing salable, locatable, or leasable mineral and energy resources development in the eligible segment. There are two closed claims located on the private land. The first closed claim was and oil and gas lease from 1980 to 1986 (E ½ of NW ¼ NW ¼ sect. 34, T 38, R 17W SLM—lots 1-7). The second closed claim was an abandonment claim form 1988 to 1994 (NW ¼ SW ¼ sect. 34, T 38, R 17W SLM) (NE ¼ SE ¼ sect. 33, T 38, R 17W SLM).

Moody Wash is located in the Moody Wash Roadless Area. According to the Dixie National Forest Roadless Area Minerals Evaluation the potential for this area was as follows:

Oil and Gas: Currently there are no producing wells or fields in this area. It has been only lightly

explored.

Tertiary volcanic rocks cover the entire area. Oil potential associated with the hypothetical Late Paleozoic play is ranked as moderate (low certainty).

This area is not prospective for the discovery of natural gas due to the occurrence of volcanic rock and the lack of known source rocks. The Cretaceous conventional play associated with trap structures in Cretaceous sandstones and coalbed methane in the coal bearing Cretaceous Dakota Formation as are the southern portions of the other Dixie National Forest Districts to the east. In the southern areas of the other Districts occurrence potential is rated by the UGS as moderate (low to moderate certainty). Development potential is rated as low because the area is remote from established markets and pipelines and the maturity of the source rocks is questionable on providing adequate hydrocarbon generation for economic accumulations.

If leases are issued, exploratory drilling could occur.

Carbon Dioxide: This area is extremely faulted and deformed. Low potential for occurrence (low certainty). Development potential is low-none because there is no market.

Geothermal: There are known Geothermal Resource areas to the north and south outside the Forest boundaries. However, occurrence potential is rated as unknown due to the lack of identified thermal wells and springs. Development potential is low.

Coal: This area is located along the northern extent of the New Harmony Coal Field. Any coal seams in the area have been extensively deformed and faulted by uplift and formation of the Pine Valley Mountains. Occurrence potential is low-moderate and development potential is low-none.

Locatable Minerals: There are no active mining claims in this area. There are no known valuable locatable mineral deposits in this area. However, faulted igneous rocks dominate the area, indicating that the area may be prospective for base and precious metals. Occurrence and development potential are considered to be low-moderate.

Common Variety: Igneous rocks cover the entire area. Igneous rock and associated colluvium could be developed for riprap, gravel, landscaping rock, and building stone. Development potential is considered moderate, probably on a small scale.

References:

Utah Geological Survey, 2004, The Oil, Gas, Coalbed Gas, Carbon Dioxide and Geothermal Resources of the Fishlake National Forest, Southwestern Utah, April 30, 2004.

Doelling, H.H., 1972. Southwestern Utah Coal Fields: Alton, Kaiparowits Plateau and Kolob-Harmony. Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, Monograph Series No. 1, 1972.

Bullock, Kenneth C., 1970. Iron Deposits of Utah. Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, Bulletin 88, December 1970.

Smith, Martha R., and Milligan, Mark R., Metalliferous Resources of Utah, Public Information Series 57, Utah Geological Survey, Salt Lake City, Utah

Water Resources Development – There are no historic, current, or known planned Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits or license applications for this corridor. There are no dams, diversions,

or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Service Road # 30860 provides access to the lower two mile of Moody Wash and is located in the river corridor. The road also forks 0.5 miles up from the Forest boundary and follows the utility corridor. Forest Service Road #30354 dead-ends 0.25 mile from the upper reach of the river corridor. A non-system non-motorized trail continues from the roads terminus and follows the river corridor down to FS Road’s #30860 terminus. The non-system non-motorized trail is on National Forest land with the exception of where it crosses the 40 acre parcel of privately-owned land.

There is a developed springhead located at the Forest Service owned water right (S. 1980ft., E. 660 ft. from the N corner of Section 33, T 38S, R 17W.). The purpose of the development is to provide water for cattle on the Bull Valley Allotment.

A major utility corridor crosses the river corridor approximately 0.6 mile north of the forest boundary (SE ¼ NW ¼ sect. 23, T 39, R 17W SLM). The utility corridor contains a power-line, two buried natural gas pipelines, and one buried fiber-optic line. The power-lines span from bank-to-bank, while the natural gas lines and the fiber-optic line are subsurface within the river corridor.

There are no developments on the privately-owned land within the river corridor.

Grazing Activities – The river segment is located within the Bull Valley Allotment (#00102) and the Gunlock Allotment (#00106). The Bull Valley allotment consists of 37,927 acres and is an active allotment with seven permittees. The Gunlock Allotment consists of 42,034 acres and is an active allotment with five permittees.

Bull Valley Allotment		
<u>Permittee Name</u>	<u>Number of mature cow/Nursing</u>	<u>Active Grazing Dates</u>
S.C. Cattle Co.	16	06/01 to 09/30
W. & R. Mathis	27	06/01 to 09/30
D.G. Hafen	49	06/01 to 09/30
G. B. Ranch	97	06/01 to 09/30
D. Frei	103	06/01 to 09/30
S. Frei	52	06/01 to 09/30
J.C. Frei	127	06/01 to 09/30

Gunlock Allotment		
<u>Permittee Name</u>	<u>Number of mature cow/Nursing</u>	<u>Active Grazing Dates</u>
E.L. Bowler	159	06/01 to 09/30
M.T. & L.L. Bowler	66	06/01 to 09/30
J.M. & S.L Bowler	61	06/01 to 09/30
J.H. Bowler	84	06/01 to 09/30
F.L. & M.E. Bowler	248	06/01 to 09/30

Recreation Activities – Recreational use of the Moody Wash drainage is considered low. Currently both FS Road #30860 and #30354 receive low to moderate ATV/OHV use. The lower section of FS Road #30860 does receive low to moderate use from full-size vehicles, but most tend to follow the utility

corridor to the east. The non-system trail that access Moody Wash is considered a low use trail, but does receive use for grazing administration and hunting purposes.

Other Resource Activities – Due to the limited access, topography, and vegetation composition, other river corridor uses, such as timber harvest and farming, are not foreseeable uses. Pine Valley Ranger District has experienced frequent and large fires. Restoring vegetation, post-fire, can be a challenge for land managers. Some of the most successful methods for seeding areas post-fire involved mechanical manipulation of the land and heavy equipment.

Special Designations – The Moody Wash river corridor is entirely located in the Dixie National Forest’s Moody Wash Roadless Area (1999 Roadless Areas). The purpose of designated roadless areas under the 1999 Road Rule was “to restrict certain activities such as road construction and reconstruction into the unroaded portions of inventoried roadless areas and to establish a process for evaluating possible limitations on activities in other uninventoried unroaded areas through forest planning at the local level.”

Socio-Economic Environment – The river segment and corridor are all located within Washington County. The eastern part of Washington County (particularly St. George, Hurricane, and Washington cities) is one of the fastest growing areas in the entire country. The river segment is located in the very sparsely populated and rugged western part of the county. Local towns such as Veyo, Gunlock, Central, and Pine Valley are likely to see some growth in the next 20-50 years – approximately doubling by 2020, then six times larger by 2050 – but will remain less densely populated than the eastern part of the county which is expected to grow to over a half million people by 2050. The western communities retain much of their rural character and lifestyle. Ranching and farming still dominate the communities.

More specific information about Washington County:

The rugged National Forest System lands in the county include the 50,200-acre Pine Valley Mountain Wilderness Area north of St. George. The lack of future developable private lands to accommodate projected growth is a major issue for county leaders (Washington County Commission 2006). Due to mild winter weather and the quality of life offered by the area (which includes proximity to public lands¹⁸), Washington County has been the fastest growing county in the state (and one of the fastest in the country (U.S. Census Bureau 2005)) for the past several years. Growth is spread across the county. Annual growth rates for the communities of Washington, Hurricane, Ivins, and Santa Clara from 2000 to 2002 exceeded 10 percent, surpassing even St. George (State of Utah 2005). From 2004 to 2005 the county grew at a rate of 8.4 percent (State of Utah 2006). The county is projected to sustain a 3.9 percent growth rate through 2050, with total population projected to increase from 125,010 people in 2005 to 607,334 people by 2050 (State of Utah 2005). Much of the growth seen in recent years is due to the relocation of retiring baby-boomers to the area. Increased conflicts over the availability of private land, water, and open space will be a key trend in this area (State of Utah 2003, Washington County Commission 2006).

The trade, transportation, and utilities sector is currently the largest industry in Washington County (State of Utah 2003). In the period from 1980 to 2002, as the economy grew (service sector doubled) in other areas, many traditional industries (e.g., farming and ranching) saw their share of the county economy decrease. In fact, agriculture went from almost 5 percent of the economy to 1 percent (State of Utah 2003).

Between 2005 and 2030, government employment will likely remain the same and services will continue to grow, while traditional industries will likely continue to struggle. Health and education services are

¹⁸ It is unclear how much of an impact the proximity to National Forest System lands contributes to bringing people to relocate in the region. This is an area for future research.

expected to grow to meet the demands of increased population (State of Utah 2003).

Washington County has a high job growth rate (Utah Business 2006) and a relatively diverse economic base. Per capita income in Washington County more closely approaches state averages than other counties in the planning area (State of Utah 2003). Low wages in the tourism industry are a concern for county officials (Washington County Commission 2006). Despite being below state averages for wage income, Washington County residents, buoyed by retirees, have the fifth highest total personal income in the state. Total personal income increased at the second fastest rate (exceeded only by Uintah County) in the state during the period from 2000 to 2003 (Bureau of Economic Analysis 2003).

Much of the Washington County General Plan is focused on public lands issues. County leaders will continue to seek working relationships with federal agencies to improve management of Federal lands that are viewed as critical to the county economy.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The U.S. Forest Service would be the administering agency if the river segment were designated. There is an existing conservation agreement that is being coordinated by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources for the Virgin River Spinedace.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

U.S. Forest Service officials met with the Washington County Commission and the Washington County Water Conservancy District director on June 5, 2007. At the meeting, the Washington County Conservancy District indicated a willingness and interest in participating in watershed improvement projects in the Moody Wash area.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has a Conservation Agreement for the Virgin River Spinedace. This agreement – which the Forest Service participates in as a partner – should serve to protect fish species and provide for water quantity/quality and other resource benefits.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

During the forest's eligibility process, the Dixie National Forest received comments from the Washington County Commission and Washington County Water Conservancy District in opposition to eligibility. In subsequent meetings, both entities have expressed opposition to suitability as well.

Local ranchers are the primary users of the river corridor. With the exception of Ed Bowler, who attended the June 5, 2007 meeting with the county and conservancy district to express concern, most of these people have not been actively involved in the public process. Anecdotally, they do not support designation of the river segment.

When representatives of the Forest met with staff from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation in July 2006, the Tribes indicated that they favored “preservation” of forest resources including Wild and Scenic Rivers. No official communications from the Tribes confirming this support have been received.

During the scoping and DEIS comment periods, the forest received many comments on Moody Wash. Many people expressed interest in seeing this river segment designated. It was part of a group of rivers suggested for a positive suitability finding by a group of conservation organizations. All of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment. Washington County, Washington County Water Conservancy District, and others have expressed strong opposition to designation. Meanwhile, strong interest has been expressed from many parties (including local and state government) in greater conservation measures for protection of some of the species and ecological qualities of the river segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would contribute to state and regional protection and recovery objectives for the Virgin spinedace outlined in the Virgin Spinedace Conservation Agreement and Strategy.

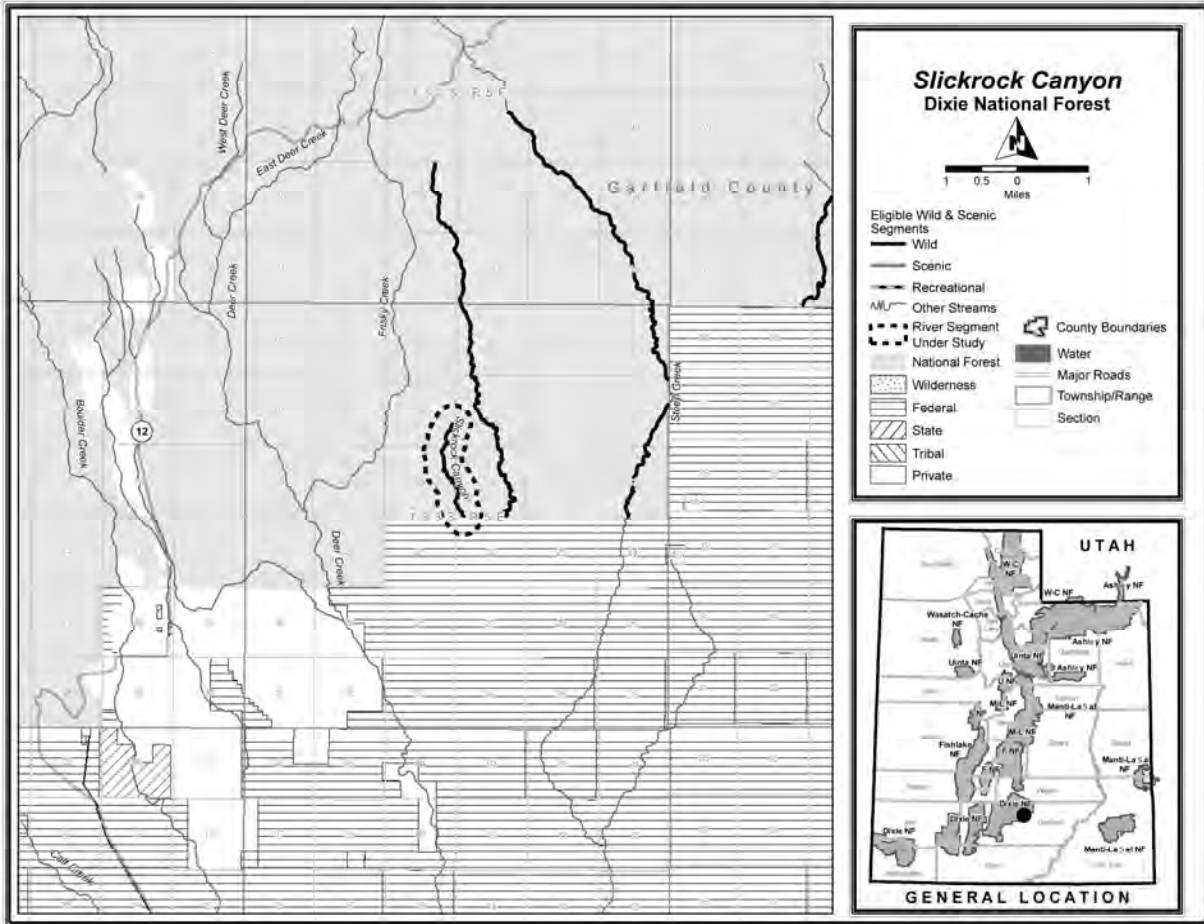
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The Virgin River Water Basin is very large and Moody Wash does not contribute much water to the basin. It is a unique area in the basin because of the volcanic geology, but isn't likely critical to basin integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment. Washington County Water Conservancy District has expressed a willingness to help provide volunteers and to partner for water conservation and for watershed improvement.

The Dixie NF is beginning to coordinate with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources on developing some form of cooperative management strategy in Moody Wash (meeting in the works for fall 2007), as well as the Dixie National Forest becoming involved with the Virgin Spinedace Conservation Team. With active coordination with these groups, there is a high level of partnership potential.

Slickrock Canyon Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Slickrock Canyon

River Mileage:

Studied: 4.4 miles, from headwaters to private land (T 33S, R 5E, Sect. 33)

Eligible: 1.6 miles, from headwaters to Forest boundary

Location:

Slickrock Canyon	Located on Dixie National Forest, administered by Fishlake National Forest, Fremont River Ranger District, Garfield County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
	NE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 9, T 33S, R 5E, SLM	SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 15, T 33S, R 5E, SLM	Wild	1.6

Physical Description of River: Slickrock Canyon is located on the Fremont River Ranger District below Highway 12. The canyon is dominated by slickrock and ledge with pinyon and juniper trees transitioning to ponderosa pine. This is an ephemeral/intermittent stream.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Appendix 4, Wild and Scenic River Eligibility, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM), 1998.

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of Slickrock Canyon on National Forest System lands.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – The area offers dramatic contrasts of color, texture, and slope common to other similar drainages in the surrounding landscape. This short segment (1.6 miles) of riparian corridor on the Fishlake National Forest parallels Cottonwood Canyon, yet is broader and more intermittent. The east facing escarpment of the mesa to the west, which the Long Neck Trail (non-motorized) traverses towards the north, is a significant visual feature as seen from this limited segment. The scenic value of the area is less than that found lower in the drainage on the GSEM

Recreational – The area within the canyon itself on the Fishlake National Forest receives a low-level of use by hikers and backpackers. The Long Neck Trail (#34017) located to the west above on the mesa, facilitates access to this segment’s headwaters area. The steep winding canyon itself, though relatively accessible from the north via this trail, provides both solitude and a primitive experience and accordingly is used by Boulder Outdoor Survival.

Cultural – The area has been used intermittently by Native Americans and pioneers. On top of Long Neck Mesa to the west there is a cabin near the beginning of the Long Neck Trail which is estimated to be over 50 years of age.

Ecological – The stream (although intermittent) and associated riparian areas are vital to an otherwise desert ecosystem.

This stream was determined to be eligible by an interagency study headed by the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in 1998.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

There are no roads present in the river corridor. There is a non-motorized trail that parallels the river to the west that is located is within the corridor.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The eligible river corridor is a 1.6 mile-long river segment and encompasses 1,866 acres, and is entirely on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Fishlake National Forest.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 1.6	Dixie National Forest administered by the Fishlake National Forest (Fremont River Ranger District)	1866
	Total	1866

The stream corridor is within Management Area 2A# (MA-2A#) according to the Dixie National Forest Plan. MA-2A# has a management emphasis on semi-primitive recreation opportunities with a “no surface occupancy” stipulation for mineral entry. The area provides multiple uses.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no existing salable, locatable, or leasable mineral and energy resources development in the eligible segment.

Slickrock Canyon is located in the Long Neck Mesa/Steep Creek/Oak Creek Roadless Area. According to the Dixie National Forest Roadless Area Minerals Evaluation the potential for this area was as follows:

Oil and Gas: Currently there are no producing wells or fields in this area. It has been only lightly explored. There are no leases, but industry has expressed interest in this general area. Expressions of Interest have been made for the area immediately to the northeast.

Oil potential associated with four possible plays (Late Proterozoic/Cambrian, Devonian-Pennsylvanian, Late Paleozoic, and Permo-Triassic Unconformity) is ranked as moderate to high (low certainty) along the eastern and southern portions of the Teasdale and Escalante Ranger Districts. Petroleum development potential is ranked by the UGS as low-moderate with the highest potential relative to the Devonian-Pennsylvanian and Permo-Triassic Plays. If leases are issued, exploratory drilling could occur. A total of 32 new exploratory wells are reasonably foreseeable for the Forest in the next 15 years. Of this total, only a couple of these would probably occur in this area. If a discovery were made, additional development wells could be drilled.

Jurassic sediments (Navajo Sandstone and Carmel Formation) are exposed in the area, however this area is not prospective for natural gas/methane due to the close proximity to the volcanic rocks of Boulder Mountain immediately to the west as well as uplift and erosion of known source/reservoir Cretaceous sedimentary rocks.

Carbon Dioxide: Moderate potential for occurrence (low certainty). Development potential is low-none because there is no market.

Geothermal: Occurrence potential is unknown due to the lack of identified thermal wells and springs. Due to the lack of known geothermal springs and wells and overall information, the development potential is considered low.

Coal: There are no known coal deposits in this area

Locatable Minerals: There are no known valuable deposits of base or precious metals or other locatable minerals. Development potential is low.

Common Variety: Sandstone, limestone and other sedimentary rocks in the area could be developed for decorative stone or building stone. Colluvium consisting of displaced sedimentary rocks and volcanic rock transported from Boulder Mountain could be developed for riprap, decorative stone, and building stone. Development potential is considered moderate, most likely on a small scale, localized basis.

References:

Utah Geological Survey, 2004, The Oil, Gas, Coalbed Gas, Carbon Dioxide and Geothermal Resources of the Fishlake National Forest, Southwestern Utah, April 30, 2004.

Doelling, H.H., 1972. Southwestern Utah Coal Fields: Alton, Kaiparowits Plateau and Kolob-Harmony. Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, Monograph Series No. 1, 1972.

Water Resources Development – There are no known planned or existing water developments (dams, diversions or channel modifications) on these segments. There are no historic, current, or known planned Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits or license applications for this corridor. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Longneck Trail (#34017) parallels the river on the plateau above to the west. The Longneck Trail is located on the Dixie National Forest (Escalante Ranger District) and is a non-motorized pack and saddle trail that is considered a low use trail.

There are no other facilities and/or other developments located in the river corridor. Slickrock Canyon river corridor is entirely located in the Long Neck Mesa/Steep Creek/Oak Creek Inventoried Roadless Area.

Grazing Activities – The river segment is located within the Oak Creek Allotment. The Oak Creek Allotment consists of 72,712 acres and is an active allotment with three permittees. There is a section of cattle fencing that extends 600 feet into the river corridor, but does not bisect the river.

Oak Creek Allotment		
<u>Permittee Name</u>	<u>Number of mature cow/Nursing</u>	<u>Active Grazing Dates</u>
B.K. & M. Taylor	196	06/01 to 10/15
Tercero Corp.	806	06/01 to 10/15
R. & K. Fillmore	76	06/01 to 10/15

Recreation Activities – Recreational use of Slickrock Canyon is considered low. The Longneck Trail (#34017) parallels the river to the west and is in the river corridor. The Longneck Trail is located on the Dixie National Forest (Escalante Ranger District) and is a non-motorized pack and saddle trail that is considered a low use trail. There is no trail located adjacent to the river, however the area is used by hikers and backpacker. The steep winding canyon provides solitude and a primitive experience.

Other Resource Activities – None.

Special Designations – None

Socio-Economic Environment – The river segment is located within Garfield County. Boulder and Escalante are the two closest towns. Access to the area is provided by Highway 12 – an All-American Road. Slickrock Canyon flows from the Dixie National Forest onto the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Garfield County is a largely rural county where traditional natural resource economic endeavors have dominated historically. In recent years, there has been a growth in recreation, tourism, and services. Much of this growth in recreation and tourism can be attributed to the designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996. The county is struggling to retain rural traditions and lifestyles as well as “working” connections with the land. In the face of rising land values and globalization, traditional industries such as farming and ranching are becoming more difficult. Second home ownership has increased in the county dramatically. Over 60% of property tax notices in Garfield County are sent out of the county (39% out of state or country).

A recent visitor study of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument indicates that approximately 600,000 people visit the area every year. While most of the visitors remain in the frontcountry visitor areas, exploration into the backcountry is increasing. Visitors come from throughout the United States and the world. About 14% of visitors are from Utah, 13% from California, 6% from Arizona, 5% from Colorado, and 10% from other western states. About 30% come from the other 39 states leaving 23% from other countries. The average visitor spends three days in the area. Only 20% of these visitors indicated that the Monument was their primary destination. Many of these visitors end up exploring the forest. The most common visitor activities reported were hiking, photography, scenic driving, and viewing natural features. Escalante and Bryce Canyon are the two most visited communities near the Monument. Boulder also experienced high visitation. The average amount spent by a group of three to the area was just under \$500. This means that more than \$20.6 million is being directly spent in Garfield and Kane counties because of the designated Monument. This is the equivalent of more than 430 full-time jobs. (A Front Country Visitor Study for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah State University, Professional Report IORT PR2006-01, April 2006).

More specifically, trends and conditions:

Garfield County, the fifth largest county in the state has the highest percentage of federal land (over 90%) in a county in the state of Utah.¹⁹ The county contains over one million acres of National Forest System lands (including the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area) and large areas of other federal land, including portions of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. There are only about 170,000 acres of private land in the county. Public lands provide both challenges and opportunities for economic development in the county. The county is sparsely populated and is only projected to grow at a 1.0 percent annual rate between 2005 and 2050, a rate below the state average.

According to a 2003 Utah Bureau of Economic Analysis Report, Garfield County residents had one of the five lowest levels of total personal income in the state. Additionally, Garfield County had the second highest unemployment rate (10.8 percent) in the state according to 2003 Utah Department of Workforce Services information, exceeded only by Emery County's 11.0 percent unemployment rate. Slow job growth and unemployment are recurrent problems for the county. Traditionally, county residents have relied primarily upon ranching and timber. While there is a desire to retain these traditional sources of economic opportunity, services related to recreation and tourism are growing quickly in the county (*People and the Forests* 2003). Services are projected to increase from a 30.1 percent share in the Garfield County economy in 2005 to a 37.8 percent share in 2030 (State of Utah 2003).

According to Garfield County, the growth in the recreation and tourism industries has not been strong enough to provide the economic growth that has been achieved in more diverse parts of the state (Bremner 2006).²⁰ While these services (mostly related to leisure and hospitality) represent the largest sector in the Garfield County economy, government jobs (the sector ranked second) make up a much higher percentage of payroll wages (State of Utah 2003). There is a perception that leisure and hospitality jobs will not pay as much as jobs in other more traditional sectors.²¹ According to Garfield County, “. . . Garfield County is struggling economically. Schools are showing declining enrollment, and additional natural resource based industries have been all but eliminated in the county. . . . Garfield County is struggling and unless changes [in land management and opportunities] are made relatively soon, things will get tougher” (Bremner 2006). Also according to Garfield County Commissioner Maloy Dodds in testimony to Congress, “. . . most tourist-generated jobs generally are minimal skill, minimum wage jobs – not the kind that can support a family.” Another important fact that the Commissioner noted, “Federal destination areas [are] a mixed blessing at best” for Garfield County because increased visitors can be a burden to the county in terms of increased cost of garbage and search and rescue operations (Testimony to House Resources Committee's Forest and Forest Health Subcommittee, June 15, 2005).

The closest communities to the river segment are Escalante and Boulder. Escalante is projected to grow from about 800 people in 2000 to about 1300 in 2050. Boulder is projected to grow from 180 in 2000 to around 300 in 2050.

²¹ In the book *Visions of the Grand Staircase-Escalante* (compiled at the time of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument planning process in the 1990s), Gail Blattenberger and David Kiefer acknowledge, “[m]inimum wages plus tips at Ruby's Inn are what the locals [in Garfield County] envisage from the service industry, but high tech service enterprises are also viable given an investment in communications infrastructure.” Blattenberger and Kiefer suggest that while based on past performance “economic well-being” is clearly an issue in Kane and Garfield counties, “[e]xtractive industries are not an optimal or even a viable solution to the economic situation in these counties.” Furthermore, “change will certainly come to these economies” and be met with “resistance (because of) the desire for a land-based economy (which is) seen as crucial to the quality of life in the rural West.” According to the authors, the key is to “find ways of preserving our land-based Western heritage and lifestyle (which are so important to rural residents) along with the natural treasures of the countryside.” Roughly 10 years later, we seem to face the same conditions, trends, attitudes, fears, opportunities, and challenges (Blattenberger and Kiefer 1998).

The river segment and the areas below Highway 12 are also used regularly by residents of Wayne County. Wayne County has the second highest percentage of federal land of any county in the state. The county contains about 160,000 acres of National Forest System lands. The county contains the second fewest acres of private land in the state, trailing only Daggett County (which is four times smaller than Wayne County) by about 8,000 acres. From 2004 to 2005, Wayne County was only one of three counties to register negative population growth. The county had a -0.6% annual growth rate, the lowest in the State (State of Utah 2006). However, from 2005 to 2050, the county is projected to almost double in population and grow at a 1.2 percent annual growth rate (State of Utah 2005).

Education and health services is the largest sector in the Wayne County economy. This sector is buoyed by the presence of Aspen Health Services' Aspen Achievement Academy, a wilderness therapy program that is a major county employer. Headquartered in Loa, the program operates on BLM and Forest Service lands. Government is the second largest sector in the county. Since 1980 agriculture has decreased dramatically and services have increased, a trend that is projected to continue into 2030. In 1980, agriculture made up 26.9 percent of the economy, while services took only a 3.5 percent share. By 2002, agriculture had declined to 13.8 percent and services had increased to 24.9 percent. In 2030, *People and the Forests* projects that agriculture will take a 6.5 percent share, while services will have increased to 30.3 percent (State of Utah 2003). This increase is visible in the increasingly popular tourist venue of Torrey at the gateway to Capitol Reef National Park.

While agriculture continues to decline, it is an important part of the county's traditions and customs. Many county residents work multiple jobs to keep the traditions of the past alive. The Wayne County General Plan identifies tourism promotion as an important economic development tool; however, there is concern over preserving quality of life while implementing this strategy.

Wayne County continues to struggle with issues of poverty. The county's 1999 poverty rate exceeded 15 percent, almost one and one-half times the state average (State of Utah 2003). Total personal income in Wayne County is the fourth lowest in the state. Growth rates of total personal income were second to last in the state from 2000 to 2003 (Bureau of Economic Analysis 2003).

Teasdale, Grover, and Torrey are the closest towns in Wayne County to the river segment. Torrey has a population of 171 (2005). None of the communities in Wayne County are expected to grow rapidly.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS. U.S. Forest Service and BLM would share management of the segment.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There has been no demonstrated or potential commitment to share preservation and/or administration.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with

protection of river values.

Not applicable, as all of the land through which the segment flows is federally owned.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Garfield County is working on a Resource Management Plan for all lands in the county. They have included an analysis of Wild and Scenic Rivers in their discussions. While their RMP supports the designation of Cataract Canyon (Colorado River) and the Dirty Devil River as Wild and Scenic Rivers, the county does not support the designation of Slickrock Canyon.

During the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests eligibility process, the county expressed repeated concern over the eligibility determinations made for this and other river segments on the Escalante Ranger District. The county does not believe that the Escalante River system is suitable because its flow is too regulated by irrigators.

When representatives of the Forest met with staff from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation in July 2006, the Tribes indicated that they favored “preservation” of forest resources including Wild and Scenic Rivers. No official communications from the Tribes confirming this support has been received.

In response to scoping, a non-profit organization expressed support for designation because of the segment’s contribution to river system integrity.

Comment letters on the DEIS received were generally opposed to designation. An exception would be the Grand Canyon Trust, who supports the suitability of Slickrock Canyon (it is assumed this includes the FS segment) along with a list other eligible segments on adjacent Forests.

Allen Rowley (Fishlake NF Supervisor) has recently spoken with the BLM Manager of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument relative to suitability of this segment on FS lands, and has not yet received any indication of support or opposition.

None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Downstream from the Forest Service boundary, the BLM found Slickrock Canyon to be suitable for designation because “high quality scenery, recreational values, prehistoric sites, and riparian areas make this a worthy addition to the WSR system” (Appendix 11, GSENM FEIS Monument Plan).

The Dixie National Forest, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Bryce Canyon National Park, and GSENM all worked together on eligibility for this river segment. Final determinations of suitability were reserved for individual agencies to make on their own.

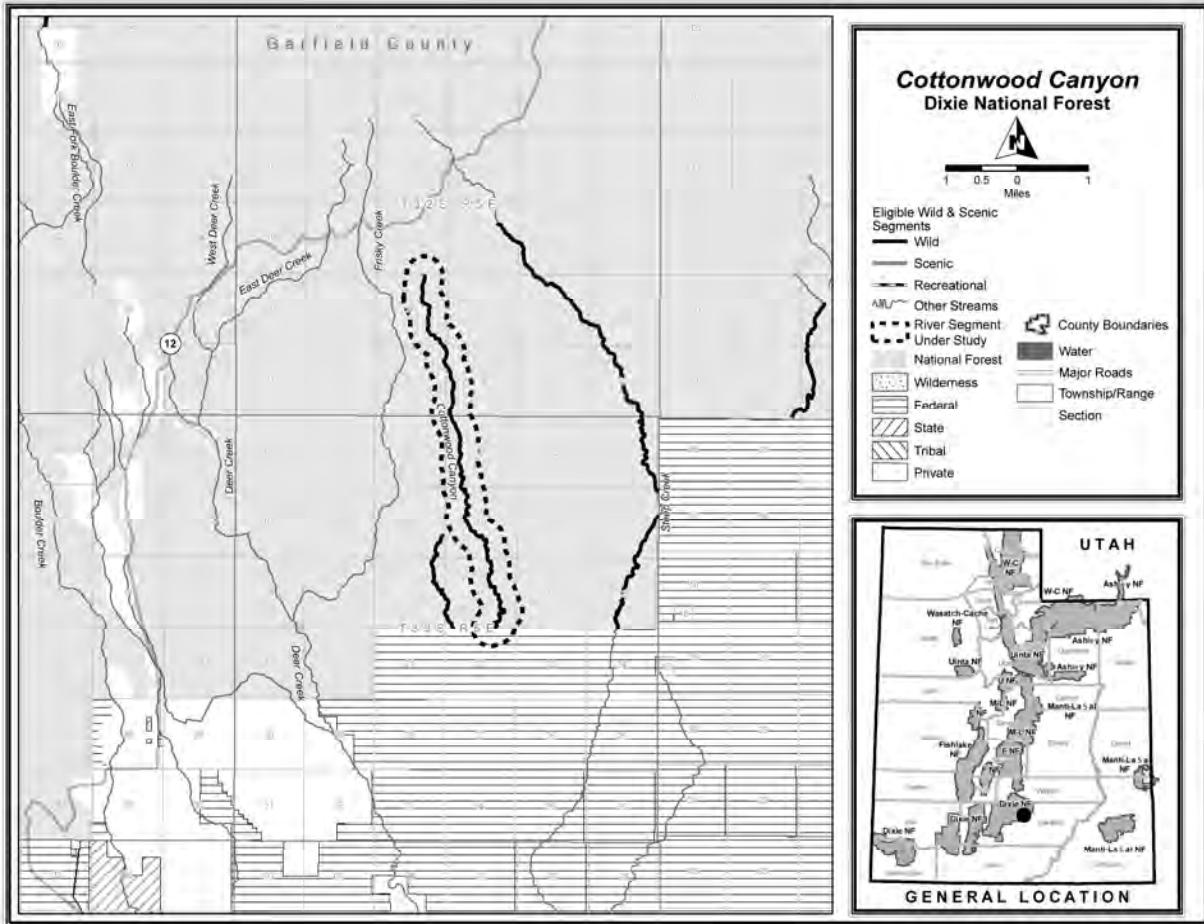
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Slickrock Canyon does not contribute significantly to the flow of the Escalante River. The segment within the GSENM has been found suitable for designation.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed.

Cottonwood Canyon Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Cottonwood Canyon

River Mileage:

Studied: 10.7 miles, from headwaters to Lower Deer Creek (T 34S, R 5E, Sect. 4)

Eligible: 6.3 miles, from headwaters to forest boundary

Location:

Cottonwood Canyon	Dixie National Forest administered by the Fishlake National Forest, Fremont River Ranger District, Garfield County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 21, T 32S, R 5E, SLM	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 15, T 33S, R 5E, SLM	Wild	6.3

Physical Description of River:

Cottonwood Canyon is located on the Fremont River Ranger District below Highway 12. Lower reaches are dominated by slickrock and ledges with pinyon and juniper trees transitioning to ponderosa pine. Upper regions just below Highway 12 hold aspen and conifer in areas with deeper soils. This stream is intermittent.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Appendix 4, Wild and Scenic River Eligibility, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, 1998.

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of Cottonwood Canyon on National Forest System lands.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – In common with other segments in this landscape, the area offers dramatic contrasts of color, texture, and slope which are unique to southern Utah redrock country. As the segment leaves the GSEM and extends into the Fishlake National Forest it becomes broader and loses some of the narrowness and dramatic contrasts found on the lower stretches.

Recreational – The area near the upper segment of the corridor located within the Fishlake National Forest may be accessed via the Long Neck Trail (#34017) or more readily at Highway 12 at its headwaters. The canyon itself receives a low-level of use by hikers and backpackers. Portions of the canyon adjacent to the Monument which are steep and winding provide increased solitude and more opportunity for primitive experience.

Cultural – The area has been used intermittently by Native Americans and pioneers.

This stream was determined to be eligible by an interagency study headed by the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in 1998.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

There are no roads present in the river corridor. There is access to the headwaters via a non-motorized trail. There is also a non-motorized trail that parallels the river to the west that is located within the corridor, but is not related to recreational use of the river.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The eligible river corridor is a 6.3 mile-long river segment and encompasses 1,866 acres, and is entirely on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Fishlake National Forest.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 6.3	Fishlake National Forest (Fremont River RD)	1866

The stream corridor is within Management Area 2A# (MA-2A#) according to the Dixie National Forest Plan. MA-2A# has a management emphasis on semi-primitive recreation opportunities with a “no surface occupancy” stipulation for mineral entry. The area provides multiple uses.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no existing salable, locatable, or leasable mineral and energy resources development in the eligible segment.

Cottonwood Canyon is located in the Long Neck Mesa/Steep Creek/Oak Creek Roadless Area. According to the Dixie National Forest Roadless Area Minerals Evaluation the potential for this area is as follows:

Oil and Gas: Currently there are no producing wells or fields in this area. It has been only lightly explored. There are no leases, but industry has expressed interest in this general area. Expressions of

Interest have been made for the area immediately to the northeast.

Oil potential associated with four possible plays (Late Proterozoic/Cambrian, Devonian-Pennsylvanian, Late Paleozoic, and Permo-Triassic Unconformity) is ranked as moderate to high (low certainty) along the eastern and southern portions of the Teasdale and Escalante Ranger Districts. Petroleum development potential is ranked by the UGS as low-moderate with the highest potential relative to the Devonian-Pennsylvanian and Permo-Triassic Plays. If leases are issued, exploratory drilling could occur. A total of 32 new exploratory wells are reasonably foreseeable for the Forest in the next 15 years. Of this total, only a couple of these would probably occur in this area. If a discovery were made, additional development wells could be drilled.

Jurassic sediments (Navajo Sandstone and Carmel Formation) are exposed in the area, however this area is not prospective for natural gas/methane due to the close proximity to the volcanic rocks of Boulder Mountain immediately to the west as well as uplift and erosion of known source/reservoir Cretaceous sedimentary rocks.

Carbon Dioxide: Moderate potential for occurrence (low certainty). Development potential is low-none because there is no market.

Geothermal: Occurrence potential is unknown due to the lack of identified thermal wells and springs. Due to the lack of known geothermal springs and wells and overall information, the development potential is considered low.

Coal: There are no known coal deposits in this area

Locatable Minerals: There are no known valuable deposits of base or precious metals or other locatable minerals. Development potential is low.

Common Variety: Sandstone, limestone and other sedimentary rocks in the area could be developed for decorative stone or building stone. Colluvium consisting of displaced sedimentary rocks and volcanic rock transported from Boulder Mountain could be developed for riprap, decorative stone, and building stone. Development potential is considered moderate, most likely on a small scale, localized basis.

References:

Utah Geological Survey, 2004, The Oil, Gas, Coalbed Gas, Carbon Dioxide and Geothermal Resources of the Fishlake National Forest, Southwestern Utah, April 30, 2004.

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Water Resources Development – There are no known existing water developments (dams, diversions or channel modifications) on this segment. There are no historic, current, or known planned Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits or license applications for this corridor. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Slickrock Trail (#35120) provides access to the river's headwaters and is located in the river corridor. This non-motorized trail is 24 miles long and receives low to moderate use. The Longneck Trail (#34017) parallels the river to the west and enters the river corridor approximately 1.5 mile south of the headwaters (sect. 33, T 32S, R 5E and sect. 4, T 33S, R 5E, SLM). The Longneck Trail is located on the Dixie National Forest (Escalante Ranger District) and is a non-motorized pack and saddle trail that is considered a low use trail.

There is a section of cattle fencing that extends 600 feet into the river corridor, but does not bisect the river.

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Grazing Activities – The river segment is located within the Oak Creek Allotment. The Oak Creek Allotment consists of 72,712 acres and is an active allotment with three permittees. There is a section of cattle fencing that extends 600 feet into the river corridor, but does not bisect the river.

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Recreation Activities – Recreational use of Cottonwood Canyon is considered low. The Slickrock Trail (#35120) provides access to the river corridor is considered a low use trail, but does receive use for grazing administration and stock and hiking recreation. The Longneck Trail (#34017) parallels the river to the west and enters the river corridor approximately 1.5 mile south of the headwaters (sect. 33, T 32S, R 5E and sect. 4, T 33S, R 5E, SLM). The Longneck Trail is located on the Dixie National Forest (Escalante Ranger District) and is a non-motorized pack and saddle trail that is considered a low use trail. There is no trail located adjacent to the river, however the area is used by hikers and backpacker. The steep winding canyon provides solitude and a primitive experience.

Other Resource Activities – The upper one mile of Cottonwood Canyon corridor contains some aspen stands. Forest managers may work to regenerate aspen in this area through the use of prescribed fire among other tools.

Special Designations – None

Socio-Economic Environment – The river segment is located within Garfield County. Boulder and Escalante are the two closest towns. Access to the area is provided by Highway 12 – an All-American Road. Cottonwood Canyon flows from the Dixie National Forest onto the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Garfield County is a largely rural county where traditional natural resource economic endeavors have dominated historically. In recent years, there has been a growth in recreation, tourism, and services. Much of this growth in recreation and tourism can be attributed to the designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996. The county is struggling to retain rural traditions and lifestyles as well as “working” connections with the land. In the face of rising land values and globalization, traditional industries such as farming and ranching are becoming more difficult. Second home ownership has increased in the county dramatically. Over 60% of property tax notices in Garfield County are sent out of the county (39% out of state or country). Educating these occasional land users about special values and proper use is becoming more difficult.

A recent visitor study of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument indicates that approximately 600,000 people visit the area every year. While most of the visitors remain in the frontcountry visitor areas, exploration into the backcountry is increasing. Visitors come from throughout the United States and the world. About 14% of visitors are from Utah, 13% from California, 6% from Arizona, 5% from Colorado, and 10% from other western states. About 30% come from the other 39 states leaving 23% from other countries. The average visitor spends three days in the area. Only 20% of these visitors indicated that the Monument was their primary destination. Many of these visitors end up exploring the forest. The most common reported visitor activities were hiking, photography, scenic driving, and viewing natural features. Escalante and Bryce Canyon are the two most visited communities near the

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(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There has been no demonstrated or potential commitment to share preservation and/or administration.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not applicable, as all of the land is federally owned.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Garfield County is working on a Resource Management Plan for all lands in the county. They have included an analysis of Wild and Scenic Rivers in their discussions. While their RMP supports the designation of Cataract Canyon (Colorado River) and the Dirty Devil River as Wild and Scenic Rivers, the county does not support the designation of Cottonwood Canyon.

During the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests eligibility process, the county expressed repeated concern over the eligibility determinations made for this and other river segments on the Escalante Ranger District. The county does not believe that the Escalante River system is suitable because its flow is too regulated by irrigators.

When representatives of the Forest met with staff from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation in July 2006, the Tribes indicated that they favored "preservation" of forest resources including Wild and Scenic Rivers. No official communications from the Tribes confirming this support has been received.

In response to scoping, a non-profit organization expressed support for designation because of the segment's contribution to river system integrity.

Comment letters received were generally opposed to designation. An exception would be the Grand Canyon Trust, who supports the suitability of Cottonwood Canyon (it is assumed this includes the FS segment) along with a list other eligible segments on adjacent Forests. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

Allen Rowley (Fishlake NF Supervisor) has recently spoken with the BLM Manager of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument relative to suitability of this segment on FS lands, and has not yet received any indication of support or opposition.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Downstream from the Forest Service boundary, the BLM found Cottonwood Canyon to be not suitable for designation because "the quality of the river characteristics in this segment would not significantly enhance nor contribute to the NWSRS" (Appendix 11, GSENM FEIS Monument Plan). In the DEIS, the GSENM indicated "although this canyon exhibits high quality scenery and has recreational use, it is not deemed to be the best of the best" (Appendix 5, GSENM DEIS Monument Plan).

The Dixie National Forest, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Bryce Canyon National Park, and GSENM all worked together on eligibility for this river segment. Final determinations of suitability were reserved for individual agencies to make on their own.

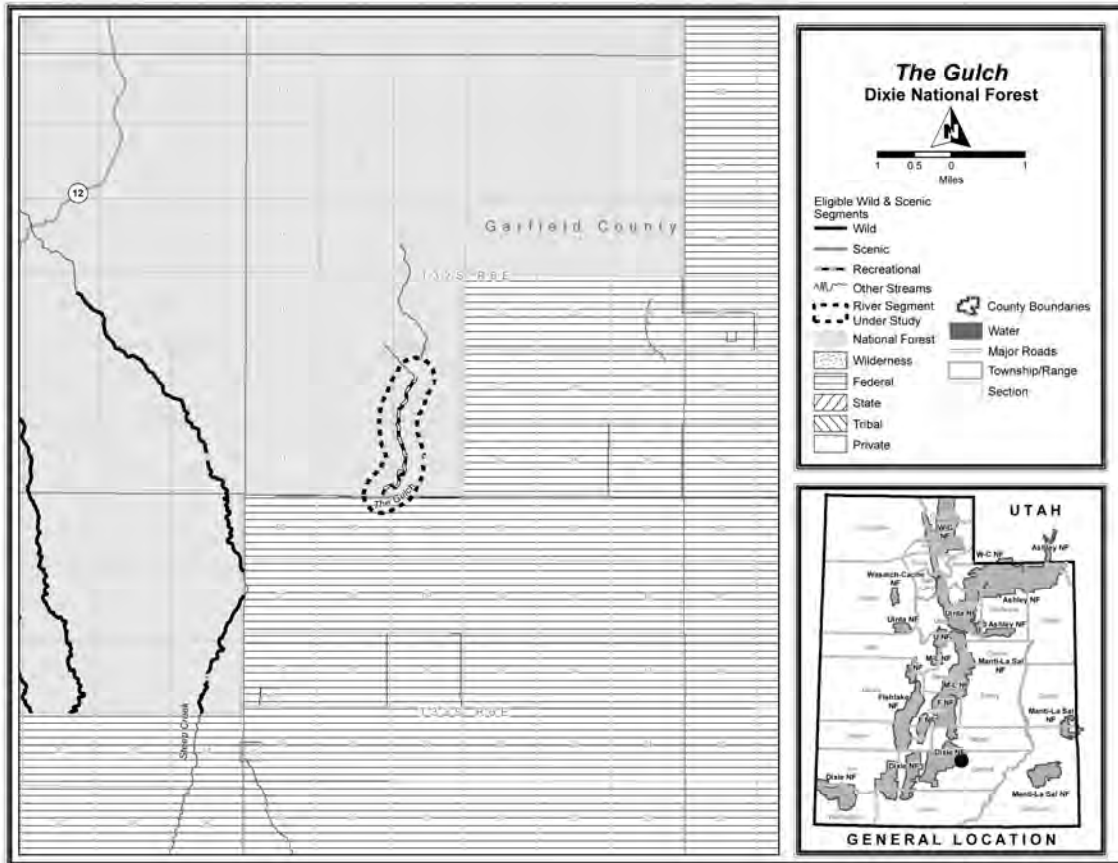
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Cottonwood Canyon does not contribute significantly to the flow of the Escalante River. The segment within the GSENM was not found to be suitable for designation.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed.

The Gulch Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: The Gulch

River Mileage:

Studied: 26.7 miles, from headwaters to Escalante River

Eligible: 2.1 miles, from headwaters (confluence with Stair Canyon) to Forest boundary

Location:

The Gulch	Dixie National Forest administered by the Fishlake National Forest, Fremont River Ranger District, Garfield County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 28, T 32S, R 6E, SLM	SE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 33, T 32S, R 6E, SLM	Recreational	2.1

Physical Description of River:

The Gulch, a perennial stream, is located on the Fremont River Ranger District below Highway 12. Lower reaches are dominated by slickrock and ledges with pinyon and juniper trees transitioning to ponderosa pine.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Appendix 4, Wild and Scenic River Eligibility, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM), 1998.

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of The Gulch on National Forest System lands.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – As is common to adjoining segments of this and other similar drainages in the surrounding landscape, the area offers dramatic contrasts of color, texture, and slope. This relatively short segment (2.1 miles) of riparian corridor from the confluence with Stair Canyon to the Forest boundary down stream is paralleled by Forest roads (#147 and #023) for its entire length. Associated human related activity is apparent. The gulch is nearly a mile wide at the Forest boundary with few features that compare with other segments down stream on the GSEM lands.

Recreational – The area receives a low-level of use by hikers and backpackers, and is readily accessible to the motorized public via the Burr Trail Road from the town of Boulder which feeds the Forest roads which directly access the bottom of the Gulch itself. There is a moderate amount of solitude and some relative primitive experience available, perhaps in some of the side canyons, given the isolation or distance of travel to this area by motorized vehicle.

Cultural – The area has been used intermittently by Native Americans and pioneers.

This stream was determined to be eligible by an interagency study headed by the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in 1998.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Recreational

There are approximately two miles of motorized four-wheel-drive route along The Gulch to the Forest boundary, therefore it was necessary to change the classification from Wild to Recreational due to the presence of a road within the stream corridor (does not meet classification criteria for a Wild river).

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The eligible river corridor is a 2.1 mile-long river segment and encompasses about 663.62 acres, and is entirely on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Fishlake National Forest.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 2.1	Fishlake National Forest (Fremont River Ranger District)	664
	Total	664

The stream corridor is within Management Area 2A (MA-2A) according to the Dixie National Forest Plan. MA-2A# has a management emphasis on semi-primitive recreation opportunities. The area provides multiple uses.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no existing salable, locatable, or leasable mineral and energy resources development in the eligible segment.

The Gulch is located in the Long Neck Mesa/Steep Creek/Oak Creek Roadless Area. According to the Dixie National Forest Roadless Area Minerals Evaluation the potential for this area was as follows:

Oil and Gas: Currently there are no producing wells or fields in this area. It has been only lightly explored. There are no leases, but industry has expressed interest in this general area. Expressions of Interest have been made for the area immediately to the northeast.

Oil potential associated with four possible plays (Late Proterozoic/Cambrian, Devonian-Pennsylvanian, Late Paleozoic, and Permo-Triassic Unconformity) is ranked as moderate to high (low certainty) along the eastern and southern portions of the Teasdale and Escalante Ranger Districts. Petroleum development potential is ranked by the UGS as low-moderate with the highest potential relative to the Devonian-Pennsylvanian and Permo-Triassic Plays. If leases are issued, exploratory drilling could occur. A total of 32 new exploratory wells are reasonably foreseeable for the Forest in the next 15 years. Of this total, only a couple of these would probably occur in this area. If a discovery were made, additional development wells could be drilled.

Jurassic sediments (Navajo Sandstone and Carmel Formation) are exposed in the area, however this area is not prospective for natural gas/methane due to the close proximity to the volcanic rocks of Boulder Mountain immediately to the west as well as uplift and erosion of known source/reservoir Cretaceous sedimentary rocks.

Carbon Dioxide: Moderate potential for occurrence (low certainty). Development potential is low-none because there is no market.

Geothermal: Occurrence potential is unknown due to the lack of identified thermal wells and springs. Due to the lack of known geothermal springs and wells and overall information, the development potential is considered low.

Coal: There are no known coal deposits in this area

Locatable Minerals: There are no known valuable deposits of base or precious metals or other locatable minerals. Development potential is low.

Common Variety: Sandstone, limestone and other sedimentary rocks in the area could be developed for decorative stone or building stone. Colluvium consisting of displaced sedimentary rocks and volcanic rock transported from Boulder Mountain could be developed for riprap, decorative stone, and building stone. Development potential is considered moderate, most likely on a small scale, localized basis.

References:

Utah Geological Survey, 2004, The Oil, Gas, Coalbed Gas, Carbon Dioxide and Geothermal Resources of the Fishlake National Forest, Southwestern Utah, April 30, 2004.

Doelling, H.H., 1972. Southwestern Utah Coal Fields: Alton, Kaiparowits Plateau and Kolob-Harmony. Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, Monograph Series No. 1, 1972.

Water Resources Development – There are no historic, current, or known planned Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits or license applications for this corridor. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Service Roads #31473 and #30023 provide access to the river and are located in the river corridor. FS Road #30023 intersects road #31473 adjacent to river and then turns south, following the river, and dead-ends at the Forest boundary. FS Road #31473 begins at the junction with FS Road #30023, travels north along the river for approximately 1

mile, turns and heads west for approximately 0.5 miles, and then dead-ends into a non-system non-motorized trail. The non-system non-motorized trail eventually turns into the Indian Trail Bench (#35126) Trail that terminates at Roundup Flat.

There are no facilities and/or other developments. The Gulch river corridor is entirely located in the Long Neck Mesa/Steep Creek/Oak Creek Inventoried Roadless Area.

Grazing Activities – The river segment is located within the Oak Creek Allotment. The Oak Creek Allotment consists of 72,712 acres and is an active allotment with three permittees.

Oak Creek Allotment		
<u>Permittee Name</u>	<u>Number of mature cow/Nursing</u>	<u>Active Grazing Dates</u>
B.K. & M. Taylor	196	06/01 to 10/15
Tercero Corp.	806	06/01 to 10/15
R. & K. Fillmore	76	06/01 to 10/15

Recreation Activities – Recreational use of The Gulch drainage is considered low to moderate. Currently FS Roads #31473 and #30023, and trail #35126 receive low to moderate ATV/OHV use. The non-system trail that access that connect FS Road #31473 and FS Trail #35126 is considered a low use trail, but does receive use for grazing administration and stock and hiking recreation.

Other Resource Activities – None

Special Designations – None

Socio-Economic Environment – The river segment is located within Garfield County. Boulder and Escalante are the two closest towns. Access to the area is provided by Highway 12 – an All-American Road and the Burr Trail road. The Gulch flows from the Dixie National Forest onto the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Garfield County is a largely rural county where traditional natural resource economic endeavors have dominated historically. In recent years, there has been a growth in recreation, tourism, and services. Much of this growth in recreation and tourism can be attributed to the designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996. The county is struggling to retain rural traditions and lifestyles as well as “working” connections with the land. In the face of rising land values and globalization, traditional industries such as farming and ranching are becoming more difficult. Second home ownership has increased in the county dramatically. Over 60% of property tax notices in Garfield County are sent out of the county (39% out of state or country).

A recent visitor study of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument indicates that approximately 600,000 people visit the area every year. While most of the visitors remain in the frontcountry visitor areas, exploration into the backcountry is increasing. Visitors come from throughout the United States and the world. About 14% of visitors are from Utah, 13% from California, 6% from Arizona, 5% from Colorado, and 10% from other western states. About 30% come from the other 39 states leaving 23% from other countries. The average visitor spends three days in the area. Only 20% of these visitors indicated that the Monument was their primary destination. Many of these visitors end up exploring the forest. The most common visitor activities reported were hiking, photography, scenic driving, and viewing natural features. Escalante and Bryce Canyon are the two most visited communities near the Monument. Boulder also experienced high visitation. The average amount spent by a group of three to the area was just under \$500. This means that more than \$20.6 million is being directly spent in Garfield and Kane counties because of the designated Monument. This is the equivalent of more than 430 full-

time jobs. (A Front Country Visitor Study for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah State University, Professional Report IORT PR2006-01, April 2006).

More specifically, trends and conditions:

Garfield County, the fifth largest county in the state has the highest percentage of federal land (over 90%) in a county in the state of Utah.²⁵ The county contains over one million acres of National Forest System lands (including the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area) and large areas of other federal land, including portions of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. There are only about 170,000 acres of private land in the county. Public lands provide both challenges and opportunities for economic development in the county. The county is sparsely populated and is only projected to grow at a 1.0 percent rate annually between 2005 and 2050, a rate below the state average.

According to a 2003 Utah Bureau of Economic Analysis Report, Garfield County residents had one of the five lowest levels of total personal income in the state. Additionally, Garfield County had the second highest unemployment rate (10.8 percent) in the state according to 2003 Utah Department of Workforce Services information, exceeded only by Emery County's 11.0 percent unemployment rate. Slow job growth and unemployment are recurrent problems for the county. Traditionally, county residents have relied primarily upon ranching and timber. While there is a desire to retain these traditional sources of economic opportunity, services related to recreation and tourism are growing quickly in the county (*People and the Forests*, 2003). Services are projected to increase from a 30.1 percent share in the Garfield County economy in 2005 to a 37.8 percent share in 2030 (State of Utah 2003).

According to Garfield County, the growth in the recreation and tourism industries has not been strong enough to provide the economic growth that has been achieved in more diverse parts of the state (Bremner 2006).²⁶ While these services (mostly related to leisure and hospitality) represent the largest sector in the Garfield County economy, government jobs (the sector ranked second) make up a much higher percentage of payroll wages (State of Utah 2003). There is a perception that leisure and hospitality jobs will not pay as much as jobs in other more traditional sectors.²⁷ According to Garfield County, “. . . Garfield County is struggling economically. Schools are showing declining enrollment, and additional natural resource based industries have been all but eliminated in the county. . . Garfield County is struggling and unless changes [in land management and opportunities] are made relatively soon, things will get tougher” (Bremner 2006). Also according to Garfield County Commissioner Maloy Dodds in testimony to Congress, “. . . most tourist-generated jobs generally are minimal skill, minimum wage jobs – not the kind that can support a family.” Another important fact that the Commissioner noted, “Federal destination areas [are] a mixed blessing at best” for Garfield County because increased visitors can be a burden to the county in terms of increased cost of garbage and search and rescue operations (Testimony to House Resources Committee's Forest and Forest Health Subcommittee, June 15, 2005).

The closest communities to the river segment are Escalante and Boulder. Escalante is projected to grow

²⁷ In the book *Visions of the Grand Staircase-Escalante* (compiled at the time of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument planning process in the 1990s), Gail Blattenberger and David Kiefer acknowledge, “[m]inimum wages plus tips at Ruby's Inn are what the locals [in Garfield County] envisage from the service industry, but high tech service enterprises are also viable given an investment in communications infrastructure.” Blattenberger and Kiefer suggest that while based on past performance “economic well-being” is clearly an issue in Kane and Garfield counties, “[e]xtractive industries are not an optimal or even a viable solution to the economic situation in these counties.” Furthermore, “change will certainly come to these economies” and be met with “resistance (because of) the desire for a land-based economy (which is) seen as crucial to the quality of life in the rural West.” According to the authors, the key is to “find ways of preserving our land-based Western heritage and lifestyle (which are so important to rural residents) along with the natural treasures of the countryside.” Roughly 10 years later, we seem to face the same conditions, trends, attitudes, fears, opportunities, and challenges (Blattenberger and Kiefer 1998).

from about 800 people in 2000 to about 1300 in 2050. Boulder is projected to grow from 180 in 2000 to around 300 in 2050.

The river segment and the areas below Highway 12 are also used regularly by residents of Wayne County. Wayne County has the second highest percentage of federal land of any county in the state. The county contains about 160,000 acres of National Forest System lands. The county contains the second fewest acres of private land in the state, trailing only Daggett County (which is four times smaller than Wayne County) by about 8,000 acres. From 2004 to 2005, Wayne County was only one of three counties to register negative population growth. The county had a -0.6% annual growth rate (the lowest in the State) (State of Utah 2006). However, from 2005 to 2050, the county is projected to nearly double in population and grow at a 1.2 percent annual growth rate (State of Utah 2005).

Education and health services is the largest sector in the Wayne County economy. This sector is buoyed by the presence of Aspen Health Services' Aspen Achievement Academy, a wilderness therapy program that is a major county employer. Headquartered in Loa, the program operates on BLM and Forest Service lands. Government is the second largest sector in the county. Since 1980 agriculture has decreased dramatically and services have increased, a trend that is projected to continue into 2030. In 1980, agriculture made up 26.9 percent of the economy, while services took only a 3.5 percent share. By 2002, agriculture had declined to 13.8 percent and services had increased to 24.9 percent. In 2030, *People and the Forests* projects that agriculture will take a 6.5 percent share, while services will have increased to 30.3 percent (State of Utah 2003). This increase is visible in the increasingly popular tourist venues of Torrey at the gateway to Capitol Reef National Park.

While agriculture continues to decline, it is an important part of the county's traditions and customs. Many county residents work multiple jobs to keep the traditions of the past alive. The Wayne County General Plan identifies tourism promotion as an important economic development tool; however, there is concern over preserving quality of life while implementing this strategy.

Wayne County continues to struggle with issues of poverty. The county's 1999 poverty rate exceeded 15 percent, almost one and one-half times the state average (State of Utah 2003). Total personal income in Wayne County is the fourth lowest in the state. Growth rates of total personal income were second to last in the state from 2000 to 2003 (Bureau of Economic Analysis 2003).

Teasdale, Grover, and Torrey are the closest towns in Wayne County to the river segment. Torrey has a population of 171 (2005). None of the communities in Wayne County are expected to grow rapidly.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS. The U.S. Forest Service and BLM would share management of the segment.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There has been no demonstrated or potential commitment to share preservation and/or administration.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not applicable, as all of the land through which the segment flows is federally owned.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Garfield County is working on a Resource Management Plan for all lands in the county. They have included an analysis of Wild and Scenic Rivers in their discussions. While their RMP supports the designation of Cataract Canyon (Colorado River) and the Dirty Devil River as Wild and Scenic Rivers, the county does not support the designation of The Gulch.

During the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests eligibility process, the county expressed repeated concern over the eligibility determinations made for this and other river segments on the Escalante Ranger District. The county does not believe that the Escalante River system is suitable because its flow is too regulated by irrigators.

When representatives of the Forest met with staff from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation in July 2006, the Tribes indicated that they favored "preservation" of forest resources including Wild and Scenic Rivers. No official communications from the Tribes confirming this support has been received.

In response to scoping, a non-profit organization expressed support for designation because of the segment's contribution to river system integrity. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

Allen Rowley (Fishlake NF Supervisor) has recently spoken with the BLM Manager of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument relative to suitability of this segment on FS lands, and has not yet received any indication of support or opposition.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Downstream from the Forest Service boundary, the BLM found The Gulch to be suitable for designation because the presence of "high quality scenery, outstanding recreation, natural arch, peregrine habitat, Traditional Cultural Property, riparian area, petrified wood are the characteristics that make it worthy [as an addition to the NWSRS]" (Appendix 11, GSENM FEIS Monument Plan).

The Dixie National Forest, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Bryce Canyon National Park, and GSENM all worked together on eligibility for this river segment. Final determinations of suitability were reserved for individual agencies to make on their own.

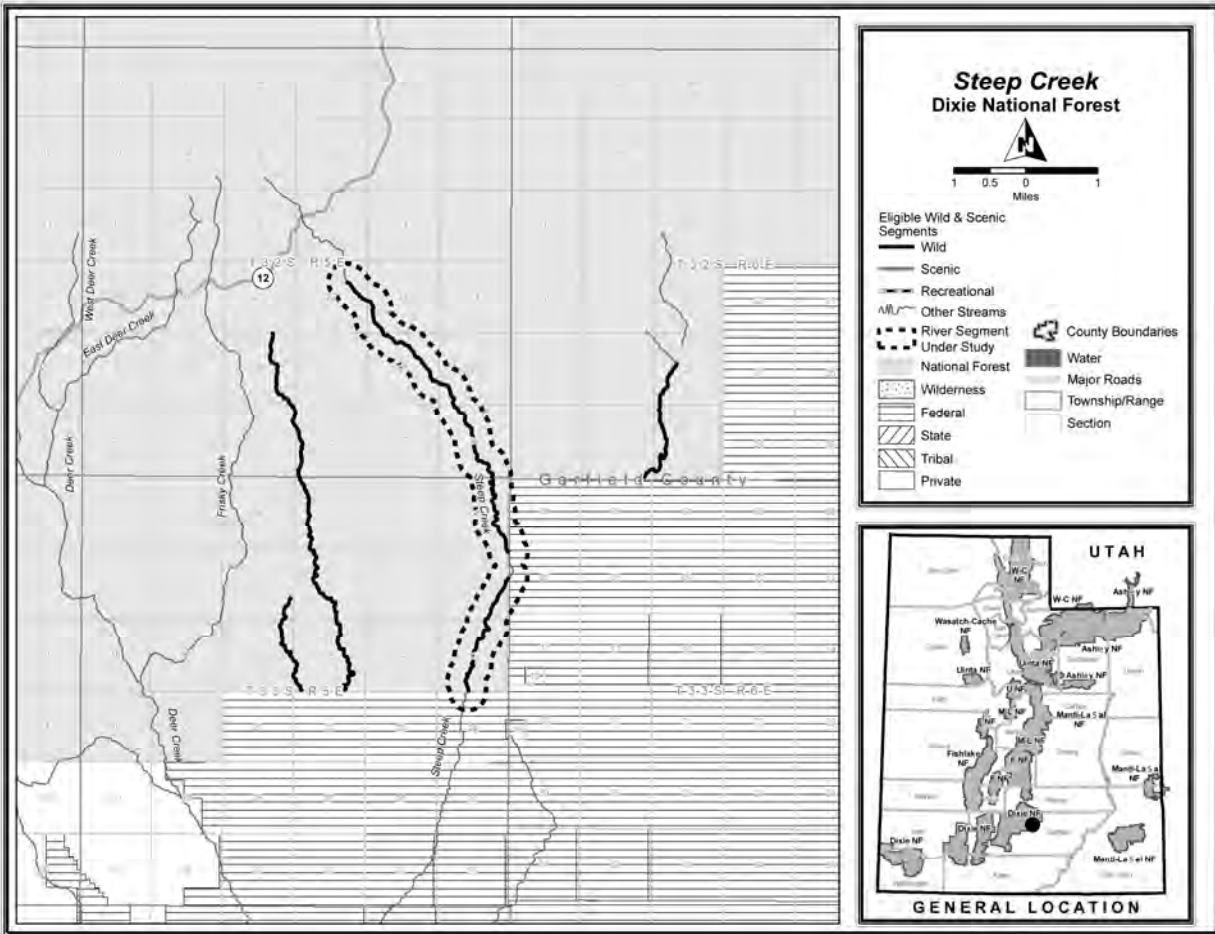
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The Gulch is not one of the tributaries identified in the GSENM plan that contributes significantly to the flow of the Escalante River, however, as a perennial stream it does provide flow consistently to the system. The segment within the GSENM has been found suitable for designation.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Boulder Outdoor Survival School holds a special use permit for survival training in the area. There may be opportunity to partner and use volunteers in the area from the school. No commitment has been expressed.

Steep Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Steep Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 16.2 miles, from headwaters (1 mile south of HWY 12) to The Gulch

Eligible: 7.3 miles, from headwaters to Forest boundary

Location:

Steep Creek	Dixie National Forest administered by the Fishlake National Forest, Fremont River Ranger District, Garfield County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 22, T 32S, R 5E, SLM	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 12, T 33S, R 5E, SLM	Wild	5.3
Segment 2	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 12, T 33S, R 5E, SLM	SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 12, T 33S, R 5E, SLM	Wild (GSENM)	0.3
Segment 3	SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 12, T 33S, R 5E, SLM	SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 13, T 33S, R 5E, SLM	Wild	2

Physical Description of River:

Steep Creek, a perennial stream, is located on the Fremont Ranger District below Highway 12. Lower reaches are dominated by slickrock and ledges with pinyon and juniper trees transitioning to ponderosa pine. Upper regions just below Highway 12 are aspen and conifer in areas with deeper soils.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Appendix 4, Wild and Scenic River Eligibility, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM), 1998.

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of Steep Creek on National Forest System lands.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

This stream was determined to be eligible by an interagency study headed by the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in 1998. However, many of the details from that determination have been lost. As a result, the ORV summaries are brief.

Scenic – The area offers dramatic contrasts of color, texture, and slope as is common to other segments of this and other similar drainages which have carved the associated landscape. This segment of riparian corridor extends over 7 miles into the Fishlake National Forest. The area in general as associated with the Monument is regionally, nationally, and even internationally recognized as an important scenic attraction.

Recreational – The steep winding canyon provides solitude and a primitive experience, however the segment contained within the Forest boundary is not unique enough to attract visitors from outside the more immediate geographic area. The area receives a low-level of use by hikers and backpackers. The few who do visit this segment are primarily locals.

Ecological – The area provides vital riparian areas within an otherwise desert ecosystem, as is the case for most riparian resources in this region.

This stream was determined to be eligible by an interagency study headed by the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in 1998.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

There are no roads present in the river corridor. There is access to the headwaters via a non-motorized trail. The river corridor is located in a remote location that is difficult to access.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The eligible river corridor is a 7.3 mile-long river segment and encompasses about 2,147 acres, and is entirely on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Fishlake National Forest.

River Mile	Ownership
0 – 5.3	Fishlake National Forest (Fremont River RD)
0 – 0.3	Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
0 – 2	Fishlake National Forest (Fremont River RD)

The stream corridor is within Management Area 2A# (MA-2A#) according to the Dixie National Forest Plan. MA-2A# has a management emphasis on semi-primitive recreation opportunities with a “no surface occupancy” stipulation for mineral entry. The area provides multiple uses.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no existing salable, locatable, or leasable mineral and energy resources development in the eligible segment.

Steep Creek is located in the Long Neck Mesa/Steep Creek/Oak Creek Roadless Area. According to the Dixie National Forest Roadless Area Minerals Evaluation the potential for this area was as follows:

Oil and Gas: Currently there are no producing wells or fields in this area. It has been only lightly explored. There are no leases, but industry has expressed interest in this general area. Expressions of Interest have been made for the area immediately to the northeast.

Oil potential associated with four possible plays (Late Proterozoic/Cambrian, Devonian-Pennsylvanian, Late Paleozoic, and Permo-Triassic Unconformity) is ranked as moderate to high (low certainty) along the eastern and southern portions of the Teasdale and Escalante Ranger Districts. Petroleum development potential is ranked by the UGS as low-moderate with the highest potential relative to the Devonian-Pennsylvanian and Permo-Triassic Plays. If leases are issued, exploratory drilling could occur. A total of 32 new exploratory wells are reasonably foreseeable for the Forest in the next 15 years. Of this total, only a couple of these would probably occur in this area. If a discovery were made, additional development wells could be drilled.

Jurassic sediments (Navajo Sandstone and Carmel Formation) are exposed in the area, however this area is not prospective for natural gas/methane due to the close proximity to the volcanic rocks of Boulder Mountain immediately to the west as well as uplift and erosion of known source/reservoir Cretaceous sedimentary rocks.

Carbon Dioxide: Moderate potential for occurrence (low certainty). Development potential is low-none because there is no market.

Geothermal: Occurrence potential is unknown due to the lack of identified thermal wells and springs. Due to the lack of known geothermal springs and wells and overall information, the development potential is considered low.

Coal: There are no known coal deposits in this area

Locatable Minerals: There are no known valuable deposits of base or precious metals or other locatable minerals. Development potential is low.

Common Variety: Sandstone, limestone and other sedimentary rocks in the area could be developed for decorative stone or building stone. Colluvium consisting of displaced sedimentary rocks and volcanic rock transported from Boulder Mountain could be developed for riprap, decorative stone, and building stone. Development potential is considered moderate, most likely on a small scale, localized basis.

References:

Utah Geological Survey, 2004, The Oil, Gas, Coalbed Gas, Carbon Dioxide and Geothermal Resources of the Fishlake National Forest, Southwestern Utah, April 30, 2004.

Doelling, H.H., 1972. Southwestern Utah Coal Fields: Alton, Kaiparowits Plateau and Kolob-Harmony. Utah Geological and Mineralogical Survey, Monograph Series No. 1, 1972.

Water Resources Development – There are no known planned or existing water developments (dams, diversions or channel modifications) on these segments. There are no historic, current, or known planned Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits or license applications for this corridor. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Slickrock Trail (#35120) provides access to the river’s headwaters and is located in the river corridor. This non-motorized trail is 24 miles long and receives low to moderate use.

There is a series of five spring-fed stock ponds located near the headwaters of Steep Creek, however only three of the five are located within the river corridor. The five stock ponds are inter-connected with pipelines.

There are no other facilities and/or other developments located in the river corridor. The Steep Creek river corridor is entirely located in the Long Neck Mesa/Steep Creek/Oak Creek Inventoried Roadless Area.

Grazing Activities – The river segment is located within the Oak Creek Allotment. The Oak Creek Allotment consists of 72,712 acres and is an active allotment with three permittees.

Oak Creek Allotment		
<u>Permittee Name</u>	<u>Number of mature cow/Nursing</u>	<u>Active Grazing Dates</u>
B.K. & M. Taylor	196	06/01 to 10/15
Tercero Corp.	806	06/01 to 10/15
R. & K. Fillmore	76	06/01 to 10/15

Recreation Activities – Recreational use of Steep Creek is considered low. There is no trail following the river corridor, however the area could be used by hikers and backpackers. The steep winding canyon provide solitude and a primitive experience.

Other Resource Activities – The upper one half mile of the Steep Creek corridor contain some aspen stands. Forest managers may work to regenerate aspen in this area through the use of prescribed fire among other tools.

Special Designations – None.

Socio-Economic Environment – The river segment is located within Garfield County. Boulder and Escalante are the two closest towns. Access to the area is provided by Highway 12 – an All-American Road. Steep Creek flows from the Dixie National Forest onto the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Garfield County is a largely rural county where traditional natural resource economic endeavors have dominated historically. In recent years, there has been a growth in recreation, tourism, and services. Much of this growth in recreation and tourism can be attributed to the designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996. The county is struggling to retain rural traditions and lifestyles as well as “working” connections with the land. In the face of rising land values and globalization, traditional industries such as farming and ranching are becoming more difficult. Second home ownership has increased in the county dramatically. Over 60% of property tax notices in Garfield County are sent out of the county (39% out of state or country).

A recent visitor study of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument indicates that approximately 600,000 people visit the area every year. While most of the visitors remain in the frontcountry visitor areas, exploration into the backcountry is increasing. Visitors come from throughout the United States and the world. About 14% of visitors are from Utah, 13% from California, 6% from Arizona, 5% from Colorado, and 10% from other western states. About 30% come from the other 39 states leaving 23% from other countries. The average visitor spends three days in the area. Only 20% of these visitors indicated that the Monument was their primary destination. Many of these visitors end up exploring the

forest. The most common visitor activities reported were hiking, photography, scenic driving, and viewing natural features. Escalante and Bryce Canyon are the two most visited communities near the Monument. Boulder also experienced high visitation. The average amount spent by a group of three to the area was just under \$500. This means that more than \$20.6 million is being directly spent in Garfield and Kane counties because of the designated Monument. This is the equivalent of more than 430 full-time jobs. (A Front Country Visitor Study for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah State University, Professional Report IORT PR2006-01, April 2006).

More specifically, trends and conditions:

Garfield County, the fifth largest county in the state has the highest percentage of federal land (over 90%) in a county in the state of Utah.²⁸ The county contains over one million acres of National Forest System lands (including the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area) and large areas of other federal land, including portions of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Bryce Canyon National Park, Capitol Reef National Park, and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. There are only about 170,000 acres of private land in the county. Public lands provide both challenges and opportunities for economic development in the county. The county is sparsely populated and is only projected to grow at a 1.0 percent annual rate between 2005 and 2050, a rate below the state average.

According to a 2003 Utah Bureau of Economic Analysis Report, Garfield County residents had one of the five lowest levels of total personal income in the state. Additionally, Garfield County had the second highest unemployment rate (10.8 percent) in the state according to 2003 Utah Department of Workforce Services information, exceeded only by Emery County's 11.0 percent unemployment rate. Slow job growth and unemployment are recurrent problems for the county. Traditionally, county residents have relied primarily upon ranching and timber. While there is a desire to retain these traditional sources of economic opportunity, services related to recreation and tourism are growing quickly in the county (*People and the Forests*, 2003). Services are projected to increase from a 30.1 percent share in the Garfield County economy in 2005 to a 37.8 percent share in 2030 (State of Utah 2003).

According to Garfield County, the growth in the recreation and tourism industries has not been strong enough to provide the economic growth that has been achieved in more diverse parts of the state (Bremner 2006).²⁹ While these services (mostly related to leisure and hospitality) represent the largest sector in the Garfield County economy, government jobs (the sector ranked second) make up a much higher percentage of payroll wages (State of Utah 2003). There is a perception that leisure and hospitality jobs will not pay as much as jobs in other more traditional sectors.³⁰ According to Garfield County, “. . . Garfield County is struggling economically. Schools are showing declining enrollment, and additional natural resource based industries have been all but eliminated in the county. . . Garfield County is struggling and unless changes [in land management and opportunities] are made relatively soon, things will get tougher” (Bremner 2006). Also according to Garfield County Commissioner Maloy Dodds in testimony to Congress, “. . . most tourist-generated jobs generally are minimal skill, minimum wage jobs – not the kind that can support a family.” Another important fact that the Commissioner noted, “Federal destination areas [are] a mixed blessing at best” for Garfield County because increased visitors can be a

³⁰ In the book *Visions of the Grand Staircase-Escalante* (compiled at the time of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument planning process in the 1990s), Gail Blattenberger and David Kiefer acknowledge, “[m]inimum wages plus tips at Ruby's Inn are what the locals [in Garfield County] envisage from the service industry, but high tech service enterprises are also viable given an investment in communications infrastructure.” Blattenberger and Kiefer suggest that while based on past performance “economic well-being” is clearly an issue in Kane and Garfield counties, “[e]xtractive industries are not an optimal or even a viable solution to the economic situation in these counties.” Furthermore, “change will certainly come to these economies” and be met with “resistance (because of) the desire for a land-based economy (which is) seen as crucial to the quality of life in the rural West.” According to the authors, the key is to “find ways of preserving our land-based Western heritage and lifestyle (which are so important to rural residents) along with the natural treasures of the countryside.” Roughly 10 years later, we seem to face the same conditions, trends, attitudes, fears, opportunities, and challenges (Blattenberger and Kiefer 1998).

burden to the county in terms of increased cost of garbage and search and rescue operations (Testimony to House Resources Committee's Forest and Forest Health Subcommittee, June 15, 2005).

The closest communities to the river segment are Escalante and Boulder. Escalante is projected to grow from about 800 people in 2000 to about 1300 in 2050. Boulder is projected to grow from 180 in 2000 to around 300 in 2050.

The river segment and the areas below Highway 12 are also used regularly by residents of Wayne County. Wayne County has the second highest percentage of federal land of any county in the state. The county contains about 160,000 acres of National Forest System lands. The county contains the second fewest acres of private land in the state, trailing only Daggett County (which is four times smaller than Wayne County) by about 8,000 acres. From 2004 to 2005, Wayne County was only one of three counties to register negative population growth. The county had a -0.6% annual growth rate (the lowest in the State) (State of Utah 2006). However, from 2005 to 2050, the county is projected to almost double in population and grow at a 1.2 percent annual growth rate (State of Utah 2005).

Education and health services is the largest sector in the Wayne County economy. This sector is buoyed by the presence of Aspen Health Services' Aspen Achievement Academy, a wilderness therapy program that is a major county employer. Headquartered in Loa, the program operates on BLM and Forest Service lands. Government is the second largest sector in the county. Since 1980 agriculture has decreased dramatically and services have increased, a trend that is projected to continue into 2030. In 1980, agriculture made up 26.9 percent of the economy, while services took only a 3.5 percent share. By 2002, agriculture had declined to 13.8 percent and services had increased to 24.9 percent. In 2030, *People and the Forests* projects that agriculture will take a 6.5 percent share, while services will have increased to 30.3 percent (State of Utah 2003). This increase is visible in the increasingly popular tourist venue of Torrey at the gateway to Capitol Reef National Park.

While agriculture continues to decline, it is an important part of the county's traditions and customs. Many county residents work multiple jobs to keep the traditions of the past alive. The Wayne County General Plan identifies tourism promotion as an important economic development tool; however, there is concern over preserving quality of life while implementing this strategy.

Wayne County continues to struggle with issues of poverty. The county's 1999 poverty rate exceeded 15 percent, almost one and one-half times the state average (State of Utah 2003). Total personal income in Wayne County is the fourth lowest in the state. Growth rates of total personal income were second to last in the state from 2000 to 2003 (Bureau of Economic Analysis 2003).

Teasdale, Grover, and Torrey are the closest towns in Wayne County to the river segment. Torrey has a population of 171 (2005). None of the communities in Wayne County are expected to grow rapidly.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS. The U.S. Forest Service and BLM would share management of the segment.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared

preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There has been no demonstrated or potential commitment to share preservation and/or administration.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not applicable, as all of the land through which the segment flows is federally owned.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Garfield County is working on a Resource Management Plan for all lands in the county. They have included an analysis of Wild and Scenic Rivers in their discussions. While their RMP supports the designation of Cataract Canyon (Colorado River) and the Dirty Devil River as Wild and Scenic Rivers, the county does not support the designation of Steep Creek.

During the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests eligibility process, the county expressed repeated concern over the eligibility determinations made for this and other river segments on the Escalante Ranger District. The county does not believe that the Escalante River system is suitable because its flow is too regulated by irrigators.

When representatives of the Forest met with staff from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Nation in July 2006, the Tribes indicated that they favored "preservation" of forest resources including Wild and Scenic Rivers. No official communications from the Tribes confirming this support has been received.

In response to scoping, a non-profit organization expressed support for designation because of the segment's contribution to river system integrity. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

Allen Rowley (Fishlake NF Supervisor) has recently spoken with the BLM Manager of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument relative to suitability of this segment on FS lands, and has not yet received any indication of support or opposition.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Downstream from the Forest Service boundary, the BLM found Steep Creek to be suitable for designation because "high quality scenery, recreational values, and riparian areas make this a worthy addition to the WSR system" (Appendix 11, GSENM FEIS Monument Plan).

The Dixie National Forest, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Bryce Canyon National Park, and GSENM all worked together on eligibility for this river segment. Final determinations of suitability were reserved for individual agencies to make on their own.

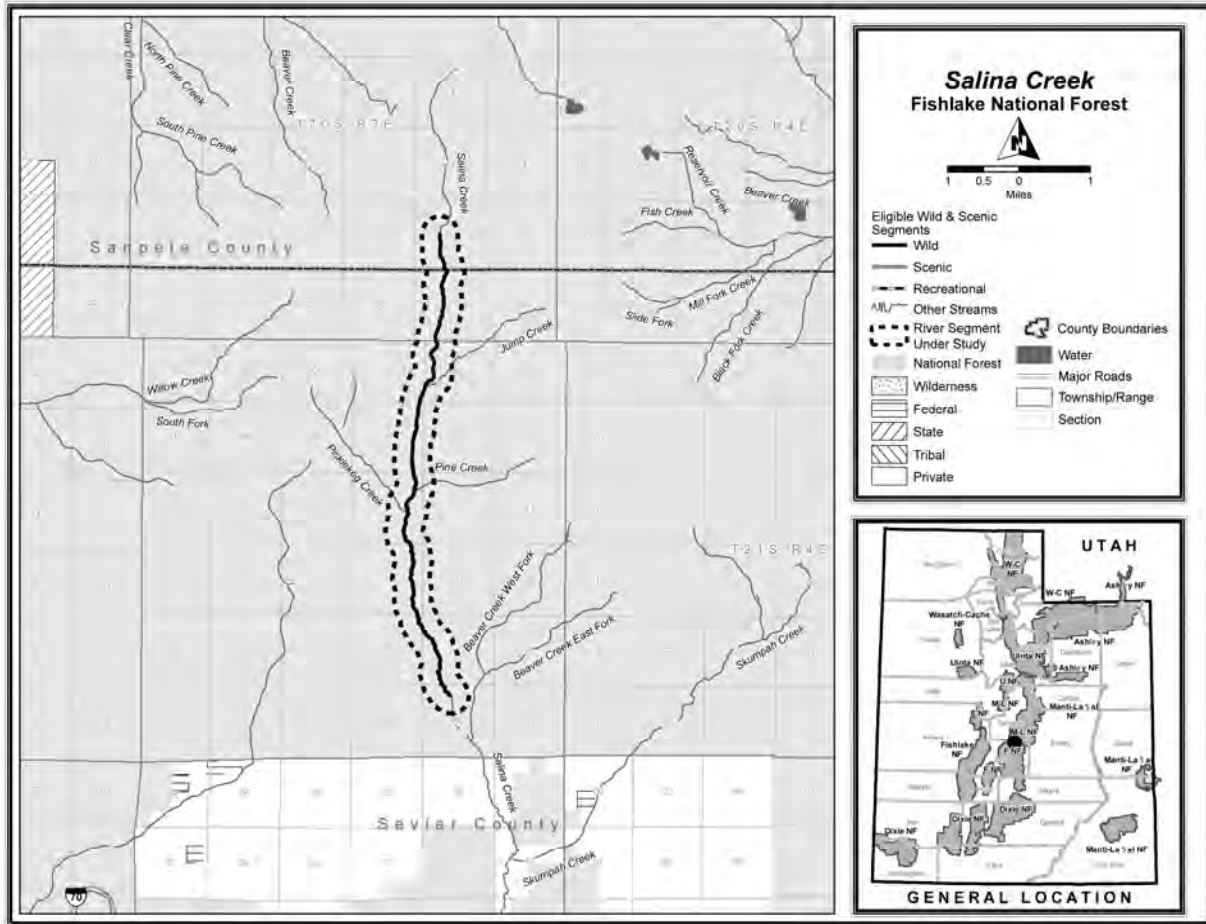
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Steep Creek is not one of the tributaries identified in the GSENM plan that contributes significantly to the flow of the Escalante River, however, as a perennial stream it does provide flow consistently to the system. The segment within the GSENM has been found suitable for designation.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed.

Salina Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Salina Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 32 miles, from the headwaters to confluence with Sevier River near Salina

Eligible: 6 miles, downstream from the Forest boundary to the “second crossing” of Salina Creek.

Location:

Salina Creek	Fishlake National Forest, Richfield Ranger District, Sevier County, Utah		Congressional District 3	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼, SW ¼, Sect. 26, T.20S., R.3E., SLM	SE ¼, NW ¼, Sect. 35, T.21S., R.3E., SLM	Wild	7.4*

* The mileage of this segment has been changed from an ocular estimate of mileage to mileage that was calculated using GIS

Location of Eligible Segment:

Segment 1 – From the Forest boundary in Gunnison Valley to the “second crossing” of Salina Creek, upstream from the confluence with Beaver Creek.

Physical Description of River Segment: Salina Creek flows south from its headwaters in the Order Mountains, which are part of the southern extension of the Wasatch Plateau. Salina Creek is fed from snowmelt accumulated from Black Mountain (10,782 feet), Mt. Musinia (10,984 feet), Water Hollow, and Snow Corral Ridges. In addition, several springs also provide water to the creek.

The creek has excellent structure, large woody debris and pool/riffle ratios. The stream has low sediment ratios. The upper part is rather narrow. Below the Pickle Keg Creek tributary the stream widens.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Fishlake and Dixie National Forest Wild and Scenic River Evaluation (2004, Pg. 11)

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions of Salina Creek on Forest Service Lands. However, multiple diversions and small dams occur on the lower sections of Salina Creek (below the eligible segment).

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Recreational – Native Bonneville cutthroat and nonnative salmonids occupy the creek and provide a quality fishing experience. Although it is unlikely to catch a trophy fish from Salina Creek, the creek offers an exceptional fishing experience. Upper Salina Creek is somewhat remote and receives low fishing pressure. The creek has excellent structure, large woody debris, and pool/riffle ratios. Many streams in this area lack those characteristics. The stream has low sediment levels; this is especially remarkable considering the parent material in the area. The upper part is rather narrow, which provides an expert-level fly-fishing challenge. Below the Pickle Keg Creek tributary, the stream widens, which provides easier fly-fishing opportunities.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Wild

No roads exist along this segment of Salina Creek.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – About 1,920 acres of National Forest Service System Lands are within the river corridor. The National Forest Service is the only land holder within the corridor of the eligible segment.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
	Fishlake National Forest	1,920

The eligible segment passes through Management Area 9A (MA-9A) according to the Fishlake National Forest Plan. MA-9A has a management emphasis on protection of riparian and aquatic ecosystems. The area provides multiple uses.

Water Resources Development – No existing structures are known along the stream corridor within the eligible segment. There are no known plans for future water resources development. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Salina Creek flows in a southern direction on

the National Forest. Vehicular access exists just below the eligible segment via Forest Road (FS 009) and above the segment from the Skyline Drive (FS 001). A horse and foot trails parallels the creek to the east generally less than one mile from the stream.

The entire segment is within the White Mountain inventoried roadless area.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Salina Creek is near an extensive underground coal deposit that has been actively mined for many years. No known structures are located within the corridor of the eligible segment. There are no known proposals for mineral and energy resource activities within the stream corridor.

Grazing Activities – This segment of Salina Creek passes through one active cattle grazing allotment (Salina Creek Allotment). A moderate level of livestock grazing occurs within the riparian corridor.

Recreation Activities – The creek and adjacent terrain is used as a base area for recreation activities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and camping. “Second Crossing” (just below the eligible segment) is a popular dispersed camping area.

Other Resource Activities – None

Special Designations – None

Socio-Economic Environment – This segment of Salina Creek is about 25 miles upstream from Salina, Utah (pop. 2,400) and a remote part of Sevier County (pop. 21,000). Sevier County’s largest employment sectors are non-farm proprietors, trade, government, and services.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is USFS. No land acquisition would be necessary.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn’t account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There has been no demonstrated or potential commitment to share preservation and/or administration.

(2) The state/local government’s ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not applicable, as the land through which this segment flows is all federally owned.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

The Sevier County Commission has expressed opposition to designation. There were no expressions of support for designation during scoping.

The Forest received little specific comment on the DEIS concerning Salina Creek. One group (Grand Canyon Trust) supported suitability of this segment along with other eligible segments on this and other adjacent Forests. There were no other expressions of support for designation in the comment letters we received. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

In summary, there is little interest in seeing this river segment designated. Some, who did comment, questioned whether the additional protections available under wild and scenic rivers designation would be necessary to protect this segment of Salina Creek.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Not applicable, as the county plan is silent on Wild and Scenic rivers in general and Salina Creek in particular. Designation would not be inconsistent with current forest plan.

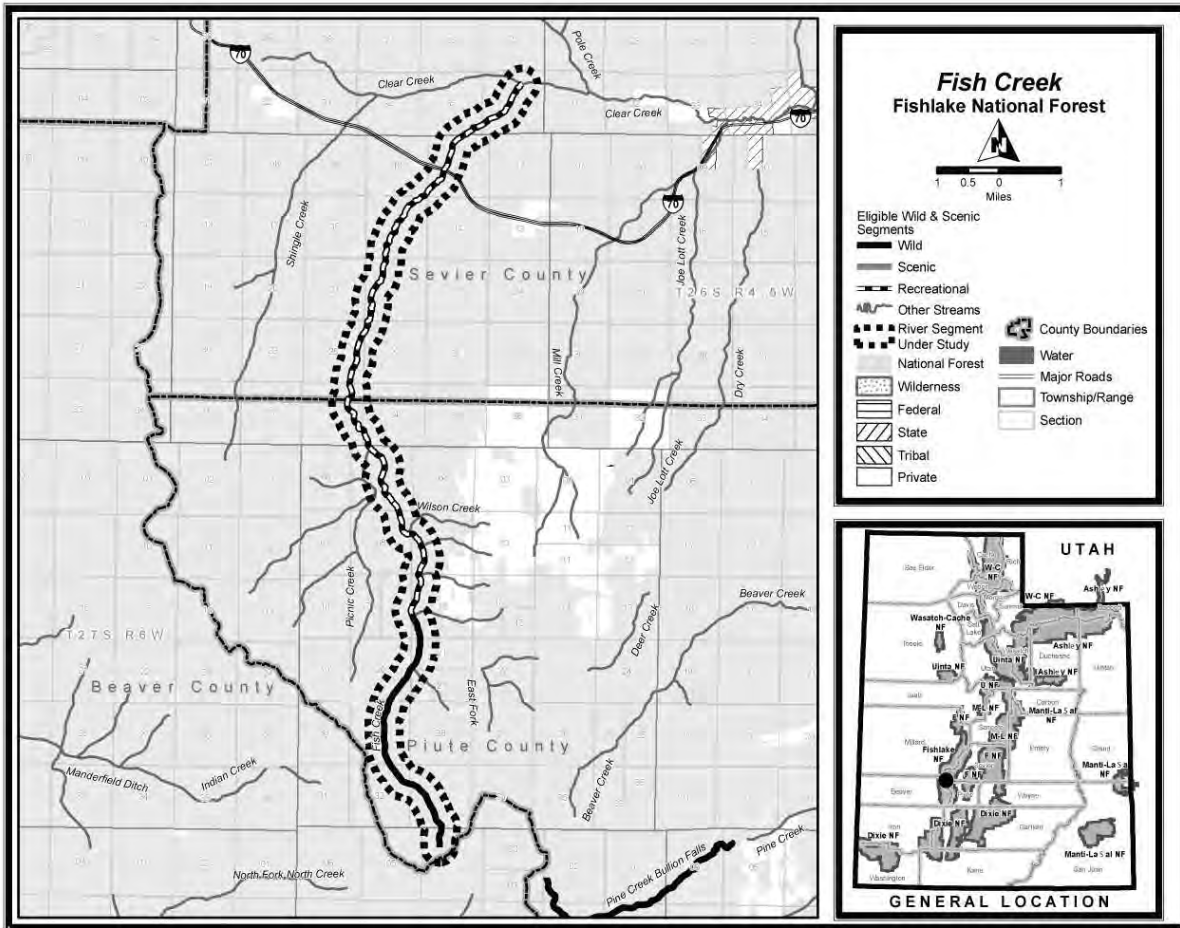
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Designation of this creek would not contribute to river system or basin integrity. No other portions of the river system or basin have been designated.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed.

Fish Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Fish Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 17 miles, from its point of origin to its confluence with Clear Creek

Eligible: Same

Location:

Fish Creek	Fishlake National Forest, Beaver Ranger District, Sevier and Piute Counties, Utah		Congressional District UT -2 UT-3	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼, NW ¼, Sect 4, T.28S., R.5W., SLM	NW ¼, SW ¼, Sect. 16, T.27S., R.5W., SLM	Wild	4.3*
Segment 2	NW ¼, SW ¼, Sect. 16, T.27S., R.5W., SLM	NW ¼, NE ¼, Sect. 36, T.25S., R.5W., SLM	Recreational	10.5*

* The mileage of this segment has been changed from an ocular estimate of mileage to mileage that was calculated using GIS

Location:

Segment 1 – Headwaters to the confluence of Trapper Creek in section 16, as Wild.

Segment 2 – From the confluence of Trapper Creek in section 16 to the confluence with Clear Creek, as Recreational.

Physical Description of River Segment: Fish Creek is one of the longest creeks without impoundments on the Fishlake Forest. It has a large volume of water and high potential for future fisheries development. Fish Creek begins life as a first order tributary and ends up as a third order stream by the time it reaches Clear Creek.

Fish Creek flows northward from its source between Mt. Belknap and Mt. Baldy, both located in the Tushar Mountains. Fish Creek flows for approximately 3.5 miles across National Forest land before it passes the western edge of the Gold Mountain Mining District. The total length of Fish Creek is approximately 17 miles. It accumulates the flow from numerous tributaries before it merges with Clear Creek about 1 mile upstream of Pole Creek.

An extensive riparian zone exists along Fish Creek on National Forest System lands with riparian vegetation consisting of willows, ash, cottonwoods, sedges, and grasses. As one moves away from the stream, vegetation changes to forms more typical of high plateau environments and includes coniferous trees at the higher elevations. The subalpine zone includes mountain brush, high plateau species, and understory plants.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Fishlake and Dixie National Forest Wild and Scenic River Evaluation (2004, Pg. 15)

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions of Fish Creek on Forest Service Lands. The source of Fish Creek is on federal land and has locally been impacted by seasonal grazing. Historically, Fish Creek was impounded by two hydroelectric plants and a sawmill.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Prehistoric/Historic – Near the headwaters region, Fish Creek flows near the edge of the Gold Mountain Mining District. Gold was first discovered in Fish Creek but the only sizeable mine near Fish Creek was the Trappers' Pride. The Trappers' Pride Lode was above Fish Creek near Tip Top Peak. Fish Creek was the site of two hydroelectric power plants that supplied the Kimberly community with electricity. The volume of water in Fish Creek fluctuated, so the creek was supplemented with water from other creeks via a steel and wood penstock. These plants were built by Charles Skoogaurd who later built the Fish Lake Lodge. There was also a sizeable sawmill close to the confluence of Fish Creek and Clear Creek. Evidence exists that the area of Fish Creek has been used historically by the Fremont Indian culture and more recently by the Utes.

Wildlife/ Ecology – Dense riparian vegetation along with an intact watershed exists in the upper Fish Creek drainage. The Forest Service has designated the upper watershed as the Fish Creek Research Natural Area. The lower portion of the watershed has been impacted more by human intervention but still retains the important components to sustain ecological integrity. The entire watershed provides important habitat for neotropical and resident avifauna, deer and other mammals, amphibians, and reptile species.

Fish – Historically, this stream course supported native Bonneville cutthroat trout. Currently, Fish Creek supports non-native salmonid populations; however, remnant populations of native Bonneville cutthroat

trout may exist in the headwaters and supporting tributaries. Native cyprinids, suckers, sculpins, and dace exist in the lower portion of Fish Creek. Fish Creek has a large volume of water and high potential for future fisheries development.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Segment 1 – Wild; Segment 2 – Recreational

Vehicular accesses to the creek exist at the lower, northern end of the watercourse near County Road 4, which is adjacent to Interstate 70. Access to Fish Creek is limited to several historic mining routes and a hiking trail along the lower one-half of the drainage. A portion of Fish Creek from I-70 south for approximately three miles is paralleled by an old road and ATV trail that receives moderate use.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – There are about 5440 acres of NFS lands within the segment corridor. There are three small, inaccessible private land tracts. These tracts were sites of historic hydroelectric power sites. The sites total less than 10 acres of private land within the river corridor.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 - 6	USFS – (The headwaters are within the Fish Creek Research Natural Area)	
6 - 17	USFS	
	Total	5440

The stream passes through Management Area 10A (MA-10A), MA-3B, and MA-4A according to the Fishlake National Forest Plan. MA-10A is a research natural area with an emphasis on research, study, observations, monitoring, and educational activities that are nondestructive and non manipulative and maintain unmodified conditions. MA-3A has a management emphasis on non-motorized recreation outside of wilderness areas. MA-4A has a management emphasis on fish habitat improvement. The area provides multiple uses.

Water Resources Development – No existing diversions or planned water developments are known along the stream corridor. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Fish Creek flows across the Fishlake National Forest for most of its length. Vehicular access to the creek exists at the lower, northern end of the watercourse near County Road 4, which is adjacent to Interstate 70 (I-70). Access to Fish Creek is limited to several historic mining routes and a hiking trail along the lower one-half of the drainage. A portion of Fish Creek from I-70 south for approximately 3 miles is paralleled by an old road and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail that receives moderate use. The portion from I-70 to the Clear Creek road is easy to hike with evidence of some ATV use. There are a couple of places on the southern reaches of the stream that are accessible by four-wheel drive vehicles and ATVs.

The upper reaches of the segment are within the Tushar Mountain inventoried roadless area.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There is considerable historical mining development in the adjacent area of the Gold Mountain Mining District. The Kimberly area of the Gold Mountain Mining District attracts considerable interest in the mining history of Utah. The Gold Mountain Mining District was very active in the late 1800s and left a considerable legacy of mining artifacts that are protected and managed by the Forest Service. The remains of two hydroelectric power plants exist along Fish Creek. These plants were the first hydroelectric plants in the area. There are no known plans for future mineral and energy resource activities.

Grazing Activities – Fish Creek passes through two active cattle grazing allotments (Joe Lott – Fish Creek Allotment and Clear Creek Allotment). The Fish Creek corridor receives a moderate level of livestock use. The Clear Creek Valley area has a long agriculture and ranching history. Historically, cattle ranchers used the high meadows and riparian areas along streams for cattle forage, and Clear Creek canyon was used as a corridor for moving animals from western Utah to the high plateaus to the east.

Recreation Activities – Several non-motorized trails parallel portions of Fish Creek. A portion of Fish Creek from I-70 south for approximately 3 miles is paralleled by an old road and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail that receives moderate use. Fish Creek is near popular areas including the Kimberly mining district, the Fremont Indian State park, and the Castle Rock Campground.

Other Resource Activities – None

Special Designations – The headwaters of Fish Creek is within a Research Natural Area designated by the Chief of the Forest Service.

Socio-Economic Environment – Upper Fish Creek is in a remote part of Piute County (pop. 1,400). Piute County’s largest employment sectors are agriculture, government, and non-farm proprietors. Lower Fish Creek is in a remote part of Sevier County (pop. 21,000). Sevier County’s largest employment sectors are non-farm proprietors, trade, government, and services.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is USFS. No land acquisition would be necessary.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn’t account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There has been no demonstrated or potential commitment to share preservation and/or administration.

(2) The state/local government’s ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Nearly all of the river corridor is on federally owned land. Less than 10 acres of the corridor is on private land within Piute County. Those tracts of private land are zoned “agriculture”.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

During scoping, a private party expressed opposition to designation, largely based on conflicts with potential mineral development. Opposition to suitability relative to mineral development was also central in comment letters received. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

The Sevier County Commission initially expressed opposition to any designation. However, after further

consideration during recent conversation with Allen Rowley (Fishlake NF Supervisor) in which he noted that designation should not interfere with present mineral or water rights issues; the commissioners stated they would now be in support of suitability towards Fish Creek's designation.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Not applicable; both county plans are silent on Wild and Scenic rivers in general and Fish Creek in particular. Designation would not be inconsistent with current Forest plan.

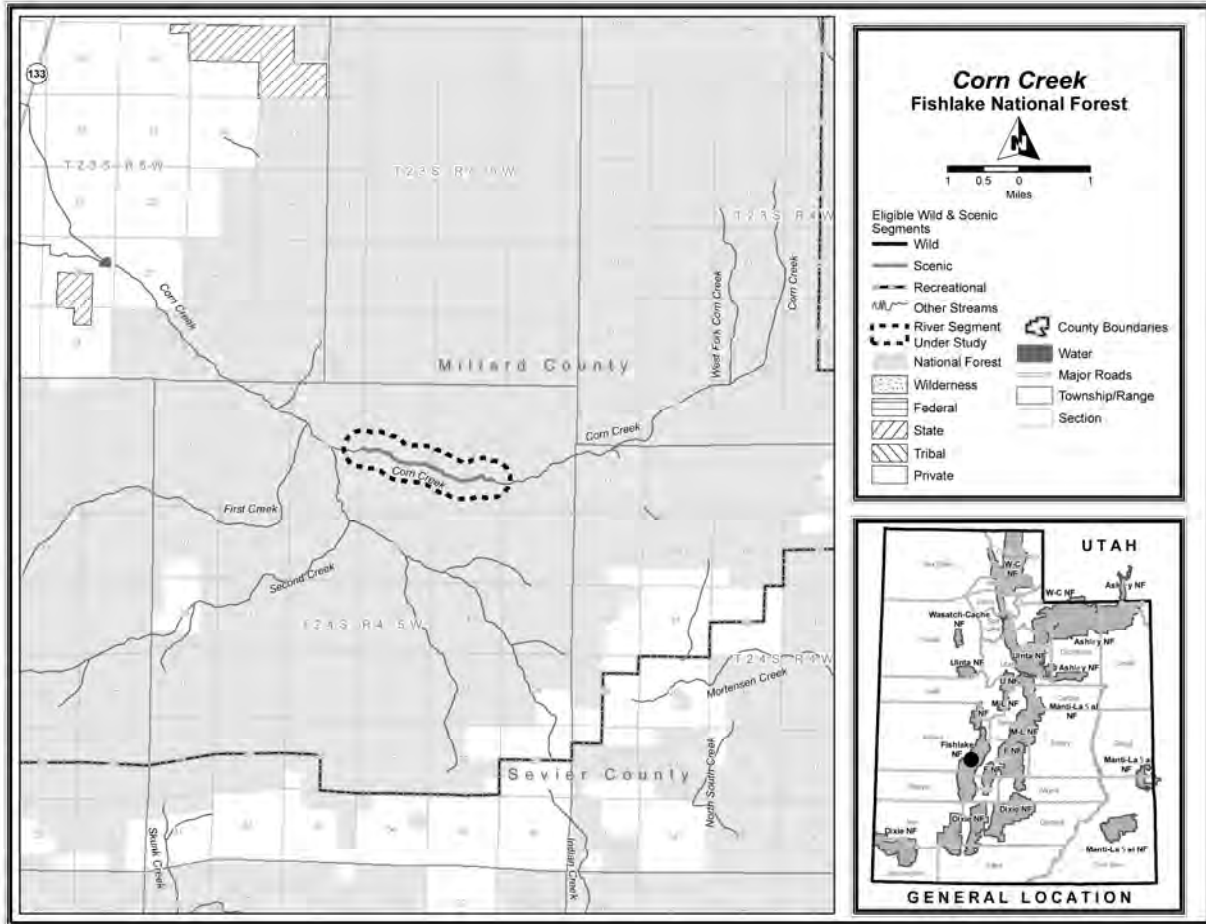
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

These segments represent the entire Fish Creek system. The Fish Creek system is a small part of the Clear Creek basin.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed.

Corn Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Corn Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 14 miles, from the headwaters to private land

Eligible: 2 miles, from the confluence with Big Springs down to the confluence with Monk Springs Creek.

Location:

Corn Creek	Fishlake National Forest, Fillmore Ranger District, Millard County, Utah		Congressional District 3	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 2, T 24 S, R 4 W, SLM	NW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 3, T 24 S, R 4 W, SLM	Scenic	2

Physical Description of River Segment: Corn Creek flows west from its headwaters in the Pahvant Mountain range. Corn Creek is supported by snowmelt accumulated from Sunset Peak (10,088 feet), Middle Mountain (7,344 feet), and Leavitt's Peak (8,640 feet). In addition, several springs provide water.

The West Fork and East Fork of Corn Creek provide the primary water for the system. The East Fork of Corn Creek begins at an elevation of about 8,500 feet and ends at 5,015 feet, for a drop of approximately

3,485 feet. As Corn Creek leaves the National Forest, it flows across private lands before it is dispersed through irrigation canals and drainage ditches near Kanosh.

Perennial flows in Corn Creek provide quality aquatic habitat all year.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Fishlake and Dixie National Forest Wild and Scenic River Evaluation (2004, Pg. 20)

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions of Corn Creek within the eligible segment on Forest Service Lands. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreational – The best fishing experience on Corn Creek occurs in the non-motorized segment, below Big Springs. Within that segment, an angler might catch a large native trout in a semi-primitive setting. Above Big Springs, there is too little water to sustain a quality fishery. Below Monk Springs Creek, the motorized access alters the fishing experience.

The entire length of Corn Creek receives high recreation use. Specifically, the Adelaide campground near the confluence with Second Creek is heavily used seasonally. Recreationally, the lower 3.5 mile section of Corn Creek, through Kanosh Canyon, has vehicular access via a Forest Service road. The lower portion of Corn Creek is used by ATVs and equestrians. The upper two-thirds of Corn Creek are designated non-motorized access only. Some horse use exists in the area.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River– Scenic

Segment is accessed by a horse and foot trail. In the past, the trail was open to and accessed by motorized vehicles. That past access is still clearly evident.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – About 640 acres of National Forest Service System Lands are within the river corridor. The National Forest Service is the only land holder within the corridor of the eligible segment.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
	Fishlake National Forest	640

The stream corridor is within Management Area 9F (MA-9F) and MA-4A according to the Fishlake National Forest Plan. MA-9F has a management emphasis on improving watershed conditions. MA-4A has a management emphasis on fish habitat improvement. The area provides multiple uses.

Water Resources Development – There are no known diversions of Corn Creek within the eligible segment on Forest Service Lands. There are no known plans for future water resources development. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – A foot and horse trail runs follows the length of the eligible segment. The segment is not within an Inventoried Roadless Area.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Historically, mining exploration occurred along the lower portions of Corn Creek. There are no known plans for future mineral and energy resource activities.

Grazing Activities – the eligible segment is within an active cattle grazing allotment (Corn Creek Allotment). The segment receives a moderate level of livestock activity.

Recreation Activities – The creek and adjacent terrain serve as a base area for recreational activities such

as hiking, horseback riding, and camping. Adelaide campground (two miles downstream) is a developed Forest Service recreational and camping area.

Other Resource Activities – None

Special Designations – None

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is about 7 miles upstream from the community of Kanosh (pop. 476). Millard county's largest employment sectors are non-farm proprietors, agriculture, government, and trade. Primary use of the segment is by local residents.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is USFS. No land acquisition would be necessary.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There has been no demonstrated or potential commitment to share preservation and/or administration.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not applicable, as the land through which this segment flows is all federally owned.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

The Millard County Commission has expressed opposition to designation. During scoping a private citizen expressed opposition to any designation. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

Except for one group (Grand Canyon Trust) who supported suitability of this segment along with other eligible segments on this and other adjacent Forests, there were no expressions of support for designation.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

The county plan is silent on Wild and Scenic rivers in general and Corn Creek in particular. Designation would not be inconsistent with current forest plan.

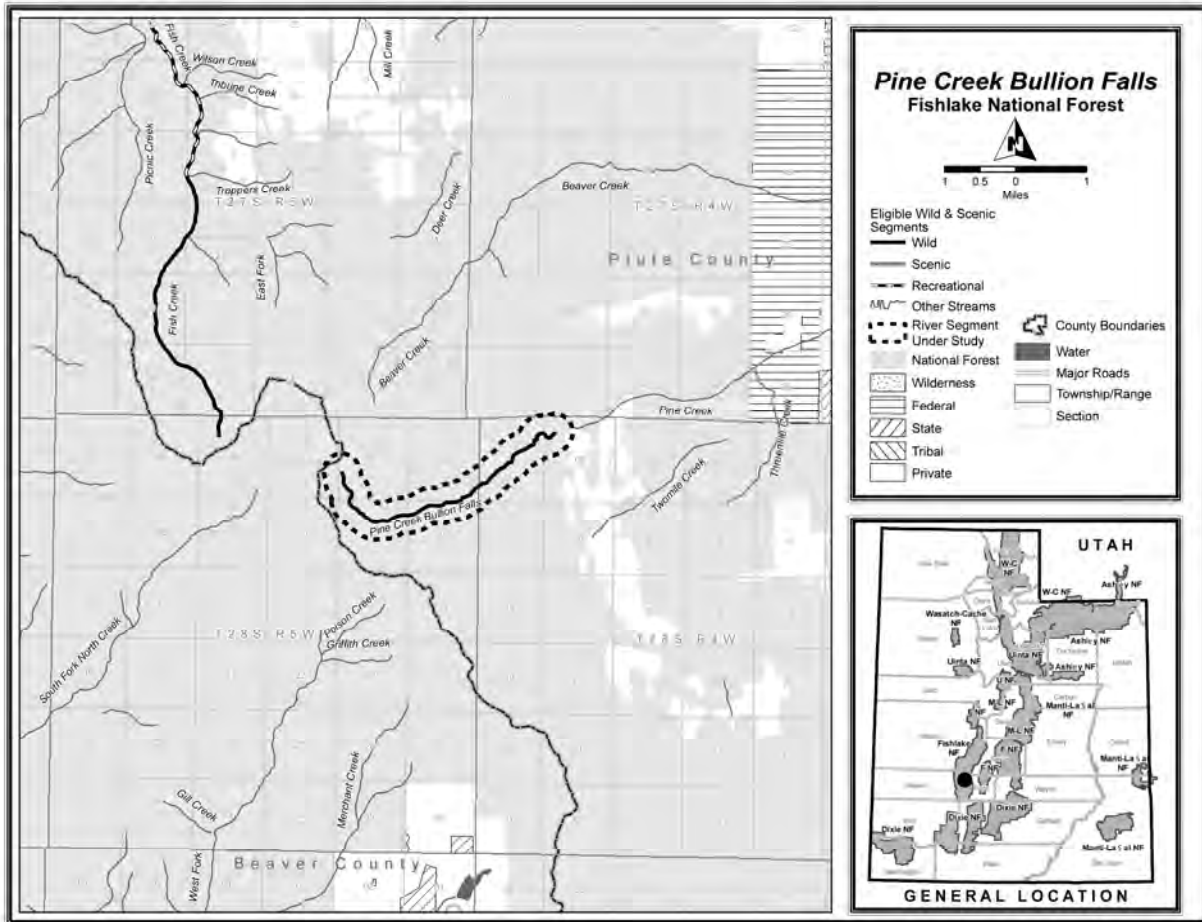
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The segment does not contribute to basin integrity. The eligible segment is one seventh of the creek on NFS land. The creek is diverted for agricultural purposes and does not connect to the larger basin integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed.

Pine Creek/ Bullion Falls Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Pine Creek/ Bullion Falls

River Mileage:

Studied: 10.7 miles, from its head waters to its confluence with the Sevier River

Eligible: 4 miles, from its headwaters to Bullion Falls

Location:

Pine Creek	Fishlake National Forest, Beaver Ranger District, Piute County, Utah		Congressional District UT-2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼, NW ¼, Sect. 11, T 27 S, R 5 W, SLM	NE ¼, NW ¼, Sect. 5, T 27 S, R 4 W, SLM	Wild	4

Physical Description of River Segment: Pine Creek flows northeast from its headwaters in the Tushar Mountains. Pine Creek is fed from snowmelt accumulated in a basin formed by Delano Peak (12,169), Mt. Brigham (11,759 feet), Mt. Baldy (12,122 feet), Mt. Belknap (12,139 feet), and Copper Peak (11,383 feet). In addition, several springs provide additional water sources. Pine Creek drains a rather large undeveloped watershed. The stream has significant boulders and cobble structures which limits potential impacts from sediment. As Pine Creek leaves the National Forest, it flows across BLM and private lands

before its confluence with the Sevier River near Marysvale.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Fishlake and Dixie National Forest Wild and Scenic River Evaluation (2004, Pg. 24)

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions of Pine Creek within the eligible segment on Forest Service lands. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Wildlife/ Ecology: Pine Creek flows support a quality riparian habitat zone along its course. The upper portion of the watershed (above Bullion Falls) is designated as a Research Natural Area.

Native Fish: The area provides remote location for native fisheries. Bullion Falls is a significant natural barrier that provides isolation for the upper segment. DWR is considering Bonneville cutthroat trout recovery in the upper portions of the watershed. Pine Creek drains a rather large undeveloped watershed. The stream has significant boulders and cobble structures which limits potential impacts from sediment.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River– Wild

A foot trail exists upstream from Bullion Falls. No know infrastructure exists along the upper portions of Pine Creek.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – About 1,280 acres of National Forest Service System Lands are within the river corridor. The Fishlake National Forest Service is the only land holder within the corridor of the eligible segment.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
	Fishlake National Forest	1,280

The eligible segment passes through Management Area 10A (MA-10A), and MA-3B according to the Fishlake National Forest Plan. MA-10A is a research natural area with an emphasis on research, study, observations, monitoring, and educational activities that are nondestructive and non manipulative and maintain unmodified conditions. MA-3A has a management emphasis on non-motorized recreation outside of wilderness areas. The area provides multiple uses.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Historically, mining exploration occurred along the lower portions of Pine Creek. Several structures are located in the lower portions of Pine Creek. No known infrastructure exists along the upper corridor of Pine Creek. The area is known to contain valuable minerals and periodically, interest in development is expressed. However, there are no known proposals for mineral and energy resource activities.

Water Resources Development – No existing structures are known along the stream corridor within the eligible segment. There are no known plans for future water resources development. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – From Bullion Falls upstream, a foot trail exists. Two road rights of way exist below the falls and outside of the ¼ mile corridor. The entire segment is within the Bullion - Delano inventoried roadless area.

Grazing Activities – The eligible segment passes through one inactive cattle grazing allotment (Cottonwood grazing allotment).

Recreation Activities – The creek and adjacent terrain is used as a base area for recreational activities such as hiking and camping. A semi-developed Forest Service recreation area occurs near Bullion Falls. A foot trail follows the upper portions of the creek.

Other Resource Activities – None

Special Designations – Part of the headwaters of Pine Creek is within a Research Natural Area designated by the Chief of the Forest Service.

Socio-Economic Environment – Upper Pine Creek is a remote part of Piute County (pop. 1,400). Piute County's largest employment sectors are agriculture, government, and non-farm proprietors.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is USFS. No land acquisition would be necessary.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There has been no demonstrated or potential commitment to share preservation and/or administration.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not applicable, as the land through which this segment flows is all federally owned.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

During scoping a private party expressed opposition to designation. The rationale was largely based on conflicts with potential mineral development. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

Comment letters received were generally opposed to designation; with the exception of the Grand Canyon Trust, who supported suitability of this segment along with other eligible segments on this and other adjacent Forests.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Not applicable, as the county plan is silent on Wild and Scenic rivers in general and Pine Creek in particular. Designation would not be inconsistent with current forest plan.

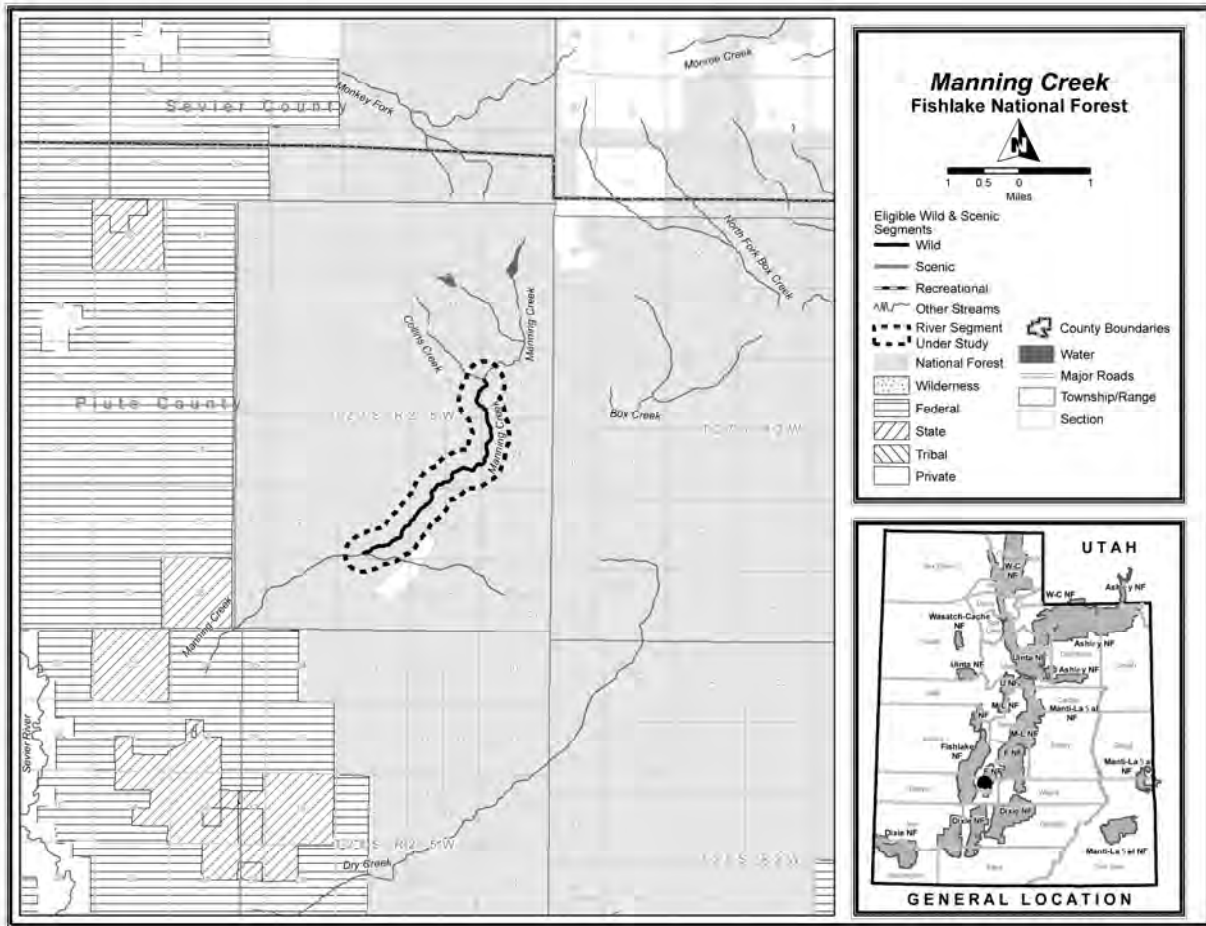
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Designation of Pine Creek would not contribute to river system or basin integrity. No other portions of the river system or basin have been designated.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed.

Manning Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Manning Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 9.5 miles, Manning Meadows Reservoir to the Forest Service boundary near the Blackbird mine.

Eligible: 6.5 miles, downstream from the confluence of Collins Creek to the confluence of Straight Creek.

Location:

Manning Creek	Fishlake National Forest, Richfield Ranger District, Piute County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼, NW ¼, Sect. 13, T.27S., R.2 ½ W., SLM	SE ¼, SW ¼, Sect. 27, T.27S., R.2 ½ W., SLM	Wild	3.8*

* The mileage of this segment has been changed from an ocular estimate of mileage to mileage that was calculated using GIS

Physical Description of River Segment: The watercourse flows southwest from the confluence of Collins Creek. The watershed has several springs that provide water to the creek in addition to releases from Manning Meadows Reservoir and Barney Lake. Manning Creek is characterized by deep pools

scoured by log and rock pourovers as well as undercut banks.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Fishlake and Dixie National Forest Wild and Scenic River Evaluation (addendum, 2007)

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions of Manning Creek on National Forest within the eligible segment, below Manning Meadows Reservoir.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Fish: Manning Creek supports an important population of Bonneville cutthroat trout. This native cutthroat trout requires good water quality and diversity of habitat. The State of Utah owns a water right for the stream, which supports instream flow. The canyon that holds the middle segment is very rugged, remote, and dominated by natural processes.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Wild

No roads exist along this segment of Manning Creek.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – About 2,080 acres of National Forest Service System Lands are within the river corridor. The National Forest Service is the only land holder within the corridor of the eligible segment.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
	Fishlake National Forest	2,080

The eligible segment passes through Management Area 4A (MA-4A) according to the Fishlake National Forest Plan. MA-4A has a management emphasis on fish habitat improvement. The area provides multiple uses.

Water Resources Development – No existing structures are known along the stream corridor within the eligible segment. There are no known plans for future water resources development. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Manning Creek flows in a southwesterly direction on the National Forest for most of its length. Vehicular access to the creek exists at the upper end of the watercourse near Manning Meadows Reservoir. The Paiute ATV trail crosses the creek below Manning Meadows Reservoir. The lower 1-mile section of Manning Creek, to the Blackbird Mine, has road and ATV access. A foot/horse trail runs along the middle 6.5 miles of Manning Creek.

The entire eligible segment is within the Marysvale Peak inventoried roadless area.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Blackbird Mine (inactive) is located along the lower 1-mile section of Manning Creek (below the eligible segment). There are no known proposals for mineral and energy resource activities.

Grazing Activities – This segment of Manning Creek passes through one active cattle grazing allotment (the Manning Creek Allotment). Actual livestock use along the eligible segment is very low.

Recreation Activities – The Paiute ATV Trail crosses Manning Creek below Manning Meadows Reservoir (above the eligible segment). Along the middle portions of Manning Creek, no known infrastructure exists. There is a non-motorized trail that follows the creek. The upper portion of this trail has received some ATV use. The upper portion of the creek and adjacent terrain have been used as a base

area for recreational activities such as hiking and camping. No developed campgrounds exist along the stream corridor.

Other Resource Activities – None

Special Designations – None.

Socio-Economic Environment – This segment of Manning Creek is in a remote part of Piute County (pop. 1,400). Piute County's largest employment sectors are agriculture, government, and non-farm proprietors.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is USFS. No land acquisition would be necessary.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There has been no demonstrated or potential commitment to share preservation and/or administration.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not applicable, as all of the land through which the segment flows is federally owned.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

The Sevier County Commission has continued to express opposition to designation. In response to scoping, some non-profit organizations have expressed support for designation because of the segment's fish habitat and wildlife value. All of the three organized campaigns supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

Again, comment letters received were generally opposed to designation of this segment. An exception is the Grand Canyon Trust, who supports the suitability of Manning Creek along with a list of other eligible segments on this and other adjacent Forests.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

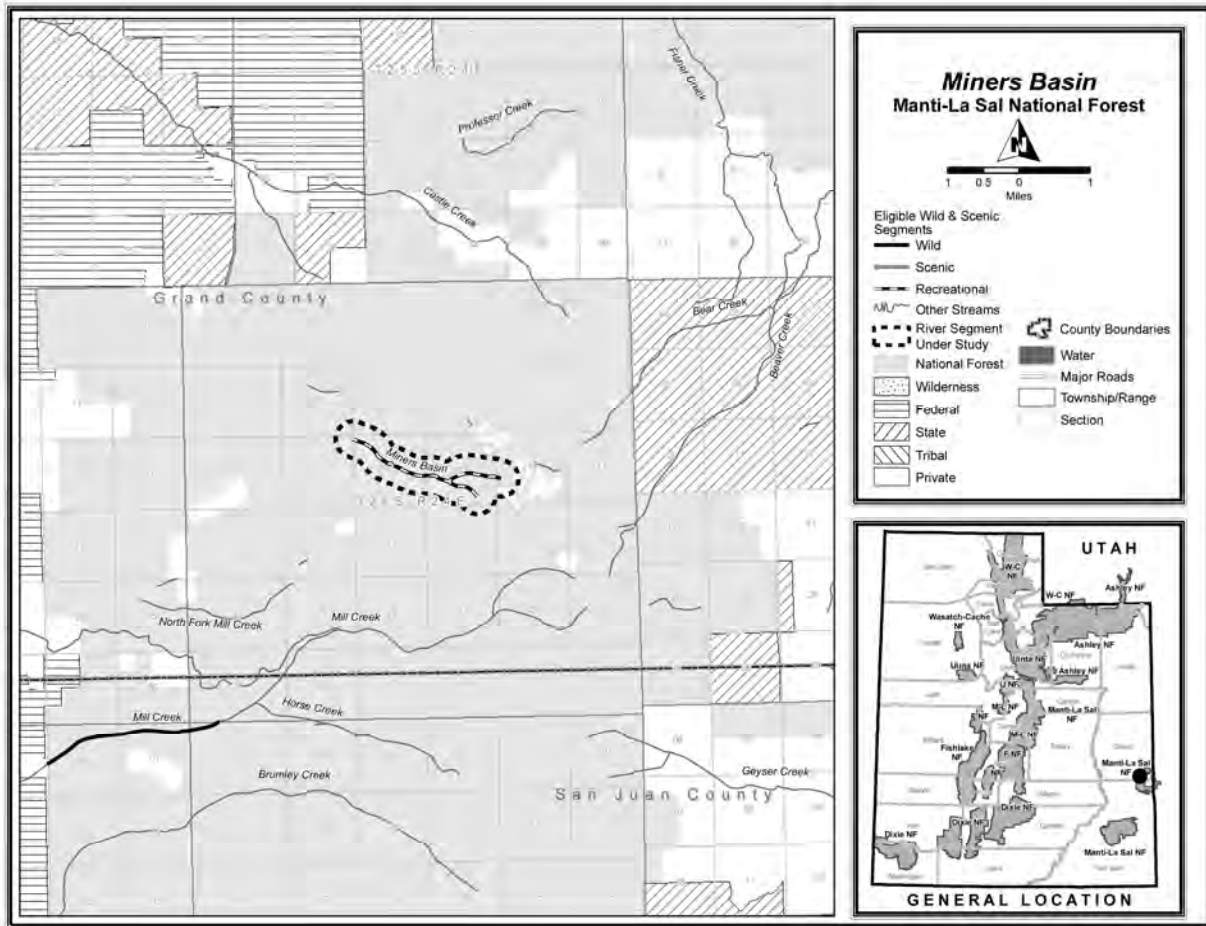
Not applicable, as the county plan is silent on Wild and Scenic rivers in general and Manning Creek in particular. Designation would not be inconsistent with current forest plan.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Designation of this creek would not contribute to river system or basin integrity. No other portions of the river system or basin have been designated.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment. No commitment has been expressed.

**Miners Basin (Placer Creek)
Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)**



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Miners Basin (Placer Creek)

River Mileage:

Studied: 1.74 miles from the headwaters in Miners Basin on the southwest slopes of Horse Mountain to the junction with Pinhook Creek.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Miners Basin (Placer Creek)	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Moab Ranger District, Grand County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	North Tributary Northing 4267112 Easting 652594	Northing 4267995 Easting 649262	Recreational	1.74

	South Tributary Northing 4266716 Easting 652068 <i>Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters</i>			
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Physical Description of River Segment: The majority of the water in the Miners Basin (Placer Creek) drainage originates from a mine adit. Snowmelt and summer monsoons also augment flows in this small rocky drainage. Even though the gradients are steep in the headwaters, the channel is stable due mainly to rocky bottoms. The middle reaches cut through shale, and bank erosion is more prevalent. Lower reaches are in Castle Valley alluvial material that moves easily during spring runoff and intense summer rainstorms. There is no fish habitat in the watercourse, due to lack of perennial water, a small stream channel, and limited cover from bank vegetation and channel boulders.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers of Rivers, March 2003, (USDA Forest Service Supplement to the Manti-La Sal NF Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2005)

Determination of Free-flow: The watercourse is primarily free flowing but an old earthen impoundment has created a pond within the segment.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Historic – Historical mining operations (buildings, mine shafts, tailings) occur on patented mining claims and are highly visible in the headwaters in Miners Basin. Miners Basin at one time supported a community of several hundred mineworkers and was one of the area’s largest gold mining operations. The watercourse has high ratings for significance, education and interpretation opportunities, and national listing eligibility.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Recreational
 Forest Road 4065 roughly parallels the segment and crosses it in two places. A Forest Service Trailhead and restroom are also located along the segment.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire 1.74 miles of the eligible segment and corridor are located on NFS lands.

Patented mining claims occur at the headwaters of Placer Creek above and east of the main channel. Also, Pinhook Creek runs along private land for 1/4 mile just upstream from the Forest boundary. This is approximately 2 1/8 miles downstream from the confluence of Placer Creek (Miners Basin) and Pinhook Creek.

There are approximately 20 mining claims in Miners Basin and along Placer Creek. Some claims have surface rights. None of the claims have been patented.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Gold exploration and mining occurred in Miners Basin during the early 1900s. Gold occurred both in hydrothermally altered igneous intrusions and placer deposits in glacial till and outwash derived from the igneous source rock. Most of the "hard rock" gold mining occurred in the upper part of Miners Basin. Copper was also found in various forms but the primary target was gold.

Placer gold mining took place along Placer Creek and nearby Bald Mesa and Wilson Mesa.

Exploration continued into the early 1990s. There are still four active claims within the studied segment. The Yale, Dartmouth, Wabash and Perdue claims are all listed as actively seeking minerals.

Water Resources Development – The State of Utah Water Rights Database indicates that there is one surface water diversion (an earthen impoundment) and one groundwater diversion within the proposed wild and scenic segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Road 4065 roughly parallels the segment and crosses it in two places. A large constructed Forest Service Trailhead consisting of a graveled parking area, restrooms, information kiosk, trail register, and a gate are located adjacent to the segment.

There is one right of way in the name of Grand County that crosses the studied segment.

Grazing Activities – The entire segment is located within the Castle Valley Cattle Allotment and is grazed throughout the summer months.

Recreation Activities – The primary recreation that occurs within the corridor is auto touring along the Forest Road. The Miners Basin trailhead is relatively heavily used by hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians to access the trails in the area. Fishing also occurs in the pond adjacent to the trailhead.

Other Resource Activities – No other potential resource activities exist.

Special Designations – No special designation exists, but the segment is located between two Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is located within Grand County, with the nearest population base being Moab, Utah. The socio-economic setting of Grand County is one based primarily on the hospitality and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands. While the majority of visitors to the area come to see Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, the La Sal Mountains in the Moab Ranger District provide a magnificent backdrop to the Parks and other public lands around Moab. While Miners Basin itself may not be the primary reason that visitors travel to the area, it is a popular area for hiking, biking, hunting and sightseeing and provides additional recreational opportunities to the Moab area.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be

\$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The entire corridor is on NFS managed lands.

The State and county governments currently do not have the authority or ability, to protect the outstandingly remarkable historic value on non-federal lands. It is highly unlikely that either the State or counties would pass legislation or zoning ordinances that would protect the outstandingly remarkable scenic, geologic or other values on non-federal lands.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab, Utah, Grand County was not opposed to designation of this segment nor were they supportive of the designation. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment as a Recreational River.

Draft EIS comments regarding Miners Basin were not specific and limited to support of all 86 river segments being designated. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation as a recreational river is consistent with current management plans of the area but it would not protect the historic values associated with the segment. As long as the mining claims remain active, the structures on the mining claims related to the historic mining are owned by the claimant.

The entire stream segment lies within the Semi-Primitive Recreation emphasis area where the management direction is to provide semi- primitive recreation opportunities. Other uses may occur so long as they are rehabilitated to reflect as close as possible previous undisturbed conditions. Designation would be consistent with this direction.

Grand County General Plan Update – April 2004 states:

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Public Lands Policy 19. Grand County will participate and promote cooperation with the administering Federal agency for any proposed or designated wild, scenic or recreational river components to the national wild and scenic river system for planning and administrative purposes. Management plans for any component added to this system shall be established to accommodate the component's special attributes and existing regular uses. This designation should not interfere with the current B and D road map developed by the County, unless the County agrees to vacate those rights-of-way.

[Code 16 U.S.C. § 1279, Withdrawal Of Public Lands From Entry, Sale, Or Other Disposition Under Public Land Laws, and more specifically, (b) Lands Constituting Bed or Bank of River; Lands Within Bank Area] or with any valid existing water right (Code 16U.S.C. § 1284, Existing State jurisdiction and responsibilities, and more specifically (b)Compensation for water rights].

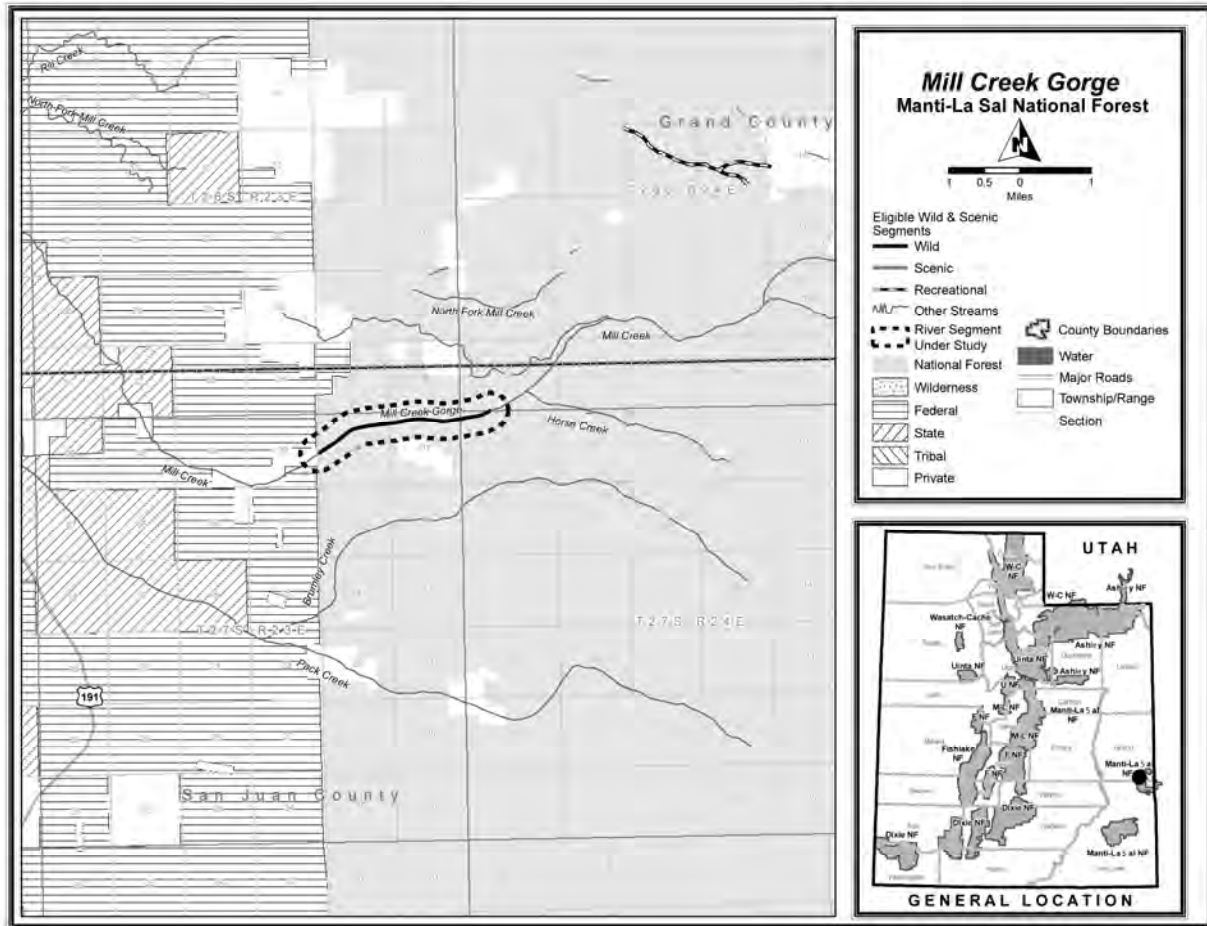
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Miners Basin (Placer Creek) is a very small stream and the designation of this small portion of it would not contribute to river system or basin integrity nor would it protect the historic structures in Miners Basin.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Miners Basin (Placer Creek) as a Recreational River.

Mill Creek Gorge Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Mill Creek Gorge

River Mileage:

Studied: 2.57 miles from the eastern most boundary of the Mill Creek Gorge Research Natural Area (RNA) to the boundary of the National Forest.

Eligible: Same

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

Mill Creek Gorge	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Moab Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah		Congressional District Ut-2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	Northing 4261597	Northing 4260621	Wild	2.57
	Easting 646240	Easting 642342		
<i>Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters</i>				

Private land occurs above the rim along portions of Mill Creek Gorge but no private lands occur within the gorge itself.

Physical Description of River Segment: Mill Creek flows originate from snowmelt from the La Sal Mountains. Flows typically peak in early June and taper off to base flows sustained from springs present in the upper reaches and summer monsoons. This is a sediment limited system with clear and clean flows. At the beginning the river segment, the channel cuts through exposed rock in a very narrow canyon as the watercourse descends the west facing slopes of the La Sal Mountains. Water has cut through sandstone formations in the upper areas of the segment, forming a moderately deep gorge with vertical walls, small cascading water falls, and deep pools. The narrow riparian corridor consists of dense stands of river birch, alder, various willow species and box elder. The channel cuts down into an inner gorge of darker geologic parent material near the RNA boundary. Bench lands of moderately deep soils are present above the inner gorge. Towards the bottom of the segment, the canyon becomes more open in character.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers of Rivers, March 2003, (USDA Forest Service Supplement to the Manti-La Sal NF Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2005)

Determination of Free-flow: Within the eligible river segment, there are no major diversions or significant channel modifications. However, upstream of the segment there are several ditches on the main stem of Mill Creek and its tributaries. These ditches dewater the stream to some degree during summer months; however, the stream recovers along its length from spring inputs above the eligible segment.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic – At the beginning of the eligible segment, the channel cuts through exposed rock in a very narrow canyon as the watercourse descends the west facing slopes of the La Sal Mountains. Water has cut through sandstone formations in the upper areas of the watercourse, forming a moderately deep gorge with vertical walls, small cascading water falls, deep pools, and dense riparian vegetation. At mid-elevation the channel cuts across bench lands of moderately deep soils before entering a defined canyon of exposed sandstone. Prominent peaks with sheer cliffs of jagged rock form the backdrop of the watercourse.

Vegetation cover changes dramatically with elevation and soil structure. At mid-elevation, Douglas-fir and mountain brush community types line the ridge tops and grow in interesting mosaic patterns on side slopes. In the lower canyon area, visually attractive willow, cottonwood, and poplar trees outline the watercourse in canyon bottoms, and pinyon-juniper stands grow on adjacent ridges and side slopes.

Defined and narrow canyons focus the eye from the peaks to the majestic views of the desert floor below, including the long, narrow Spanish Valley at the foot of the mountains. Color contrast is exceptional. Shades of green against rock-capped peaks draw the eye upward. The contrast changes to greens, yellows and tans at mid-elevation as the channels cut through layers of sandstone rock. Near the terminus of the watercourse, the yellows, tans and reds of Navajo, Chinle and Moenkopi sandstone formations provide vivid contrast with the colors of mountain brush, pinyon-juniper and deciduous trees. Views of the alpine peaks are dramatic. Fall color changes are dramatic and visually appealing, and are highly visible from the US Highway 191 traversing the foothills of the mountains.

Geologic/Hydrologic – The watercourse descends through five different formations in the main canyon areas (Mancos shale, Dakota sandstone, Morrison formation, Summerville formation, and Entrada

sandstone). The terminus of the watercourse ends in the Navajo, Chinle and Moenkopi sandstone formations. This geology is dipping to the west, with the western edges along a collapsed salt dome (Spanish Valley). The middle canyon area has moderately steep valley bottoms, while the lower canyon areas are within narrow and steep sandstone canyons. At mid elevation, the channel crosses bench lands and drops again along moderately steep gradients over sandstone bedrock. The channel is rocky with steep gradients in the headwaters and then levels out as it crosses through basin areas. Soils are generally stable except for the channel locations on bench lands. Here, soil erosion is moderate due to erosive shale and other sedimentary rock layers.

Other Similar Values – Mill Creek Gorge is part of the Mill Creek Gorge Research Natural Area exhibiting dense, vigorous riparian and woody shrubs in a wet environment. The narrow and deep canyon area is unique to the surrounding xeric ecosystems.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

The river is not accessible by roads, and there is little evidence of human activity. Above the segment Mill Creek Gorge is crossed by the La Sal Loop Scenic Backway, but the segment itself is unroaded and without constructed trails.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire 2.57 miles of the eligible segment and corridor are located on NFS lands.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The upper canyon slopes above the rim of the Mill Creek Gorge are formed in the potentially uranium bearing Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation. Three abandoned uranium-vanadium prospects are located on these slopes. The first is located 1 1/2 miles downstream from the La Sal Loop Road on the north side of the canyon. The other two are located 2 ¼ miles downstream from the La Sal Loop Road on the south side of the canyon. A number of old roads that are probably related to historic uranium exploration are located in the general vicinity of these prospects.

Water Resources Development – There are no existing water developments within the eligible segment. Several developments and diversions exist above and below the segment. It is not foreseen that designation will limit and future water developments on the segment itself because the segment is so rugged and inaccessible. No historic or current preliminary FERC permits or license applications have been issued on the segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – No roads exist within the corridor of the eligible segment. No authorized trails exist in the corridor but, several user created foot trails provide access to popular rock climbing areas within the gorge.

The Rattlesnake power line crosses above the eligible segment. Power poles are not visible from the river segment but the suspended power lines are visible.

There is one road right of way in the river corridor, issued to Grand County.

Grazing Activities – The entire eligible segment is within the Brumley Cattle Grazing Allotment, however due to the ruggedness of the terrain within the gorge very little actual grazing occurs within the corridor.

Recreation Activities – Mill Creek Gorge has become a popular climbing area and provides a place to climb in relatively cool temperatures compared to other popular lower elevation climbing areas around Moab. Numerous bolted routes exist throughout the gorge with the majority of developed routes occurring upstream of the eligible segment. In recent years more routes have begun to be developed lower in the gorge along the eligible segment. The climbing is generally located along the vertical cracks formed in the sandstone of the gorge and most of the climbs are rated as difficult routes (5.10 and above). Aside from the climbing itself, several user created trails have been built to provide access to the base of the climbing routes. Some of the trails actually use cable ladders and constructed steps to reach the bottom of the gorge. The area is featured on several websites and has been written about in popular climbing magazines. Recreational use in the gorge is expected to increase. The Forest Service will be considering more intensive management of the area as monitoring shows impacts occurring to the resources that the Research Natural Area was designated to protect.

The stream also provides opportunities for stream fishing for brown trout, a relatively rare opportunity in southeast Utah. Due to the dense vegetation and rugged nature of the gorge, fishing use is very light.

No designated or authorized trails or other recreational facilities exist within the corridor.

Other Resource Activities – No other potential resource activities exist due to the ruggedness of the terrain.

Special Designations – The entire eligible segment is within the Mill Creek Gorge Research Natural Area (RNA). The RNA was designated to protect the unique riparian area in the gorge. The designation of RNAs is an administrative decision, designed to preserve a representative sample of an ecological community primarily for scientific and educational purposes. Intrusive management practices are not generally allowed in RNAs. The Mill Creek Gorge RNA was designated in June of 2000.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is located within San Juan County, however the nearest population base is Moab, Utah, located in Grand County. The socio-economic setting of Grand County is one based primarily on the hospitality and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands. While the majority of visitors to the area come to see Arches and Canyonlands National Parks the La Sal Mountains in the Moab Ranger District provide a magnificent backdrop to the parks and other public lands around Moab. While Mill Creek itself may not be the primary reason that visitors travel to the area it is becoming an increasingly popular climbing area and provides additional recreational opportunities to the Moab area. Several permitted local climbing guide companies operate in the gorge.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS. The entire eligible portion is located on National Forest land. Funding would not be required to acquire adjacent lands.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

San Juan County will not share in the administration, the cost or preservation of a wild and scenic river designation of Mill Creek Gorge. The State has indicated no interest in sharing the administration or costs associated with of the eligible section of Mill Creek Gorge.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands.

The entire corridor is located on lands managed by the US Forest Service.

The State and county governments currently do not have the authority or ability, to protect the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value on non-federal lands. It is highly unlikely that either the State or counties would pass legislation or zoning ordinances that would protect the outstandingly remarkable scenic, geologic or other values on non-federal lands.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments made during the Suitability Open House in Moab, Utah, June of 2007, a San Juan County commission member and two Grand County Council members expressed neither opposition nor support for designation of Mill Creek Gorge as a Wild and Scenic River. They preferred to remain neutral on the subject. In correspondence dated September 2005, San Juan County stated "The vast majority of San Juan County residents do not support wild and scenic designation for Mill Creek Gorge. Many have expressed a strong opposition to such designation". The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment as a Wild River.

Draft EIS comments from the San Juan County Commission, City of Monticello and local residents strongly oppose WSR designation for Mill Creek Gorge. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: the probability of reduced grazing, mining and oil exploration water rights restrictions would have a negative effect on the economy; and it is already protected by other special management.

Draft EIS comments from individuals and groups not living in San Juan County voiced support for WSR designation of Mill Creek Gorge. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

The designation is consistent with the management plan prepared for the Mill Creek Gorge RNA, as it would further protect the unique resources within the RNA. The entire segment lies within the Semi-Primitive Recreation emphasis area where the management direction is to provide semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Other uses may occur so long as they are rehabilitated to reflect as close as possible previous undisturbed conditions. Designation would be consistent with this direction.

The designation would conflict with the San Juan County Master Plan (Chapter 1 Policy of Public Lands, General/State: pages 9-13; Policy on Multiple Use: pages 13-15; Policy of Public Access: pages 18-21; Policy on Private and Public Land Ratios: pages 22-24; and Policy on Water Resources: pages 30-32).

Grand County General Plan Update – April 2004 states:

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Public Lands Policy 19. Grand County will participate and promote cooperation with the administering Federal agency for any proposed or designated wild, scenic or recreational river components to the national wild and scenic river system for planning and administrative purposes. Management plans for any component added to this system shall be established to accommodate the component's special attributes and existing regular uses. This designation should not interfere with the current B and D road map developed by the County, unless the County agrees to vacate those rights-of-way. [Code 16 U.S.C. § 1279, Withdrawal Of Public Lands From Entry, Sale, Or Other Disposition Under Public Land Laws, and more specifically, (b) Lands Constituting Bed or Bank of River; Lands Within Bank Area] or with any valid existing water right (Code 16U.S.C. § 1284, Existing State jurisdiction and responsibilities, and more specifically (b)Compensation for water rights].

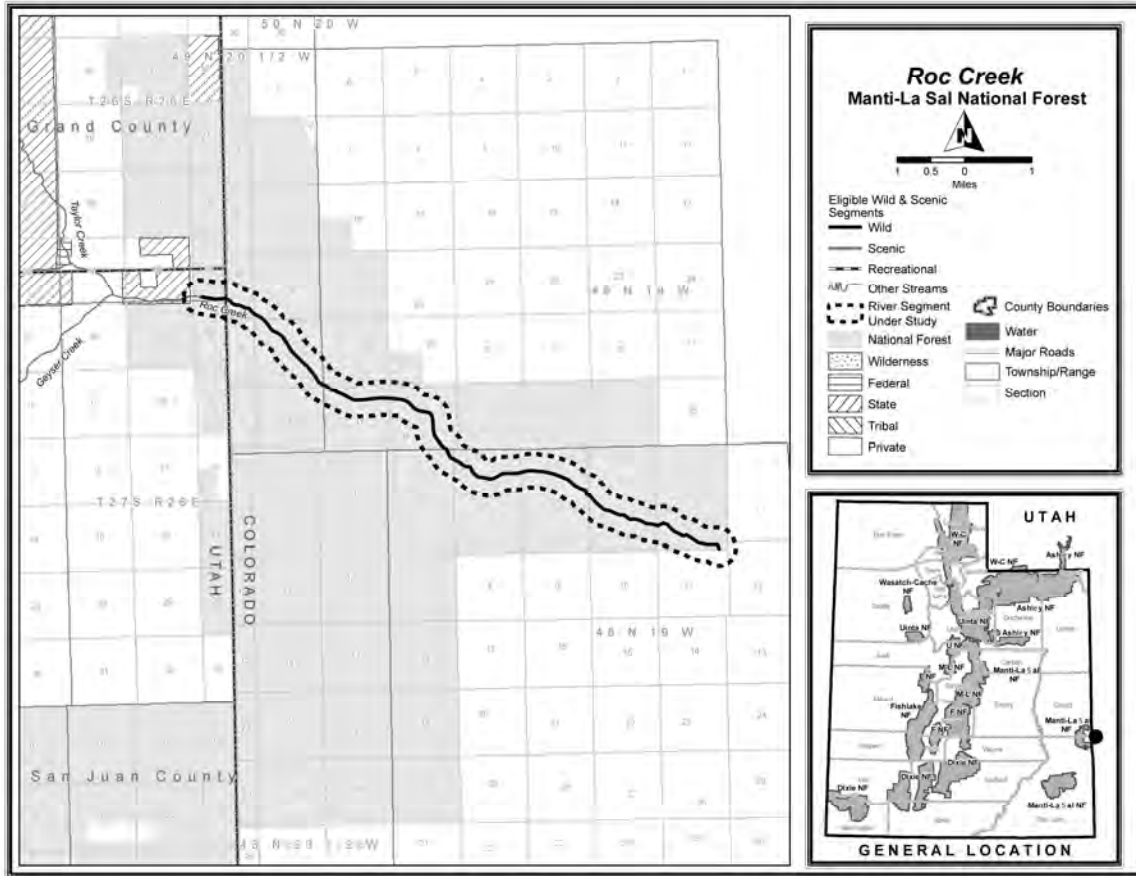
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Mill Creek is a small tributary of the Colorado River. The stream is unique in that it is a perennial stream in an arid environment. Before joining the Colorado the stream flows through BLM and private lands including the City of Moab. If the Forest Service segment was designated by itself it would contribute very little to river system or basin integrity, as the segment is a very small portion of Mill Creek. However if the BLM and Forest Service portions of the creek were designated it would add protection to a large portion of the stream system and would protect a unique desert watercourse. Even if the BLM and Forest Service portions were designated a significant amount of the stream would remain unprotected on private lands.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Mill Creek as a Wild River.

Roc Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Roc Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 9.40 miles from a point 0.1 miles east of western boundary of the National Forest in San Juan County, Utah to the eastern boundary of the National Forest in Montrose County, Colorado.

Eligible: Same

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

Roc Creek	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Moab Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah and Montrose County, Colorado		Congressional District UT -2 CO-3	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	Northing 4262375 Easting 668565	Northing 4256363 Easting 680957	Wild	9.4

Physical Description of River Segment: The majority of the flows in Roc Creek originate from artesian groundwater (Geysers Spring) in the upper reaches of the watercourse. Snowmelt and summer monsoons augment these flows. A waterfall exists within the canyon that breaks the canyon into two somewhat

distinct sections. Above the waterfall, the canyon vegetation could generally be categorized as a forested ecosystem with Douglas fir, aspen, ponderosa pine and box elder present. The gradient of the stream is steeper in this section with water cascading over large cobble alluvium. Below the waterfall, the canyon widens and the gradient flattens. This section is typical of lower elevation, desert type canyon systems with cottonwood and sagebrush present in the riparian area and upland terraces. The channel bottom consists of sandier materials interspersed with cobble and gravel. In this section, considerable alluvium has been deposited within the canyon due to uniformity of gradient producing bench land areas along the canyon bottom.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers of Rivers, March 2003, (USDA Forest Service Supplement to the Manti-La Sal NF Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2005)

Determination of Free-flow: Within the eligible river segment, there are no major diversions or significant channel modifications. However, upstream of the segment several ditches remove some of the natural flow.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Scenic – Sinbad Ridge forms the north wall of the 1,500-foot gorge of Roc Creek. Green forests of Douglas fir and ponderosa pine frame the brilliant red walls of the canyon. A pinyon-juniper forest covers the mesa above the canyon. Faulting and erosion have created ledges, benches and spire-like sandstone columns along the cliff areas of the gorge and along Sinbad Ridge. Views within the canyon range from 3 to 5 miles. The free-flowing stream descends through diverse riparian vegetation. Flows are gentle with some cascading water. One waterfall exists within the canyon. Alluvial deposition has produced bench land areas along the canyon bottom, especially in the middle section. Vistas within several areas of the gorge are expansive and varied, ranging from high mountain peaks to canyons and mesas, and eventually to wide valley areas. Diversity of view and special features are rated high.

Geologic/Hydrologic – Roc Creek descends through a geologic sequence beginning at the Forest boundary at the upper end of the canyon in the upper Jurassic Morrison Formation. The sequence continues through the Jurassic-Triassic Glen Canyon Group (Navajo, Kayenta, Wingate) to the Triassic Chinle Formation at the Forest boundary at the lower end.

Massive sandstone cliffs vary from 1,500 to 1,800 feet in height. The canyon follows fault lines between two collapsed salt domes (Sinbad Valley and Paradox Valley), and terminates in the Dolores River Canyon area. The channel gradient is uniform for most of its length, with moderate gradients. Considerable alluvium has been deposited within the canyon due to uniformity of gradient. Faulting and erosion has created patterns of ledges, benches and slick rock aprons along Sinbad Ridge. Ratings are high for feature abundance and diversity.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

The river is not accessible by roads, and there is little evidence of human activity. Roc Creek Trail (310) descends in to the middle section of the canyon from a trailhead located on Carpenter Ridge. This trail crosses the channel and connects to the Sinbad Trail (001) on Sinbad Ridge.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire 9.4 miles of the segment and the corridor are on NFS managed lands.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Numerous abandoned uranium mines and prospects of the Uravan Mining District are located in the Roc Creek area. The uranium bearing Salt Wash Member of the Morrison Formation crops out along the southern rim of Roc Creek Canyon. The Red Bird Mine and numerous prospects are located in this area.

The Morrison Formation also crops out on a mesa between Garvey Gulch and Roc Creek on a downdropped fault block. This locality is east of the Forest boundary and downstream from the stream segment being considered for suitability. It is here that the Rajah Mine is located. The Rajah may have been the first mine in Colorado to produce carnotite with history of production dating back to the late 1800s.

These mines have been abandoned since the uranium boom of the 1950-80s. Since uranium prices have risen in the last few years, interest in the Uravan Mining District has been rekindled including the Carpenter Flat area along the southern rim of Roc Creek. There are, however, no producing mines within the Manti-La Sal National Forest in the Roc Creek area at this time.

Additionally, the potentially uranium bearing Chinle Formation crops out in the lower part of the canyon, but no historic mines or prospects are evident.

Finally, an oil and gas lease exists within the upper portion of the eligible segment.

Water Resources Development – There are no existing water developments within the eligible segment. Several developments exist above the segment. The ownership of the headwaters of Roc Creek, above the eligible segment, consists of privately owned land and lands administered by the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration. Numerous spring and instream diversions exist throughout these above-mentioned lands, including the large ditch that diverts water from Deep Creek and Geyser Creek (two major tributaries of Roc Creek) into Buckeye Reservoir. Development of springs throughout the headwaters of Roc Creek has probably decreased recharge to shallow aquifer systems somewhat and may reduce base flow during the summer months in Roc Creek. Likewise, ditch diversions would have the greatest impact on base flows during summer months.

It is not foreseen that designation would limit any future water developments because the segment is so rugged and inaccessible. No historic or current preliminary FERC permits or license applications have been issued on the segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – No roads exist within the corridor of the eligible segment. One Forest Service Trail (310) provides access to the middle portion of the segment and crosses the canyon.

Grazing Activities – The creek is the boundary between two cattle allotments, Sinbad Allotment on the north and the North Paradox Allotment on the south. Due to the rugged nature of the terrain only incidental grazing occurs along the creek.

Recreation Activities – Forest Service Trail #310 provides access to the canyon of Roc Creek. The segment also contains a trout fishery and provides opportunities for stream fishing in the lower end.

Other Resource Activities – Some timber harvesting has occurred on the adjacent mesa tops some of it within a ¼ mile of the eligible segment. This use could potentially occur again in the area.

Special Designations – The entire segment is located within the Roc Creek Inventoried Roadless Area and is currently managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule.

Socio-Economic Environment – The majority of the segment is within Montrose County, Colorado. The largest sectors of the county economy are the retail trade and manufacturing sectors. The river corridor itself is in a remote, unpopulated portion of the county. Designation may increase tourist visitation in this portion of the county.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration, cost or preservation of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The entire corridor is on NFS managed lands. Montrose County plans do not mention either wild and scenic rivers or management of public lands on the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab, Utah, San Juan and Grand Counties were neither opposed nor supportive of designation of this segment. However, San Juan County is concerned about the effects Wild and Scenic River status would have on the private and State lands which form the headwaters of this drainage. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment as a Wild River.

There were very few comments on the draft EIS concerning Roc Creek. For the most part interest was neutral. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment. The Commissioners in Montrose County didn't have an opinion that they expressed.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives

Designation would be consistent with current management of the area as a Roadless Area. The stream segment passes through two different areas of management emphasis as outlined in the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986. The majority of Roc Creek lies within the Semi-Primitive Recreation emphasis area where the management direction is to provide semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Other uses may occur so long as they are rehabilitated to reflect as close as possible previous undisturbed conditions. Designation would be consistent with this direction. The remainder of

Roc Creek is within the Range Emphasis area where the management direction is to produce wood fiber and where appropriate, forage. Other uses occur and the use or its rehabilitation emphasizes rangeland maintenance or enhancement. Designation would not be entirely inconsistent with this direction.

There is no mention of wild and scenic rivers in the Montrose County plan.

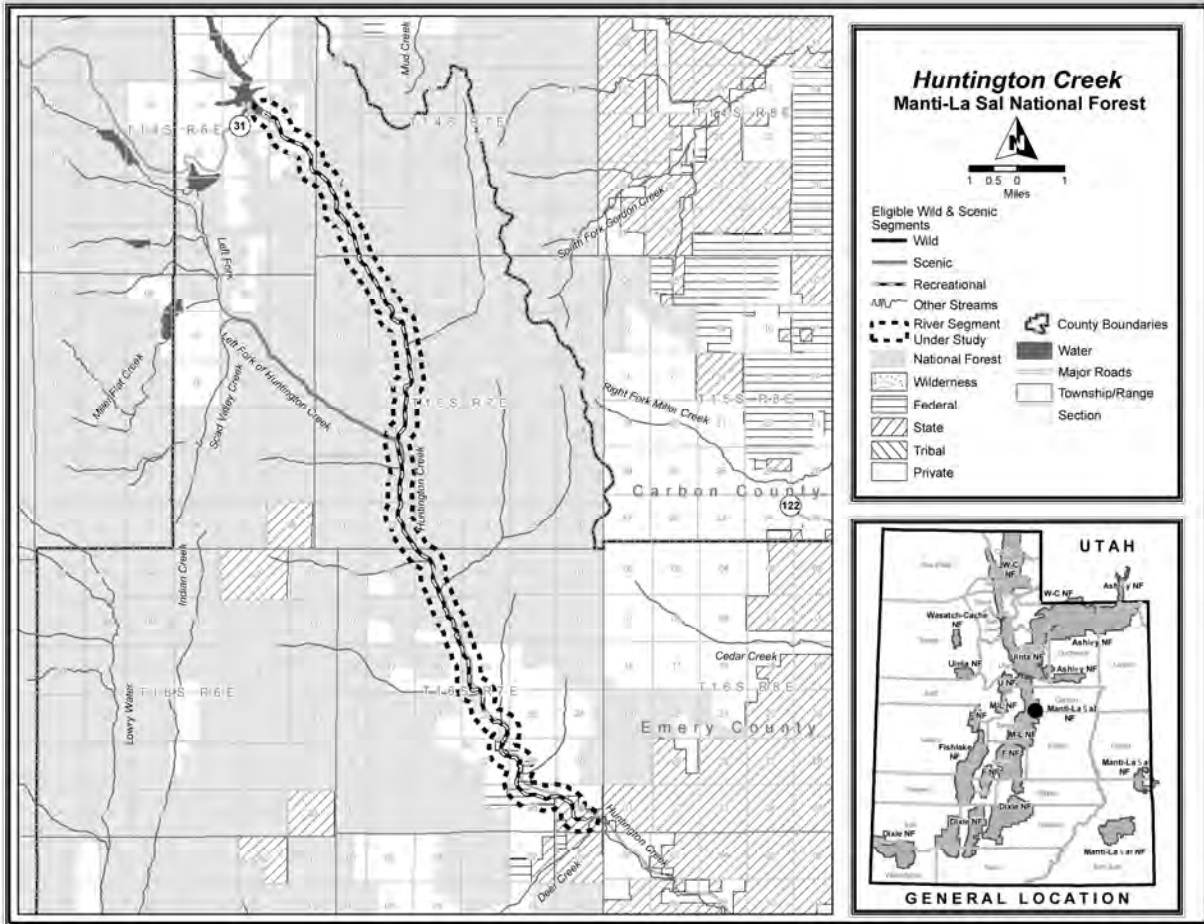
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Roc Creek is a relatively small tributary of the Dolores River. The stream is unique in that it is a perennial stream in an arid environment. Before joining the Dolores, the stream flows through BLM and private lands. If the Forest Service segment were designated it would contribute some to overall river system or basin integrity as it would add additional protection to the majority of the stream length. However, much of the creek outside of the eligible segment is located on private and State lands and would not be protected by the designation.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Roc Creek as a Wild River.

Huntington Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Huntington Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 19.29 miles from the outlet at Electric Lake to the point of diversion at the Huntington Power Plant.

Eligible: Same

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

Huntington Creek	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Ferron and Price Ranger Districts, Emery County, Utah				Congressional District 2	
	Start		End		Classification	Rounded Miles
	Northing	Easting	Northing	Easting		
Segment 1	4376482	480759	4372300	486303	Recreational	19

Physical Description of River: Huntington Creek flows through well-defined canyons with steep side slopes and rock outcrops. Relatively flat terrain is associated with the flood plains of the creek. Flows in Huntington Creek have been artificially regulated to the point that what is now considered “normal” flow

is actually a reflection of how PacifiCorp has operated the Huntington Power Plant. In this reach of Huntington Creek, the quantity and quality of water are comparable to a natural condition.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers of Rivers, March 2003, (USDA Forest Service Supplement to the Manti-La Sal NF Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2005)

Determination of Free-flow: There are no diversions on the stream channel. The dam at Electric Lake at the beginning of the segment and the Huntington Power Plant diversion at the end of the segment are considered segment breaks and, therefore, are not part of the watercourse.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – The canyon area is narrow, with a willow/riparian bottom and tree covered side slopes. The corridor of the creek exhibits rich diversity in vegetation and geology. The canyon areas and side canyons are capped with sandstone formations. The colorful geology, aspen and mountain brush on south facing slopes, conifer cover on north facing slopes, lush riparian vegetation along crystal clear streams, and rock outcrops and ledges all provide outstanding scenery in canyon environments. As with the higher elevations of Huntington Canyon, the beauty and diversity of these canyons attract thousands of visitors each year. The Huntington Canyon and Eccles National Scenic Byways and Skyline Drive Scenic Backway are the principal access routes in the area. These well-traveled roads provide access to several Forest development roads and the trails located within the corridor.

Recreation – Huntington Creek is the main attraction in the watershed. The creek and adjacent terrain serve as base areas for exceptional recreation opportunities, such as camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, all terrain vehicle use, driving for pleasure, and rock climbing. The Castle Valley Ridge Trail system is also located within the corridor of the watercourse. There are many popular developed recreation sites adjacent to the creek, including campgrounds and trailheads. The creek also supports a significant brown trout sport fishery and fishing pressure is high. Cross-country skiing also occurs on some of the trails within the canyon area during winter months.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Recreational

Some developments exist, there is substantial evidence of human activity, the river is accessible by road with parallel roads on the banks, and there are bridge crossing points within the segment.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses

Segment	Ownership	River Mile	Distance in Miles	Square Miles	Acres
Huntington Creek					
	Private	0-0.56	0.56	.280	179.20
	Forest Service	0.56-0.93	0.37	.185	118.40
	Private	0.93-1.68	0.75	0.375	240.00
	Forest Service	1.68-13.35	11.67	5.835	3734.4
	Private	13.35-13.63	0.28	0.140	89.6
	Forest Service	13.63-14.52	0.89	0.445	284.80
	Private	14.52-14.59	0.07	0.035	22.40
	Forest	14.59-	0.53	0.265	169.60

Segment	Ownership	River Mile	Distance in Miles	Square Miles	Acres
	Service	15.12			
	Private	15.12-15.71	0.59	0.295	188.80
	Forest Service	15.71-16.01	0.3	0.115	73.60
	BLM	16.01-16.32	0.31	0.155	99.20
	Private	16.32-16.55	0.23	0.115	73.60
	BLM	16.55-16.76	0.21	0.105	67.20
	Private	16.76-16.83	0.07	0.035	22.40
	BLM	16.83-16.84	0.01	0.005	3.20
	Private	16.84-16.95	0.11	0.055	35.20
	BLM	16.85-17.08	0.13	0.065	41.69
	Private	17.08-17.37	0.29	0.145	92.80
	BLM	17.37-17.80	0.43	0.215	137.60
	Private	17.80-18.34	0.54	0.270	172.80
	State	18.34-19.30	0.96	0.480	307.20
		Total=	19.3		5975 ac.

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORV's of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within 1/4 mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

The Manti-La Sal National Forest and the Price Field Office of the BLM coordinated the beginning and ending points of Huntington Creek eligible river segment since it did not make sense to abruptly stop at the Forest boundary. The Forest agreed to take care of any analysis that would be made of the BLM portion of Huntington Creek.

The 5.65 miles from the Huntington Power Plant inlet to the National Forest System boundary is privately and publicly owned with a short section managed by the BLM. These parcels of land (including a ½-mile buffer zone on either side of the river corridor) are owned by the following entities:

PacifiCorp (UP&L Co.) One Utah Center Suite 2100 201 South Main Salt Lake City, UT 84111-0021	US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM) 324 South State St. Suite 301 Salt Lake City, UT 84111-2303
Nevada Electric Investment Co. P.O. Box 230 Las Vegas, NV 89151	State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA)
The Malcolm McKinnon Estate Zions First National Bank Trustee Salt Lake City, Utah 84111	Emery County 75 East Main Street Castle Dale, UT 84513
Dick N. & Guinevere A. Nielson C/o Kristie N. Ligon 4819 Mandel St. Houston, TX 77006	C.O.P. Coal Development Corp. 3753 South State Salt Lake City, UT 84115
Huntington Haven LTD Land Co. Von S. Pratt M.D. P.O. Box 879 Gunnison, UT 84634	Mike H. Carson 1625 N. Freedom Blvd. Provo, UT 84604
Steven E. and Lezlee C. Jones 555 E. 4450 N. Provo, UT 84604	David G. and Julie G. Robinson 2368 Parley's Circle Salt Lake City, UT 84109

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Coal: Three mines are located along the Huntington River corridor. Genwal Resources and Deer Creek mines operate on the East Mountain side of the drainage, while Coop operates their mine on the Gentry Mountain side of the drainage. A total of approximately six million tons are mined from these facilities each year. Each mine anticipates additional “shoreline” development and depends on water for its operations.

The Genwal mine currently employs 67. Employees utilize State Route (SR) 31 and the Crandall Canyon road (Forest Road 248) to access mine facilities. Approximately 50 vehicles use this road each day. The mine facilities are located within National Forest System boundaries. Currently 75 to 100 trucks haul coal from the Genwal mine site daily. Future mining will expand to the new South Crandall Lease. Production is expected to increase from 1.5 million tons per year to 2 million tons per year. Truck haulage is expected to increase to 250 to 300 trucks per day.

The employee base at the Deer Creek mine is currently 305. This number will remain constant into the foreseeable future. Mine facilities are accessed via SR-31 and the Deer Creek Canyon road (owned and maintained by Emery County). Traffic is particularly heavy during shift changes when traffic from the power plant combines with the mine traffic. The Deer Creek mine has recently been granted a permit to develop a portal in Rilda Canyon where it currently has a fan and delivery access. The County road will be upgraded and paved. Turn and acceleration lanes on SR-31 have already been installed. Access to the Rilda Canyon portal will be year-round. Coal production at the Deer Creek mine exceeds four million tons annually.

The Coop mine employs approximately 146 management and labor personnel. Traffic accesses both Trail Canyon and Bear Canyon (approximately 75 vehicles per day). This number is expected to increase in the future as the mine expands its operations. Expansion will include new construction of facilities and increased production. At this time, approximately 10 to 25 trucks transport coal from the Coop mine each day. As many as 20 to 40 private trucks haul coal each day in the wintertime.

Electrical Power: The Huntington Power Plant, owned by PacifiCorp, is a major direct and indirect employer in the area and an important part of the electric generation base for the western United States. The plant is located at the bottom of Huntington Canyon. PacifiCorp has long-held interests in Huntington Canyon and relies exclusively on both the main channel, Left Fork of Huntington Creek, and their tributaries to deliver water critical to Huntington Power Plant operations.

Coalbed Methane: Coalbed methane gas has been produced commercially for just over a decade in Utah. During this period production has grown dramatically, reaching over 100 billion cubic feet (Bcf) in 2002 alone. The cumulative production from the four principle fields stands at 412 Bcf. So far, production is limited to a relatively small area at the southwest edge of the Uinta Basin and the eastern slope of the Wasatch Plateau in Carbon and Emery Counties. However, significant coal deposits exist across many other parts of the region. Most of these have good potential for coalbed methane development, but are yet untested.

Gas: Presently, Chevron Texaco has natural gas wells on both sides of Huntington Creek. Associated with these wells are natural gas and water gathering lines, power lines, and other wellhead equipment needed for production. The company has plans to expand development for natural gas production in the Huntington Canyon area. New wells have either already been permitted or are in the process of being permitted. These new wells would require the construction of additional gathering and powerlines. Current and planned gathering or flowlines run parallel to the creek and cross the creek at different locations.

Without the planned expansion, there would be lost revenues from potential wells and lost investment in leases. Existing facilities could be affected if additional development and production does not occur. The flowlines downstream of the development in Huntington Canyon have been sized to handle additional volumes in anticipation of future production. It is expected that some cost would be recovered from new wells added to the gathering system. If no new wells were drilled, the cost would be shared by fewer wells possibly causing premature abandonment.

Water Resources Development – Water resources and their development are the lifeblood of Emery County. The annual precipitation rate in the valley, where the population is concentrated, is about eight inches. This places the area in a semi-arid climate classification. It becomes obvious that supplemental water resources must come from somewhere else. The solution has been diversions from streams that originate on the Wasatch Plateau and from Huntington Creek. Annual precipitation at the higher elevations is about 25 inches, most of which is in the form of snow. Irreversible commitments or restrictions to water use could be costly and prevent the fulfillment of basic community survival and development needs.

Over-Appropriation of Existing Water Supplies

Much of the west Colorado River Basin is over-appropriated and, as a result, late season shortages exist in many of the agricultural areas. The San Rafael River, which is intricately tied to Huntington Creek, is the most over-appropriated drainage in the Basin.

Table 2. Perfected water rights versus the yields of the major drainages within the West Colorado River Basin.

Water Rights versus Yield			
Perfected Water Rights			
Drainage	Yield (acre foot)	Use	Acre Foot
Price	138,000	Irrigation	80,566
		M&I	64,147
		Subtotal	144,713
San Rafael	233,000	Irrigation	267,003
		M&I	41,128

		Subtotal	308,131
Dirty Devil	147,000	Irrigation	57,059
		M&I	27,864
		Subtotal	84,923
Escalante	86,000	Irrigation	14,616
		M&I	4,207
		Subtotal	18,823
Paria	21,000	Irrigation	6,644
		M&I	5,966
		Subtotal	12,610

Source: Table 5-21 from the “West Colorado River Basin Water Plan”.

Figures include some water rights based on high flows that only occasionally occur.

The economy and communities on the Huntington Creek drainage depends upon the regulation of limited water resources. Upstream flow regulation is constant except during brief periods of spring runoff when flows from tributaries below the reservoirs exceed the capabilities of the down stream users to utilize the water. During summer months, the flows from upstream storage reservoirs are regulated to meet the demands of industrial, agricultural, and municipal users. During the spring and winter months, storage reservoirs are filled and flows are reduced to meet demands of industrial, municipal, and stock water users.

Records from the past few years substantiate the regulated uses. The average annual flow in Huntington Creek is about 51,000 acre-foot (Utah State Engineer’s Office). Flows and diversions over the last few years are shown below:

Table 3. Flows and Diversions in Huntington Creek.

Year	Annual Flows	Total Diversions Ac-ft.	Industrial Use Ac-ft.	% Industry
1991	50,000	50,000	8,600	17
1992	43,900	41,400	8,820	21
1994	44,900	44,400	10,880	25
1995	73,700	70,000	8,354	12
1996	66,100	66,100	10,924	17
1998	84,100	82,600	9,142	11
1999	75,250	73,500	10,950	15
2000	53,500	48,000	12,016	25

Flows in the river during a typical year (1991) are as follows:

Table 4. Flows in Huntington Creek during 1991.

Month	Flow Rate (cubic feet/second)			Flow acre-feet)
	Min	Max	Mean	
October	25	73	45	3,400
November	13	30	22	1,812
December	12	24	17	1,864
January	9	19	14	1,699
February	7	22	11	1,432
March	13	22	16	1,838
April	16	49	32	2,486
May	48	185	115	7,632
June	132	234	188	11,642
July	64	178	92	6,444

August	48	102	66	4,882
September	41	109	65	4,944

It is impossible to consider management of Huntington Creek and its tributaries as an isolated river segment. The design of water storage facilities, delivery systems (canals and pipelines), and the water demand of the two coal-fired power plants (Hunter and Huntington) has created a system that incorporates all of the San Rafael River system. The depletion of stored water in Electric Lake and the subsequent leasing of water from Huntington/Cleveland Irrigation Company members have, in effect, placed water that will be used by the power company in the four reservoirs on the Left Fork of Huntington Creek and in Joes Valley Reservoir on Cottonwood Creek. These transactions also affect the value and use of water stored in Millsite Reservoir on Ferron Creek.

Five privately owned reservoirs impound water at the head of Huntington drainage. Several smaller man-made earth and dam reservoirs currently exist or have existed in the area. Through a series of canals and diversions, water from the top of this drainage can be diverted to Carbon, Emery, or Sanpete Counties. Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company has multiple diversions for industrial, municipal, and agricultural use.

Additionally, in scoping comments, the Utah Division of Water Resources identified two potential water developments upstream from the eligible segment.

Russell Site (T14S R06E Section 24, 121 ft high, 3,325 ac-ft capacity). This site is located downstream of Electric Lake on the studied Huntington Creek Wild and Scenic River segment. Electric Lake has been leaking into the nearby coal mines and may have to be replaced or supplemented in the future if leaks cannot be plugged.

Millset Creek (T13S R06E Section 27, 69 ft high, 1,060 ac-ft capacity). USBR site just upstream of Electric Lake and the Huntington Creek Wild and Scenic River segment. The State Engineer performed preliminary design and cost estimates.

From 1974 through the present, flows in Huntington Creek have been artificially regulated to the point that what is now considered “normal” flow is actually a reflection of how PacifiCorp has operated the Huntington Power Plant. Prior to the creation of Electric Lake, flows were between 4 and 6 cubic feet per second (cfs). Since that time, PacifiCorp has been permitted to change flows to between 12 and 15 cfs. In 2003, however, an extended drought combined with the unforeseen loss of water from Electric Lake required flows to be reduced to 40 percent of the new “normal” levels. This was done in cooperation and with permission from the Forest Service. Until the water loss and drought issues are remedied, this flexibility to control river flow is essential for PacifiCorp to maintain its operations.

At one time, a small hydroelectric generator was installed at the base of Electric Lake Dam and has since been decommissioned. Although there are no current plans for using Huntington River for hydroelectric generation, future economic conditions or technological advances could make that option viable or necessary.

A future impoundment along Huntington Creek is actively being sought by the Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company in order to better control, distribute, and preserve water for its owners. Engineering studies have been completed on one reservoir site, and others are currently being considered. Although any potential impoundment likely would be below the stretch of river currently under consideration, WSR status upstream could have a direct impact on the value and use of water shares administered by Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company. PacifiCorp has no immediate plans to construct future impoundments along Huntington Creek. However, because of the current water loss at Electric Lake, it is not possible to predict with certainty what actions PacifiCorp may need to take in the future to secure a long-term water source for the Huntington Power Plant.

Castle Valley Special Service District and North Emery Water Users Special District currently have water transmission lines and springs that are used for culinary water supply and transmission in the Huntington

Canyon area. Some of these springs and lines have been in place and used by Huntington City since the mid 1920s. These lines run through Huntington Canyon and terminate at the springs located in Rilda, Big Bear, Little Bear, and Tie Fork Canyons. In addition, a surface water treatment plant is being constructed to use water diverted from Huntington Creek. These springs and lines are important to North Emery, and the communities of Huntington, Cleveland, Lawrence, and Elmo. They provide the only source of drinking water for these communities. Future growth in these communities will require new structures and upgrades of these facilities.

The ability to transfer and sell water rights during drought years is especially critical. Power generating plants, which distribute power throughout western states, are dependent on water and the ability to purchase water from others. An extended drought combined with unforeseen loss of water from Electric Lake has required flexibility for river flows which are essential for PacifiCorp to maintain its power generating operations.

WSR designation could impact the potential of federally assisted water resource development projects. Salinity projects are being developed in the area with the goal of reducing salinity in the Colorado River by providing pressurized water delivery systems to local agricultural users. These systems will significantly reduce water loss from seepage, evaporation and over-application. Salinity projects are typically federally subsidized. Without that subsidy, local farmers are unlikely to pursue widespread use of these systems. To date \$28.6 million has been funded, with additional projects in various stages of planning or implementation (see appendix B).

PacifiCorp “has investigated construction of a lower site reservoir to better regulate water from this drainage. This has been suggested as one of several ways to obtain additional water supplies for a possible fourth unit at the Hunter power plant. This would indicate keeping open the possibility of future impoundments and making certain that WSR planning does not foreclose that possibility,” (David Sharp, PacifiCorp, July 11, 2003).

Although water is over appropriated, the flows are regulated to maintain an instream flow for the Blue Ribbon Fishery.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – State Route 31 parallels Huntington Creek throughout the canyon. Along the route, dirt roads lead to private property. It is probable if coal development expands, that new highway access points may be needed. This means additional creek crossings with attendant construction, bridges, diversions, and river corridor improvements. Much of the economy in Emery and Sanpete Counties is tied to workers who are employed at coal mines and power plants in this area.

Public roads access the Deer Creek, Coop, Genwal, and Larsen Rigby mines, and Rilda, Mill Fork, Tie Fork, Nuck Woodward, Meeting House, and Trail canyons. A major gas line crosses the corridor in the upper end of the canyon. Gathering gas lines are present on upper and lower ends of the river segment. Municipal water transmission lines parallel the river for approximately 7 miles on the lower portion of the river segment.

Grazing Activities – Grazing occurs within Huntington Canyon. Grazing allotments under permit within the canyon include the Gentry Allotment, for cattle; and Candland, Trough Springs, Monument Peak, Crandall Ridge, Crandall Canyon, East Mountain, Trail Mountain, Horse Creek, and Bear Ridge sheep allotments.

Recreation Activities – After Electric Lake was built, significantly altering the flows in the main channel, upper Huntington Creek developed into a blue-ribbon trout stream. Many anglers travel from throughout the West to test their flies on the savvy trout. At the same time brown trout began to flourish in the enhanced stream, the Yellowstone cutthroat trout were established above the dam in Electric Lake.

For a period of time after whirling disease affected every other State-owned broodery for Yellowstone cutthroat trout, Electric Lake was the unique source of this species for all plantings throughout the State.

Huntington Creek is the main attraction in the watershed. The creek and adjacent terrain serve as base areas for exceptional recreation opportunities, such as camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, all-terrain vehicle use, driving for pleasure, cross-country skiing, and rock climbing. A well-developed system of trails access both federal and private properties through most side canyons draining into Huntington Canyon. The Castle Valley Ridge Trail system is located within the corridor of the watercourse.

State Route 31 has been designated a State Scenic Byway, a National Forest Service Scenic Byway, and most recently, a National Scenic Byway, “The Energy Loop: Huntington and Eccles Canyons National Scenic Byway”. Stuart Guard Station is a CCC era facility currently used as a visitor center. The visitor center provides area interpretation of some of the history of the Huntington Canyon.

Other Resource Activities – Spruce throughout the Huntington Creek corridor are dead or dying and create a potential hazard for campers and those traveling the Scenic Byway. These trees will eventually be removed.

Special Designations – State Route 31 that runs parallel to Huntington Creek is a National Forest Scenic Byway and a National Scenic Byway (DOT designated). Huntington Creek has been designated as a Blue Ribbon Fishery by the State of Utah. The Utah Division of Water Quality, Department of Drinking Water data has also identified Huntington Creek as a drinking water source protection zone.

Socio-Economic Environment – A very large part of the economic base of Carbon, Emery, and Sanpete Counties comes from electrical generation power plants, providing those power plants with fuel, and auxiliary businesses associated with the workforce employed by companies conducting business along the corridor. Apart from local needs is the rapid growth in electrical demand along the Wasatch Front. PacifiCorp’s coal-fired power plants, including the Huntington Power Plant, are the primary source of electricity for the Wasatch Front due, in part, to existing transmission facilities from those plants. At this point, there are insufficient transmission facilities leading from other plants to meet growth needs. Rolling brownouts would be expected along the Wasatch Front if regulations were tightened controlling water use and limiting Huntington Power Plant’s ability to produce power.

Most of Emery County’s employment is in the mining, government, trade, transportation, and utilities industries. (Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget 2003) The mining, trade, and utilities industries rely on water to develop and sustain their business.

Figure 1. Non-agricultural Employment by Major Industry: 2001.

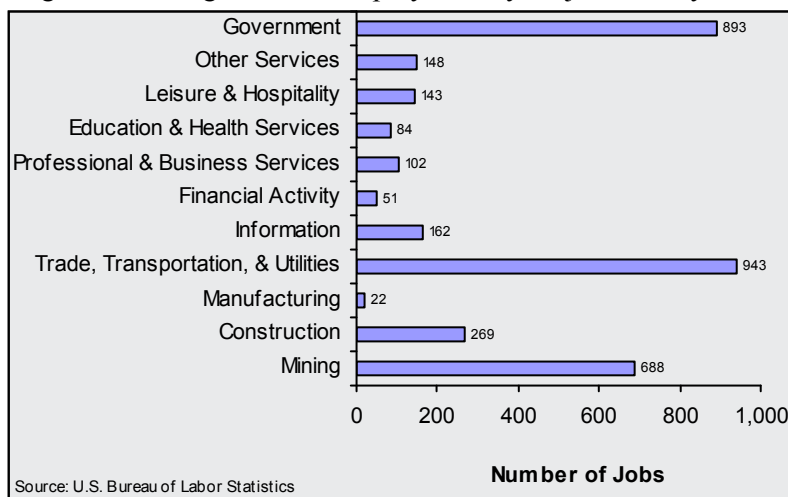
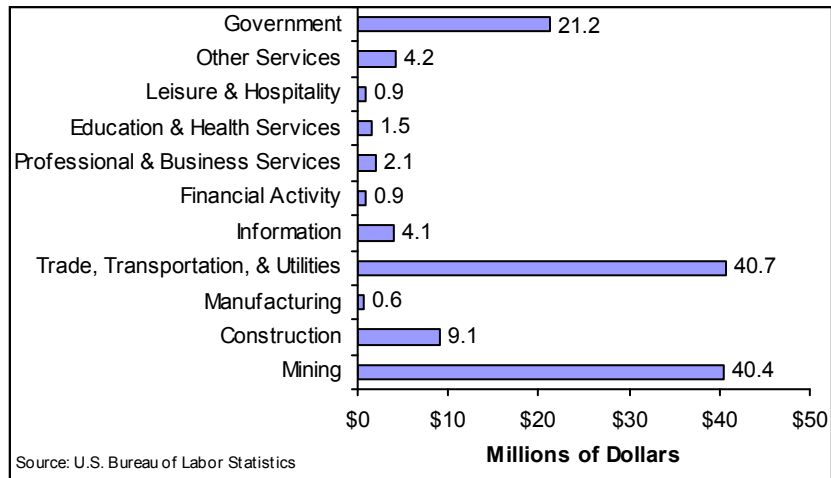


Figure 2. Non-agricultural Payroll Wages by Major Industry: 2001.



PacifiCorp power plants in Emery County generate 17,400 megawatts annually. At a sale value of \$20/megawatt, the annual revenues would be \$350,000,000. They provide work for 750 employees (including their mining operations) with an annual payroll of over \$64,000,000. The addition of the proposed Hunter #4 project would add an additional 350 needed jobs in Emery County (see Appendix A prepared by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget).

The following reports support the important uses of water to employment and income:

1997 Agriculture Report for Emery County

Acres irrigated - 55,000

- Value of Farms & Improvements - \$100,000,000
- Annual Crop Sales - \$1,300,000
- Number of Cattle and Calves - 28,500
- Annual Livestock Sales - \$5,000,000
- Total Annual Agricultural Sales - \$11,000,000

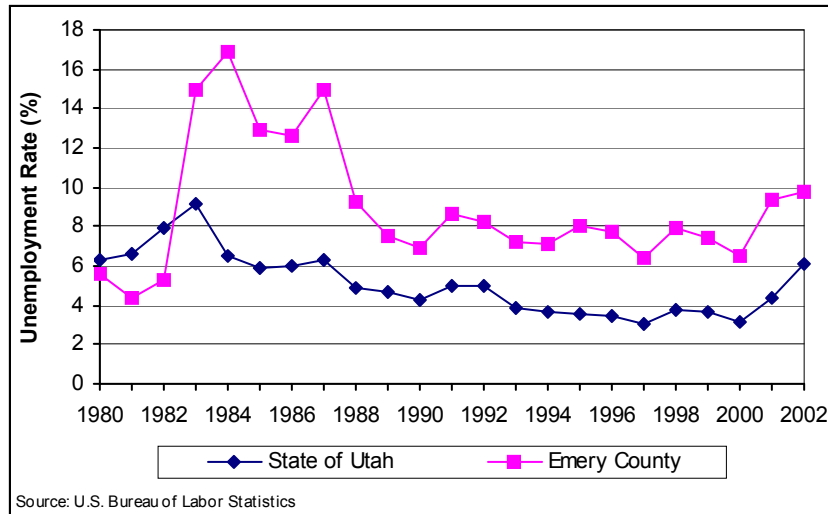
Table 5. Municipal Water Demand and Income.

	Huntington	Cleveland	Elmo	North Emery	Total
Municipal - Population	2,131	508	368	1,400	4,400
Number of Connections	856	185	129	460	1,630
Annual Municipal Water Income	\$77,000	\$16,600	\$11,600	\$145,000	\$250,000

*See Appendix B for a report on economics and water projects.

It is difficult to develop a sustainable economy in an arid rural community without the continued ability to use, transfer, and sell water. The unemployment rate in Emery County (9.8% compared to 6% for the State) would continue to increase if water development projects were curtailed.

Figure 3. Unemployment Rate



Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – At a minimum, the river corridor would extend for the length of the river segment and one quarter mile in width from each bank of the river. That is, the corridor would run approximately 19.66 miles in length by ½ mile wide.

Land Survey: The cost of surveying the private land adjacent to the river corridor would be approximately \$60,000.

Land acquisition: Huntington Creek, from Electric Lake to the Forest boundary, is on National Forest System lands. Private and State lands beyond the Forest boundary may be available for purchase or trade. Some of the private lands within the corridor may not be for sale because of the water delivery function for which they were purchased.

There are a total of 5.65 miles of watercourse from the Forest boundary to the Huntington Power Plant’s inlet; 4.25 miles are on private land. An estimate of the cost of creek side land, 4.25 miles in length, based on the value of land of this type is approximately \$1,500 an acre. Final costs cannot be determined at this time.

Developing a Management Plan: Developing a management plan would require the expertise of a number of specialists in soils, hydrology, wildlife, recreation, archaeology, and botany. The plan would take approximately three months to complete. Developmental cost is approximately \$85,000.

Development of Lands and Facilities: No development, expansion, or modifications of facilities are currently anticipated by the Manti-La Sal National Forest in Huntington Canyon. However, the Forest maintains the recreational developments that it has within the corridor.

User Capacities – No formal study to establish use or capacity has been made. The cost of such a study is estimated at \$29,000.

Resource Protection: Maintenance functions on this WSR segment would include inspection/replacement of signs, monitoring of riparian/aquatic habitat, and invasive species monitoring. Law enforcement would also be an expense. The estimated cost is \$45,500 annually.

Enhancement projects: Control of invasive plants is estimated at \$10,000 annually.

Reporting to Congress on WSR: An annual report to Congress to highlight use and management activity would take an individual five days at a cost of approximately \$2,000.

First year start up costs on WSR: Approximately \$239,000 (does not include any land acquisition costs).

Additional Annual Operating Costs: Approximately \$57,500.

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

Neither the state of Utah nor Emery County supports any designation and has said that they would not participate in any cost sharing of this proposal.

The Utah Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget wrote:

The state supports the statements of the Emery County Commission concerning participation in the management of the river corridor, and has no interest in participating in any efforts, through funding or otherwise, to manage the Huntington Creek corridor under provisions of the Act. (August 2004)

Emery County Commissioners wrote:

Emery County opposes Wild and Scenic River designation of river segments within Emery County and counties downstream from Emery County. We want it to be unmistakable from comments provided to the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service in their respective Wild and Scenic River (WSR) planning processes that our position has remained clear and consistent.” (July 2004)

(2) The state/local government’s ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The State and county governments have no desire, nor do they currently have the authority or ability to protect the outstandingly remarkable scenery value on non-federal land. It is highly unlikely that either the State or counties would pass zoning ordinances that would protect the outstandingly remarkable scenery or recreation values on non-federal land. County planning documents do not support a Wild and Scenic River designation.

(3)Support or opposition to designation.

Congressmen Jim Matheson and Chris Cannon, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget, the Governor’s Office of Public Lands Policy Coordination, and the Emery County Commission have all written in opposition to designation. The majority of county residents, water users, and individuals who have commented oppose designation. The preponderance of comments from attendees at the Forest Plan Revision public meetings held in Castle Dale was against designation. Environmental groups and a number of individuals have written or spoken in support of designation.

These same State and local agencies and individuals that oppose designation support continued management as stated in the current Forest Plan. They prefer to see maintenance assumed under authorities that are more flexible to changing needs and water interests than can be afforded from designation.

The Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget wrote:

The State acknowledges the following statements contained in the analysis:

‘The current management of Huntington Creek by the Forest Service, BLM, State of Utah, and many private interests has allowed industry to develop while maintaining the outstandingly remarkable recreation and scenic values of the corridor.’

‘There is no interest from the counties, water users or energy companies to participate in funding efforts to manage the Huntington Creek corridor as a Wild and Scenic River and the Forest does not receive adequate funding to purchase easements, provide improvements, and monitor a river segment designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Emery County Commission considers participation in administration of such designation unjustified and unwise.’

The State strongly concurs with the statement that management of the creek by the parties has kept the creek in good condition, and suggests that the following two additional points are pertinent to the analysis: (1) Huntington Creek is a source of culinary water; therefore, it currently receives a level of protection that it would not otherwise be afforded, (2) the BLM Price Field Office, in its recently updated Resource Management Plan, did not find the segment of Huntington Creek crossing BLM land to be eligible for Wild and Scenic Rives designation; thus, there is a lack of consistency with other agency plans.

The State concludes that neither Huntington Creek nor the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek meets the suitability standard of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and reserves comment on the eligibility of the creek based upon the comments above and the provisions of the state law. (August, 2004)

The State of Utah expressed concerns designation would restrict the state’s ability to maintain or expand the highway.

Congressman Chris Cannon wrote:

I write to inform you of my opposition to Wild and Scenic River (W&SR) designation of river segments within Carbon and Emery Counties...

Additionally, W&SR designation is not necessary to protect the values of river segments in question. Existing management options are available to effectively protect those values.

Finally, W&SR designation could be devastating on a socio-economic basis. The limited water resource in Emery and other counties are already over allocated. Any interruption of these resources will have a far reaching impact locally, regionally and, in the case of electrical generation, nationally. Any such designation could have a harmful consequence on water rights and proper land management, could cripple agriculture, and have serious impacts on the economic viability of the local economy. (August 25, 2004)

Congressman Jim Matheson wrote:

Local officials in Emery County are particularly concerned about the proposal to designate river segments within the County as a Wild and Scenic River because of the potential impact that such a designation could have on water rights and land management across the West. Throughout Emery County and much of Utah, a large system of canals, ditches and impoundments save and move water from one watershed to another, sending water where it is most needed. The ability to transfer and sell water rights during drought years is especially critical. There is question as to what effect Wild and Scenic River designation could have on this practice, given that the rivers in question are a part of this larger water system.

I hope that you will work with the local officials to ensure that no actions taken on behalf of your agency will encumber the ability of Emery County to provide water resources for its residents. (August 3, 2004)

The Emery County Commission wrote:

Emery County opposes Wild and Scenic River designation of river segments within Emery County and counties downstream from Emery County.

We believe that the identified river segments are not suitable for designation. W&SR designation is not necessary to protect the values of river segments in question. Existing management options are available to effectively protect those values.

Finally, W&SR designation would be devastating on a socio-economic basis. What limited water resources Emery County possesses are already over allocated. Any interruption of these resources will have far reaching impact locally, regionally and, in the case of electrical generation nationally. (July 8, 2004)

The Huntington-Cleveland Irrigation Company wrote:

In reviewing the proposed area for any of the three possible designations it is the opinion of Hunting Cleveland Irrigation Company (HCIC) that none of these designations would be acceptable to us...

Any restrictions placed upon us could have catastrophic results to the already difficult distribution and delivery of our water. HCIC feels Congress didn't have areas like this in mind when they created the Wild and Scenic Rivers act due to the fact that it would totally devastate the local economy & way of life. When the Act was passed in 1968, a number of river systems were classified within the Act itself. Those river systems (see section 1273 & 1274 of the original act) were large rivers. Huntingtons' river system doesn't really fit this profile. HCIC feels that we have been as good of stewards of the environment as is possible and not maintaining our system would be more detrimental to the environment than the current course. We strongly urge careful consideration to this process, as decisions made here can be very devastating to people in this drainage for a long time. (June 25, 2003)

The Castle Valley Special Service District wrote:

Castle Valley Special Service District and North Emery Water Users Special District currently have water transmission lines and springs that are used for culinary water supply and transmission in the Huntington Canyon area. Some of these springs and lines have been in place and used by Huntington City since the mid 1920's. These lines run up through Huntington Canyon and terminate at the springs located in Rilda, Big Bear, Little Bear and Tie Fork Canyons.

These springs and lines are of the utmost importance to North Emery and the communities of Huntington, Cleveland and Elmo. They provide the only source of drinking water for these communities. Future growth in these communities will require new structures and upgrades of these facilities. We emphasize that we will need to maintain and service the existing facilities and provide for future expansion. This needs to be accomplished without the impediments and controls that Wild and Scenic River Designation may impose upon these facilities and our operations. (September 22, 2003)

PacifiCorp wrote:

...PacifiCorp has long-held interests in Huntington Canyon and relies exclusively on both the main channel and left fork of Huntington Creek, and their tributaries, to deliver water that is critical to Huntington Plant operations at the bottom of the canyon. The

Huntington Plant, in turn, is a major direct and indirect employer in the area and an important part of the electric generation base for the western United States. The importance of continued operations of the Huntington Plant cannot be over-emphasized and PacifiCorp, by necessity, will oppose any action that impacts its ability to operate the Huntington Plant in the manner that it has in the past or that restricts future plant operations. At the same time, PacifiCorp recognizes the important recreational and other values that are associated with the Huntington Creek and has expended considerable resources to make sure that its operations do not adversely impact those values. PacifiCorp has done very well at this effort for more than thirty years.

...Based on the information provided in this letter, PacifiCorp believes that Huntington Creek will not benefit from W&SR status in any category and that existing land use controls and operating practices are sufficient to protect the values associated with Huntington Canyon for all to enjoy while also protecting the critical role that Huntington Creek and Huntington Canyon play in the area's economy. (July 11, 2003)

In a later letter, PacifiCorp wrote:

...PacifiCorp is particularly concerned that the EIS and all future land use documents not impair our ability to exercise valid and existing rights to access and develop coal leases, including the right to drill, explore, extract, mine and remove coal and to locate and construct necessary facilities, structures, buildings, improvements, etc. (Dec 23, 2004)

Other organizations such as Trout Unlimited, The Wilderness Society, The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Red Rock Forests, The Grand Canyon Trust, the Three Forests Coalition, and the Utah Environmental Congress support designation.

Trout Unlimited wrote:

The three creeks currently under suitability review for Wild and Scenic River designation (Fish Creek, including Gooseberry Creek, Huntington Creek and the Lower Left Fort of Huntington Creek) are among the most highly valued trout fisheries in Utah and, accordingly, are of great interest to TU... Because of their recreational and scenic value, they contribute significantly to local and regional economies. These streams merit Forest Service care and protection.

...Even if you determine they are not suitable for W&S designation, TU encourages you to take every appropriate step to protect and preserve the recreational, scenic, wildlife and other values identified in your eligibility analysis. (July 7, 2004)

A coalition of environmental groups wrote:

We are greatly concerned that the Manti-La Sal National Forest's current analysis of eligibility and suitability under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is mistakenly excluding numerous deserving rivers and river segments and needs to be redone. We support each of these segments receiving designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. ...This river should receive designation as a scenic river. (July 15, 2004)

The Utah Environmental Congress wrote:

All rivers, not just a select few should be evaluated and final recommendations made in the Forest Plan revision process. It is arbitrary, capricious, and inconsistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, NFMA and the APA to made determinations regarding a hand-picked few eligible rivers while ignoring others in the revision process. (December 22, 2004) Comments from local government, power/energy companies, water conservancy districts and residents were strongly opposed to WSR designation of Huntington Creek. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: the large amount of private land along the river corridor; the significance of agriculture and municipal water resources that would most probably need to be developed; the ability to secure federal funding for salinity projects; the need to

widen provide additional access and maintain Hwy 31 which follows and crosses the river; the fact that the water is artificially controlled by 6 reservoirs; potential restrictions on future power plant operations or new structures and upgrades of facilities the conservancy districts have planned; over appropriated water; and the ability to transfer and sell water rights during drought years.

Comments from individuals and groups living outside Emery favor WSR designation of Huntington Creek. Among the reasons cited are: the Blue Ribbon fishery; a belief that this is a premier destination for the entire area; the system should be view as a larger system that supports a variety of water uses to preserve resources for future generations. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest. All of the three organized campaigns supported a positive finding suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Emery County planning documents do not support the designation of Wild and Scenic Rivers for this segment.

Designation would not be consistent with PacifiCorp development plans, the Huntington/Cleveland Irrigation Company, Castle Valley Special Service District, Genwal, and local agricultural interests.

Most resource activities currently emphasized and allowed under the current Forest Plan are compatible with a Recreational classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. However, because this is an energy corridor and primary water source for Emery County and industries doing business along the corridor, their ability to impound, divert and manipulate water for economic development and sustenance could be curtailed under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Wild and Scenic River designation could also impact potential federally assisted water resource development projects above or down stream from the river segment. Salinity projects are being developed in the area with the goal of reducing the salinity in the Colorado River by providing pressurized water delivery systems to local agricultural users.

Chapter III page 55 of the 1986 Forest Plan specifies that Huntington Creek be managed for the most part with emphasis on semi-primitive recreation use.

Management emphasis is for providing semi-primitive motorized and non motorized recreation opportunities. Recreation opportunities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, cross-country skiing, vehicular travel etc., are available...

Investments in compatible resource uses such as timber harvest, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, mineral exploration and development, special uses, etc., may occur as long as they meet the planned VQO and maintain a high quality semi-primitive recreation opportunity. When the approved activity ceases, roads, structures, and appurtenances will be rehabilitated as closely as possible to reflect the previous, undisturbed condition.

Other smaller emphasis areas along the river corridor include management for general winter range, range, leasable mineral development, key winter range, and municipal water supply.

Compared to the Forest Plan language above, the following wording from the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council Questions & Answers shows that activities allowed under a scenic or recreational classification are very similar to direction in the Forest Plan. The major discrepancy is the ability to manipulate water.

Federal lands within the boundaries of river areas designated and classified as scenic are not withdrawn under the Act from the mining and mineral leasing laws. Existing valid claims or leases within the river boundary remain in effect, and activities may be allowed

subject to regulations that minimize surface disturbance, water sedimentation, pollution, and visual impairment. For rivers designated **scenic** or **recreational** filing of new mining claims or mineral leases is allowed but is subject to reasonable access and regulations that minimize surface disturbance, water sedimentation, pollution and visual impairment.

Harvesting practices on federal lands located within WSR corridors must be designed to help achieve land management objectives consistent with the protection and enhancement of the values which caused the river to be added to the National System. WSR designation is not likely to significantly affect timber harvesting or logging practices beyond existing limitations to protect riparian zones and wetlands which are guided by other legal mandates and planning direction. Federal timber management activities outside the corridor will be designed to not adversely affect values which caused the river to be designated.

Generally, existing agricultural practices (e.g., livestock grazing activities) and related structures would not be affected by designation. Guidelines issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Interior indicate that livestock grazing and agricultural practices should be similar in nature and intensity to those present in the area at the time of designation to maintain the values for which the river was designated. (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council Questions & Answers)

Designation of Huntington Creek into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System would likely have a great effect on current activities within the river corridor.

- Designation would foreclose the following types of activities in or adjacent to the river corridor: future diversions, transmission lines, water conduits or storage capability. From the WSR Act, Section 7 (a), "...no department or agency of the United States shall assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river was established.
- Designation could limit the Forest Service's options for future management activities. "Resource management practices will be limited to those which are necessary for protection, conservation, rehabilitation or enhancement of the river area resources". Section 12 (a) of the Act instructs the agency having authority over the river segment designated to enter into management agreements with appropriate entities for the planning, administration and management of designated lands. "Particular attention shall be given to scheduled timber harvesting, road construction and similar activities which might be contrary to the purposes of this Act.
- Designation might enhance riparian area management and interpretation.

The 1986 Forest Plan is inconsistent with designation in that it does not prohibit water uses or development.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The BLM did not identify the river segment as an eligible river. Both upper and lower impoundments segment this river. This segment would have more basin integrity if the entire stretch were found eligible.

River system or basin integrity is considered to include water quantity, water quality, and timing of flows in relation to natural conditions. In this reach of Huntington Creek, the quantity and quality of water are comparable to a natural condition.

Huntington Creek is a perennial tributary of the San Rafael River. However, from a river system perspective, Huntington Creek does not contribute natural quantity or quality of water to the San Rafael River. The flow from Huntington Creek contributes little to the river system of the San Rafael River. Timing may be similar to natural conditions, since some spring runoff from Huntington Creek is contributed to the San Rafael. However, once the irrigation season begins the duration of these flows is shortened and very little of the flow in Huntington Creek makes it to the San Rafael River.

The hydrology and possibly ecology of the San Rafael River watershed has been altered by diversions and irrigation practices throughout its drainage area, including those in Huntington Creek. State policy directs that water quality in the stream on National Forest System lands may not be degraded unless determined to be allowable through an interagency and public planning process. This stream segment is protected by the State's anti-degradation policy, which states:

Waters whose existing quality is better than the established standards for the designated uses will be maintained at high quality unless it is determined by the [Utah Water Quality] Board, after appropriate intergovernmental coordination and public participation in concert with the Utah continuing planning process, that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located. However, existing in stream water uses shall be maintained and protected. No water quality degradation is allowable which would interfere with or become injurious to existing in-stream water uses.

From the Forest boundary upstream, Huntington Creek is not listed as water quality impaired.

Huntington Canyon is a source of regional energy and is a major utility provider to western homes and businesses. PacifiCorp's coal fired power plants, including the Huntington Power Plant, are the primary sources of electricity for the Wasatch Front. The water from the canyon provides life to desert homes, farms and businesses. It provides recreation opportunities for the hundreds of campers and anglers that come each year. The Huntington Creek blue-ribbon fishery attracts novice and serious anglers. Its scenic values bring enjoyment to thousands of visitors annually.

Reservoirs store water for business, homes, farms, and utility production ensuring a water source during dry years. Coal from Huntington Canyon brings heat to homes and businesses and energy to powerful regional generating plants. From the nearby power plants electricity flows to thousands of locations throughout the western states.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest.

Local, county and state governments have indicated their disapproval of designation of Huntington Creek as a Wild and Scenic River and their disinterest in any involvement in any management partnerships or funding.

Huntington Creek Suitability Evaluation Report
Appendix A

**Economic Impact Analysis
Proposed Hunter #4 Unit**

Emery County, Utah

**Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
116 State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
(801) 538-1027
www.governor.utah.gov/gopb**

September 29, 2003

Purpose:

This document was prepared for Emery County to show the projected economic impact of the proposed development of an additional electric power generator at the Hunter Power Plant near Castledale. This proposed generator is known as the Hunter #4 Unit. Data was cost and employment data that was obtained from PacifiCorp. Analysis for projections was conducted by the Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget.

Background:

The following text was taken from the draft *Utah Coal Report*, 2003; Utah Energy Office.

Utah Markets***PacifiCorp Power Plants***

The Hunter, Huntington and Carbon thermal units are controlled by PacifiCorp, which has filed an updated Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with the Utah Public Service Commission.

The plan projects the need for 4,000 MW of additional electric power capacity during the first ten years of the twenty year IRP. For the region including Utah, power demand is expected to grow by more than two percent per year. To meet that need, the company would like to pursue a diverse portfolio of conservation programs (called "demand side management" or DSM), renewable energy sources and additional thermal units, fired by either coal or natural gas.

The least-cost portfolio calls for at least four new thermal units, three fired by natural gas and one by coal. Three of these units would be located in the eastern portion of PacifiCorp's service area, which includes Utah.

The IRP provides for long term evaluation of the viability of a new coal baseload thermal unit, and says that, nationally, natural gas has emerged as the industry's thermal resource of choice. According to the IRP filing, "... the long term impacts of atmospheric emissions cast doubt upon the viability of coal-fired generation." The plan also acknowledges that increasing reliance on natural gas for power generation has reached the point where issues of gas supply and price volatility are now also issues of price and supply of electric power itself.

After a long period when few power plants were added to the western states' grid, a sudden burst of power plant construction, 95 percent of which is fired by natural gas, may only temporarily meet demand. Moreover, increasing reliance on natural gas for power production may make electricity prices less predictable, due to underlying volatility of natural gas prices.

PacifiCorp predicts that a gap will emerge between power demand and resources available for power production. The IRP notes that the potential benefits of expanding existing thermal plants include the fact that they do not require the cost and uncertainty of acquiring new power plant sites and power line corridors. Clean coal technology is not included in portfolio analysis due to expected high cost.

Existing PacifiCorp Coal-Fired Plants

Hunter 1, 2 and 3

Built in 1980, each of the Hunter #1 and #2 units produce 662 net MW on a nameplate rating of 782 MW. The more recent Hunter #3 unit, completed in 1983, produces 460 net MW on a rating of 495 MW. A fourth unit at Hunter is the next logical expansion of the system, as hinted in the PacifiCorp IRP described above. For now the new gas peaking plants at West Valley City and Gadsby adequately supply peak, as well as some baseload demand.

A significant increment of new power can be squeezed from existing turbines when, during overhaul, they may be upgraded for approval to run on overpressure, typically raising yield by 50 MW. Hunter #1 suffered an extended forced outage during 2000 that required PacifiCorp to purchase power from the open market during a period of coincidentally high prices. This painful situation is prone to occur more often as rising demand confronts three difficulties: an aging, over-stressed grid, the difficulty of getting regulatory approval of new coal-fired plants, and potential over-reliance on gas-fired power.

The Hunter power plant has a technology-leading coal blending facility that has captured national attention, by allowing flexibility and precision in coal-blending that are increasingly required for meeting air emission standards. Hunter can also do some light washing of coal to remove sulfur, but due to high cost have not done so for years.

PacifiCorp's IRP calls for about 4,000 MW in new power. Very conceptual plans have identified Hunter as a potentially good candidate for a fourth combustion unit, of about 400 MW. A fourth thermal unit has been envisioned at Hunter for some time, due to the natural advantage of using an existing site and existing power line rights-of-way. Preliminary application has been made for regulatory review of this option. Based on much cheaper coal in Wyoming, expansion of an existing plant in that region might be relatively more competitive were it not for power transmission weaknesses through that area.

The company's IRP filing concludes that somewhere in the 2008-2012 timeframe a new 575 MW base load coal-fired thermal unit (ostensibly as Hunter #4) would be a valuable addition to the company portfolio. Questions regarding air emission regulations and the cost-effectiveness and reliability of new coal combustion technology would also have to be resolved favorably.

Hunter power production was higher in 2002 than in 2001, with plant equivalent availability for units #1 and #2 running at 92 percent. Unit #3 availability averaged 83 percent. The three Hunter units are delivering at 90 percent of capacity, after completing a five week overhaul in 2002. Hunter had begun stockpiling coal after PacifiCorp determined that poor seam conditions warranted mining-out Trail Mountain quickly. The resulting 1.5 million ton stockpile allowed Hunter to stay fueled during the overhaul and during two recent long wall moves by Sufco, which also supplies the plant. Contracts with Canyon Fuel allow some flexibility in the mix of coal coming from either Sufco, which supplied about four million tons in 2002, or Dugout Canyon, which supplied about 400,000 tons. This dual-source arrangement is particularly important because of air quality problems associated with burning Dugout Canyon's relatively high sulfur coal.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.pacificorp.com/Navigation/Navigation23807.html>.

Economic Impact Analysis:

Using information provided by Mr. James Lacey from PacifiCorp, we used an economic model to produce the impacts of the Hunter #4 Unit project. Our results are based on total costs, number of employees, and average salaries for these employees.

The data we collected is as follows:

- Total Cost: \$800,000,000
- Peak labor during construction: 1000 employees
- Completed plant employees: 75 employees
- Average salaries for employees: \$65,000-\$80,000
- Additional contract employees for maintenance: 20 full-time persons
- Construction would begin in March 2005 and set to begin operation in June 2008

We entered this raw data into our economic model for the Emery County area. We used the model from Regional Economic Models, Inc (REMI). The REMI economic model is a leading economic forecasting model and is able to take into account all of the economic variables within the county.

The results are as follows for the Emery/Carbon County area:

- Peak construction (2007): 1,500 jobs and \$60 million personal income¹
- Normal operation (after 2008): 300 jobs and \$23 million personal income
- Carbon and Emery County: 50 coal mining jobs

The results show peak construction jobs of 1,500, an increase of 500 jobs due to the number of indirect links. The total jobs created with normal operation is 350: 75 normal operation jobs, 20 maintenance contract jobs, 50 coal-mining jobs, and 205 jobs due to the number of indirect links. These are annual figures, based on today's dollars. These jobs will be in addition to the employment projections shown in the document "Population, Employment, and Income Profiles and Trends" prepared by the Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget for Emery County.

¹ **U.S. Personal Income:** Measures the total income received by U.S. households from employment, self-employment, investments, and transfer payments. **Source:** Bureau of Economic Analysis. Release dates available at <http://www.bea.doc.gov>.

Appendix B

BENEFITS OF COUNTY FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SAN RAFAEL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SEPTEMBER 2003

COUNTY FUNDING: **\$45,000/year – Irrigation coordinator (actual spending is over \$50,000/year)**

DIRECT BENEFITS AND RESULTS

This one act of support has resulted in the following benefits to Emery County, with the San Rafael Soil Conservation District coordinating the actions:

Irrigation Coordinator: This position has had a direct impact on Salinity Control (water savings) Projects throughout the county.

Increased funding: This funding is used as leverage to secure additional funds from Utah Association of Conservation Districts, and irrigation companies. These additional sources of funds have been used to help hire one full time and one part time employee. Their jobs are directly related to soil and water conservation efforts.

Countywide irrigation projects: Ferron, Moore, Emery, Huntington Canyon, Fillmore South Group, Green River, Huntington-Cleveland Proposal. See summary below.

Millsite Sedimentation Committee: This committee has been responsible for watershed restoration projects in the Ferron Watershed area. The main effort is to save Millsite Reservoir water storage. The Forest Service has increased their efforts in the Ferron Watershed because of this committee's organization. This committee has received grants and will continue to seek grants to improve the situation.

Watershed Quality Assessment Committee: A committee established to improve water quality in the Price River, San Rafael River, Muddy Creek and Green River. This committee was organized to address the mandates of the Environmental Protection Agency. The organization of this committee will be instrumental in bringing federal, state, private and local financial assistance to all watersheds in the county.

Depletion Allowance: Returned over \$34,000 to local landowners for water depletion costs assessed by US Fish and Wildlife. Ferron, Moore, Huntington Canyon landowners, and Lawrence South have received funds. Have a commitment from state to pay any other depletion allowance costs occurring in the next two years.

Watershed Management Plans: Bureau of Reclamation, Utah Board of Water Resources and other groups require all irrigation companies to have a water management plan before any funding will be given for irrigation projects. The soil conservation district is helping companies to write these plans. Ferron Canal and Reservoir Company and Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company plans are complete.

Direct Link to Landowners: The soil conservation district is a direct link and contact with landowners. We work with them on irrigation needs, soil and water conservation training,

financing, manure application, water quality problems, salinity proposal preparation and submittal, grazing improvements, etc.

Increased Crop Yields: Landowners are reporting an increase in alfalfa yields (up to 1.5 tons increase per acre). This is significant considering the drought situation we are currently in.

SUMMARY OF IRRIGATION PROJECTS AS A RESULT OF FUNDING FROM EMERY COUNTY

All sprinkler irrigation projects will save up to 50% of water that is currently being used on irrigated farms. As an example, the Ferron Project is 80% complete and the communities of Ferron and Clawson, as well as local landowners are already seeing extended water usage.

Ferron Watershed Project:

\$10,802,744 from Bureau of Reclamation for off-farm system

\$ 4.5 Million in on-farm cost share funding –70%

\$867,234 paid by landowners (3% loan available through the district- (State ARDL program).

Current expenses.

\$816,000 – Payroll expenses paid to local people.

(Over \$1.3 million have been committed to the Molen, Rock Canyon, Clawson and Paradise Ranch projects in 2003)

Moore Irrigation Project: INSTALLED!

Off-farm funds came as a result of Ferron Project getting into the Salinity Program. Installed by local labor.

\$4,733,160 – in off-farm grant

\$601,422 – in on-farm cost share funding –70%

\$257,752 – paid by landowners (3% loan available through the district (State ARDL loan program).

Seely-Collard Project: INSTALLED!

Off-farm funds came as a result of Ferron Project getting into the Salinity Program.

\$185,690 – off-farm

\$101,585 – in on-farm cost share –70%

\$43,536 – paid by landowners (3% loan available through the district (State ARDL loan program).

Lawrence South – Fillmore Group (part of Huntington-Cleveland): INSTALLED!

\$1,440,792 – Approved by Bureau of Reclamation for off-farm in 2001.

\$ 438,060 - On-farm cost share funding

\$187,740 – to be paid by landowners.

Cottonwood Winter Water (Livestock) Project: COMPLETE!

\$2,100,000 - Bureau of Reclamation funds

Huntington-Cleveland Salinity Proposal:

Projects are being prepared to submit to the Bureau of Reclamation for salinity control efforts. These project proposals will come from Elmo North, Huntington North and Emery.

Projected cost of irrigation system: Federal - \$88,000,000, Private - \$6,764,612
(this includes \$14.1 mil for storage res., \$2 mil for stock water)

Green River:

\$15,000 -Sought and received a sprinkling demonstration project from Bureau of Reclamation. Landowners will pay an additional \$3,500.

Some small irrigation projects are being installed now.

Helped them receive an interest free loan of \$13,000 to install a water measuring weir.

EA to be written in 2004

Emery:

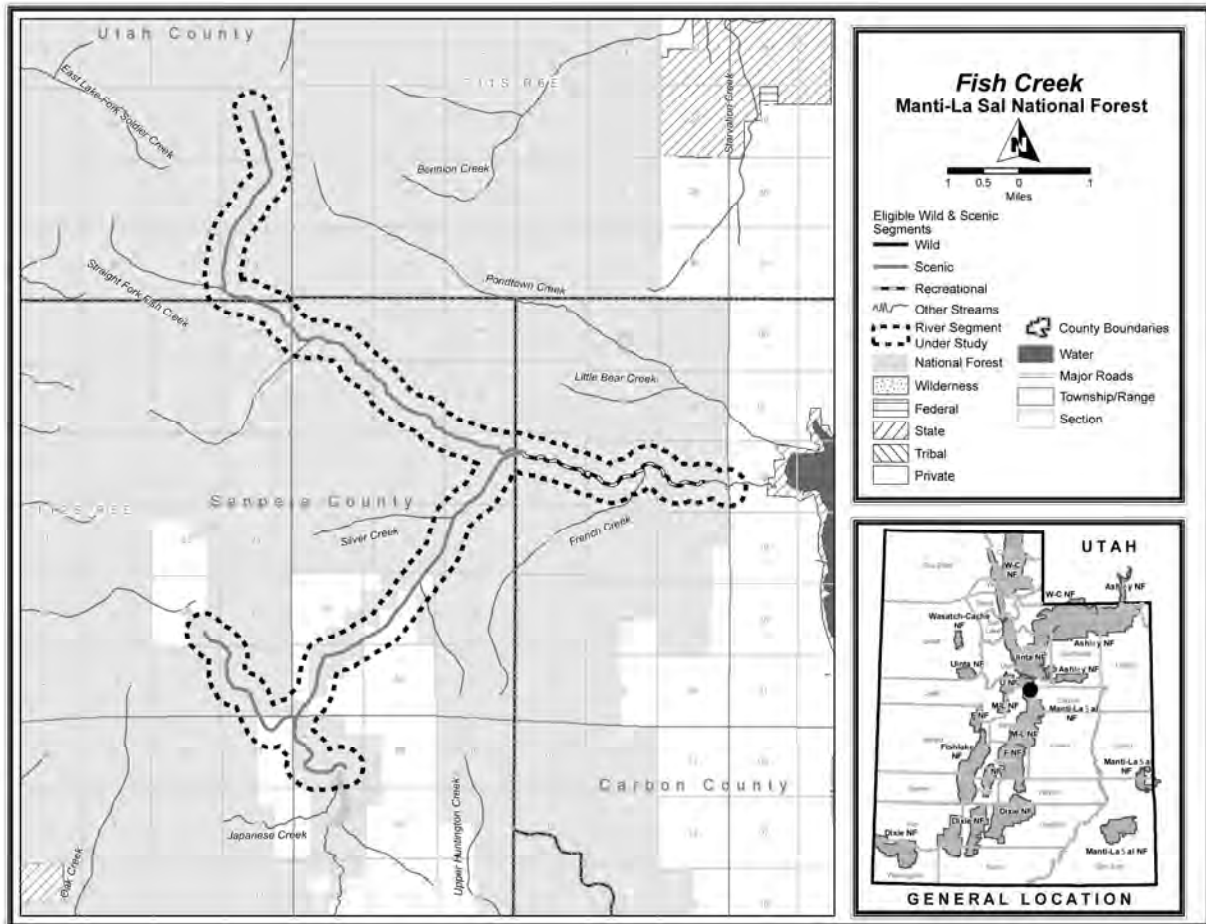
Proposal being written.
Projected cost: \$16,000,000
EA being written.

TOTAL FUNDS RECEIVED INTO EMERY COUNTY FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS as of

September 2003:

Off-farm	– \$19,262,386
On-farm	- \$6,941,067
Private	- \$2,356,271
Other	- <u>\$34,500</u>
TOTAL-	\$28,594,224

Fish Creek including Lower Gooseberry Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Fish Creek including Lower Gooseberry Creek

River Mileage:

Fish Creek including Lower Gooseberry Creek

Studied: 20.65 miles from the headwaters along the east crest of the Wasatch Plateau to the Manti-La Sal Forest boundary

Eligible: Same

Location:

Segment 1 – 17.05 miles from the headwaters from headwaters of Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry Creek to the junction of Fish Creek & Lower Gooseberry Creek as a Scenic river.
Segment 2 – 3.60 miles from the junction of Fish Creek & Lower Gooseberry Creek to the Forest boundary as a Recreational river.

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

Fish Creek including Lower Gooseberry Creek	Manti -La Sal National Forest, Ferron and Price Ranger Districts, Carbon, Sanpete and Utah Counties, Utah				Congressional District UT-2 UT-3	
	Start		End		Classification	Rounded Miles
	Northing	Easting	Northing	Easting		
Segment 1 Fish Creek/Gooseberry			4403500	478979	Scenic	17.05
Cabin Hollow	4399491	471768				
Gooseberry Creek	4396343	474950				
Fish Creek	4411310	472844				
Segment 2 Fish Creek	4403500	478979	4402714	483634	Recreational	3.60

Physical Description of River: Fish Creek and tributaries generally occupy broad canyon areas with canyon bottom riparian vegetation, and aspen and spruce covered slopes. Slopes are long, with moderate grades. Soils are deep and little to no surface rock and rock outcrops exist. The streams within these broad canyons have meandered over time, and have created small meadow areas along canyon bottoms. The canyons remain fairly wide from the headwaters to the Pleasant Valley area. Sagebrush and other mountain brush species become more prevalent in the lower elevations of the segment.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers of Rivers, March 2003, (USDA Forest Service Supplement to the Manti-La Sal NF Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2006)

Determination of Free-flow: There are no diversions or significant channel modifications and is free of impoundments.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Wildlife – Upper Fish Creek contains the largest breeding population of Willow Flycatchers known in the state. The area has been described as an “outstanding example of good riparian management” (1998 Southwestern Willow Flycatchers Surveys on U.S. Forest Service Lands in Utah). Willow flycatchers breed in shrubby or woodland habitats, usually adjacent to, or near, surface water or saturated soils. Therefore, good riparian habitat, as found in the Upper Fish Creek drainage, is important for this species. Willow Flycatchers can be found from the inlet into Scofield Reservoir to the confluence with Gooseberry Creek. Riparian habitat, especially “good riparian habitat” is one of the rarest habitat types in Utah and currently occupies less than 1 percent of the state’s land cover. However, 75 percent of Utah’s bird species use riparian habitat to nest, forage, water, migrate and/or winter. As evidence of this, 54 species of birds have been observed in Fish Creek during the breeding season. In comparison to Fish Creek, suitable Willow Flycatcher habitat in Huntington Canyon was inventoried and no Willow Flycatchers were detected and only nine species of birds were observed. Fish creek contains extensive tracts of willow dominated habitat at least 100 m wide and more than 500 m long (Banding and Genetic Sampling of Willow Flycatchers in Utah: 1997 and 1998). This is one of the attributes of Fish Creek that make it unique and contributes to its outstanding value as wildlife habitat. Upper Fish Creek also contains numerous mammalian species including beavers, black bear, mule deer, and elk. The variety of vegetation, remoteness and large size of the Fish Creek area provides excellent habitat for elk parturition and rearing. The area also provides very high quality, relatively undisturbed, summer and fall habitat for mule deer and elk, including habitat for fawning, calving and rearing. Beaver use the riparian habitat for habitat, and bear frequent the corridors of the watercourses.

The 1998 report, “Southwest Willow Flycatchers Surveys on U.S. Forest Service Lands in Utah,” did say that Fish and Gooseberry Creeks were “an outstanding example of good riparian habitat,” the surveys did not find any southwest willow flycatchers on these streams. Where willow fly catchers are found on these streams, they were not the southwestern willow fly catcher. The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service’s, “Endangered, Threatened, Proposed and Candidate Species, Utah Counties,” (November 2007) list shows the southwestern willow fly catcher in Emery, Garfield, Grand, Iron, Kane, San Juan, Washington, and Wayne Counties

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Segment 1 – Scenic

It is only accessible at the lower end by Forest Development Road (FDR) 123). Fish Creek National Recreation Trail (Trail 130) parallels Fish Creek the entire distance. The watercourses are within sheep grazing allotments and evidence of past prescribed burns exists.

Segment 2 –Recreational

There is substantial evidence of human activity; lands have been developed for a full range of forestry uses, and are readily accessible by road.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses

Segment	Ownership		Distance in Miles	Square Miles	Acres
Fish Creek/ Gooseberry Creek (Scenic)					
Cabin Hollow	Forest Service	0-1.61	1.61	0.805	515.20
	Private	1.61-2.27	0.066	0.330	211.20
	Forest Service	2.27-2.33	0.06	0.030	19.20
Gooseberry Creek	Forest Service	0-3.08	3.08	1.540	985.60
	Private	3.08-4.06	0.98	0.490	313.60
	Forest Service	4.06-4.12	0.06	0.030	19.20
	Private	4.12-4.38	0.26	0.130	83.20
	Forest Service	4.38-6.66	2.28	1.140	729.60
Fish Creek	Forest Service	0-8.04	8.04	4.020	2572.80
Fish Creek (Recreational)	Forest Service	0-3.60	3.6	1.800	1152.00
		Total=	20.63		

The eligible portion of Fish Creek lies within the boundaries of Utah, Sanpete, and Carbon counties: 1.4 miles are within withdrawn lands currently under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation; 1.8 miles are privately owned; and the remaining 17.9 miles are located on National Forest System Lands.

In 1941, the Secretary of Interior withdrew 6,180 acres of National Forest System Lands for reclamation purposes; 5640 acres of that withdrawal are in the Gooseberry Creek watershed. These acres are associated with the proposed Narrows project, an irrigation reservoir sponsored by the Sanpete Water Conservancy District. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has the authority to develop the land for reclamation purposes. The withdrawal allows the Forest Service to manage the lands for National Forest System purposes until the BOR is ready to proceed as long as the Forest Service does not allow any activity that will preclude the purposes for the withdrawal. Land withdrawn for reclamation purposes that is no longer needed for such purposes would be relinquished back to the Forest Service for management. However, the Bureau of Reclamation would continue to be in control of roads, tunnels, etc., associated with the purpose of the withdrawal. Once facilities are built, the BOR could give the Sanpete Water Conservancy District authority to manage the facilities, and when the loan is repaid, BOR could give the Sanpete Water Conservancy District an easement for the facilities.

All of the waters flowing from Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek are allocated to downstream uses in Sanpete and Carbon counties. On normal or even higher than normal years of precipitation, the water in Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek is over-appropriated.

Under the 1986 Forest Plan, for the most part, the Forest manages the land surrounding the eligible segments with emphasis on semi-primitive recreation use. Most areas are closed to motorized vehicles. However, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, hunting, cross-country skiing, other day use activities, and overnight camping occur along with other multiple uses such as grazing and mining.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Coal: There is potential for recoverable coal to the east of the Gooseberry Fault and to the south of the Fish Creek Graben. Coal in the other areas is probably too deep to mine and is not accessible from adjacent areas due to the offset in the faults. Coal east and south of the fault zones, respectively, is being investigated for exploration to determine mineability. Potential coal reserves are adjacent to and beneath the river segments. Mining activity could be allowed in areas classified under scenic or recreational designations. Stipulations could be imposed as necessary to protect scenic qualities, wildlife, cultural resources and the watershed. There would likely be no adverse effect to the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value due to coal mining.

Natural Gas and Oil: Development potential in the area is considered to be high for natural gas and moderate for oil. Most of the area has been leased or is currently available for leasing. However, because much of the area under study was designated as Semi-Primitive Recreation (SPR) under the 1986 Forest Plan, the SPR area would carry a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) Stipulation with any lease. An NSO stipulation would mean that the area could not be occupied for drilling, but could be explored from adjacent areas using directional drilling methods. Limited areas in the SPR area with slopes less than 35 percent along the canyon rim (where drilling would not be visible from the National Recreation Trail) are available for leasing and could be occupied for exploration or production (limited to essential operations only). Visual impacts would be short-term and considered minimal. Portions outside the SPR designation would be available for lease without occupancy limitations and likely be visible from limited reaches of the river.

Locatable/Common Variety Mineral: Potential for locatable or common variety mineral material development is limited to the Flagstaff Limestone that forms the caps of high ridges/mesas along the western boundary of the area. The limestone could be used as either a common variety mineral (gravel, building stone) or a locatable mineral (Portland cement, metallurgical limestone, etc.). The likelihood for development is small. The Forest Plan would require any mitigation to ensure water quality.

There is a strong likelihood that coal, oil, and gas reserves are located in the area which could be developed for extraction.

Water Resources Development – Scoping comments from Utah Division of Water Resources identify three potential water developments upstream of and on the studied segments.

The Mammoth Dam and Reservoir (T13S R06E Section 06, Two proposed dam heights; 115 ft high, and 180 ft high, capacities of 41,213 ac-ft and 75,624 ac-ft respectively). This reservoir was once built and failed, the site is on the upstream end of the proposed Fish Creek Wild and Scenic River segment. Still a viable site, reservoir was originally proposed in several more sizes (This site overlaps with the existing Lower Gooseberry Reservoir upstream of segment).

Gooseberry (T13S R06E Section 19, 100 ft high, 36,000 ac-ft capacity). On Gooseberry Creek upstream of proposed Fish Creek Wild and Scenic River section.

Narrows Dam and Reservoir, T13S R06E Sections 19, 25, 30. More information about this potential development is discussed below.

In 1941 the Secretary of Interior used a first form withdrawal of National Forest System lands in the headwaters of Gooseberry Creek and some adjacent areas. First form withdrawals were made specifically for development projects such as dams. In this case, the withdrawal specifically states that it was made for the Gooseberry (Narrows) Project. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S.D.A. Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Utah Division of Water Resources, Utah Division of Water Rights, and the Sanpete Water Conservancy District have performed extensive studies in the watershed. These studies provide the basis for the current Narrows Project plan and show there is significant potential for water resource development in the Fish Creek watershed. The estimated annual water yield above the proposed Narrows project dam is approximately 8,900 acre-feet. Of that, approximately 5,400 acre-feet are allocated to the Sanpete Water Conservancy District for the Narrows Project.

Current flows through Gooseberry Creek to Fish Creek may be altered if the Narrows Project is completed. A stipulation signed July 13, 1989, by the United States Justice Department and the Sanpete Water Conservancy District subordinated all federal water rights to the Sanpete Water Conservancy District, rights needed to implement the Narrows Project. The stipulation requires the maintenance of a minimum flow downstream of the proposed dam. Analysis by the Forest Service indicates that the proposed operations scenario for the Narrows Project may not provide a regime of high flows necessary to maintain the outstandingly remarkable value associated with the Lower Gooseberry and Fish Creek segments. Without mitigation, the changed frequency and duration of flows may eventually have an adverse effect on the riparian habitat in Lower Gooseberry and Fish Creek, which supports the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value. The Narrows Project would not affect Upper Fish Creek.

Should the Narrows Project not be completed, the water allocated to the Sanpete Water Conservancy District would likely be diverted to the Sanpete Valley by other means. At this time, no alternatives have been developed for this scenario. Therefore, it is impossible to predict the possible effects on the eligible segments of Gooseberry and Fish Creeks.

There are also existing water developments downstream of the studied segments. BOR has withdrawn lands for the Emery Irrigation projects downstream of the studied segments.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Road #50123 provides access to the lower end of Fish Creek. This road originates at Scofield Reservoir and provides access to Fish Creek Campground and the Fish Creek National Recreation Trail trailhead. The Fish Creek National Recreation Trail, a non-motorized trail, follows the river from Scofield to Skyline Drive approximately 10 miles. Skyline Drive, Forest Road #50150, runs the length of the Wasatch Plateau. A trailhead on Skyline Drive provides non-motorized access to the headwaters of Fish Creek. This general area has relatively few

management uses, facilities, and infrastructure. The exceptions are livestock use, range allotment boundary fences, camping, and trailhead facilities at the upper and lower end.

Forest Road # 50124 accesses Gooseberry Creek at Lower Gooseberry Reservoir. Remains of the Mammoth Dam are located on Gooseberry Creek below Lower Gooseberry Reservoir. When the dam failed in the early 1900s the stream channel was severely eroded and scoured. Remnants of the dam and evidence of the dam failure are still visible today. Downstream of Lower Gooseberry Reservoir, a utility corridor with two natural gas pipelines crosses Lower Gooseberry Creek. The corridor is cleared of trees and shrubs and is highly visible. An existing diversion structure on Cabin Hollow, a tributary to Lower Gooseberry Creek, provides irrigation water for private land west of Lower Gooseberry Reservoir.

Grazing Activities – The Gooseberry Creek and Fish Creek watershed has been available for multiple use since the earliest pioneers came into the area. Livestock and wildlife from this area were used to feed workers constructing the railroads and mines. Cattle, sheep, and horses have grazed the lands. Currently, cattle graze outside of the area under study, upstream of the Lower Gooseberry segment while sheep graze throughout the area under study.

Recreation Activities – The Fish Creek National Recreation Trail parallels Fish Creek from the mouth of the creek near Scofield Reservoir to Skyline Drive, a distance of approximately 10 miles. The non-motorized trail is the main access into the 25,000-acre semi-primitive, unroaded area. Fish Creek is closed to fishing until the second week of July due to spring spawning of cutthroat and rainbow trout. Once the creek is open to fishing, the fishing pressure is fairly heavy.

Next to fishing and hiking, much of the activity within the corridor and on the trail occurs during the fall hunting season. Bow hunting, black powder, and the regular rifle hunts bring hunters on foot and horseback. Once snow accumulates sufficiently, snowmobiling is a popular activity in the headwaters of Upper Fish Creek. In the lower portion of Fish Creek, cross-country skiing occurs.

Springtime brings bird watchers and wildflower enthusiasts to the Fish Creek area.

Other Resource Activities – No other resource activities exist in the corridor.

Special Designations – The Fish Creek National Recreation Trail follows Fish Creek from the trailhead near Scofield Reservoir to Skyline Drive. The trail is used and enjoyed by hikers, fishermen, hunters, and birdwatchers.

Socio-Economic Environment – Both Sanpete and Carbon counties have populations under 30,000. They are dependent on water from the Wasatch Plateau for agriculture, industrial, and culinary uses. Potential growth is limited by available water.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The USDA Forest Service, Manti-La Sal National Forest would be the most likely managing agency responsible for the overall administration of any WSR designated segments because they currently manage the majority of federal land surrounding the eligible segments. Another possible agency to administer the area could be the Bureau of Reclamation as 1.4 miles of the river segment flows through lands withdrawn from the Forest Service and under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation.

Define River Corridor: As a minimum, the river corridor would extend for the length of the river segments and ¼ mile in width from each bank of the river. That is, the corridor would run approximately 21.1 miles in length, by ½ mile wide. The corridor would include adjacent areas such as the confluence area of a tributary stream. A land survey of the entire length Lower Gooseberry, Upper Fish Creek and Fish Creek would cost approximately \$90,712. The total length of the watercourses is 21.1 miles.

Cost of Land: There are 563 acres of nonfederal lands owned by one party. The Forest may be interested in acquiring selected parcels close to the Gooseberry and Fish Creek junction through purchase or easements to protect and enhance the river corridor. Private land within this area is currently zoned WS (Watershed) and would sell “as is” between \$1500 and \$3000 an acre. Final costs cannot be determined at this time.

Developing A Management Plan: Because of the complexity of the area and the resource issues, developing a management plan for these stream segments could take four to six months. Reconnaissance, evaluation, and development of management would require time from specialists in soils, hydrology, recreation, wildlife, botany, watershed, and range. Regional specialists would likely be called upon to review and approve a management plan for this area. The cost of writing, reviewing, and approving a plan could be as much as \$90,000. Printing costs are estimated at approximately \$400.

Development of Lands and Facilities: The land surrounding the eligible segments is an unroaded, natural area. There is a ½-mile long road into the lower drainage. At its terminus are a small campground and the lower trailhead for the National Recreation Trail. There is a trailhead at the upper end of the trail. No other facilities exist within the river corridor. The trailhead parking at the lower end is currently in need of expansion to handle increased use. Cost of expansion of the parking area is estimated at \$5,500. There are five picnic tables at this trailhead/campground. The 6-foot tables are in poor repair and need replacement. Picnic tables need to be replaced about every six to eight years. The cost of replacement of the tables is approximately \$4,250.

The annual cost of trail maintenance is \$4,000. No additional facilities are planned at this time.

User Capacities: No formal study on use or capacity for recreation or hunting purposes has been made. The cost to complete such a study would be approximately \$8,000.

Land Survey: The cost of surveying the private lands adjacent to the river corridor would be approximately \$60,000.

Monitoring management data: Proper management of these river segments would require periodic visits to the area, especially during the summer season. River corridor monitoring functions would include the inspection of signs, trail condition, and noxious weed monitoring. Additional activities might include riparian and aquatic habitat studies and monitoring of invasive species. Other area management functions would include the maintenance of signs and some trail maintenance.

The experience level required for these functions could range from a GS-4 technician to journey level specialists. The incremental additional costs would be approximately \$12,500.

Resource Protection: Current management of the area is classified as an unroaded, natural area. There are no lawful opportunities for motorized vehicles within the river corridor and surrounding portions of the watershed. Additional patrol and law enforcement protection would cost approximately \$8,079 annually. Additional signing is approximately \$2,000 annually.

Enhancement projects: Control of invasive plants would cost approximately \$3,000 annually.

Reporting to Congress on WSR: An annual report to Congress would take an individual five days to highlight the use and the management activity associated with the new designation. Estimated cost: \$1,500.

First year start up costs: Approximately \$258,862 (does not include any land acquisition costs).

Additional Annual Operating Costs: Approximately \$31,079.

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The increased administration and associated cost of managing the river segment would be the responsibility of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Forest Service funds are projected to decline over the course of the next planning period.

Representatives of Sanpete County, Carbon County, and the state of Utah do not support a WSR designation. As such, none of these entities are likely to share in the administrative costs associated with managing a river designated under the WSR Act.

The Forest has received letters from the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, two State legislators, the Congressional delegate from the US House of Representatives in whose district most of the river segments are located, and both US Senators opposing the inclusion of Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek to the Wild and Scenic River System. It is highly unlikely that any support for preservation and administration of the river would be given, should these segments be designated.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The State and county governments have no desire, nor do they currently have the authority or ability, to protect the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value on non-federal lands. It is highly unlikely that either the State or counties would pass legislation or zoning ordinances that would protect the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value on non-federal lands.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Commissioners from Sanpete and Carbon counties, two State Legislators, Congressman Cannon, and Senators Bennett and Hatch are in opposition to the designation of these river segments under the WSR Act. The Forest received no letters of support for designation from State or local agencies. Local county government leaders are especially adamant in their strong opposition to a WSR designation. Numerous residents, water users, and businessmen have called, sent e-mails, and written letters of protest over potential designation.

While many of these State and local agencies and individuals may support some continued maintenance of the aquatic and riparian systems, none agree with protecting this area by designation under the WSR Act. Many of these people enjoy and cherish the Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek areas and want to see the general systems maintained. They would prefer to see maintenance assumed under authorities that are more flexible to changing needs than can be afforded from designation.

Senator Robert F. Bennett wrote two letters with identical verbiage dated August 25, 2004. One letter referenced Carbon County and the other Sanpete County.

The concerns raised by ... County include questions about the significance of the segments under consideration, whether the segments meet the standards of continually flowing water, questions over water rights and the availability of existing management options which could be employed to protect the river's values without being designated as Wild and Scenic. It is important to note, that the county depends heavily on natural

resources to sustain its local economy and even the smallest change by a federal land management agency can have negative impacts.

According to **Senator Orrin Hatch**:

The Federal Government does not have a water right that would ensure that these two river segments would remain free of impoundment as required by the law.

As you well know, water resources are vital to the economic viability of any area. This fact is especially germane to Sanpete County which has labored long and hard to obtain access to their adjudicated water rights. A finding of suitability for these two river segments would simply complicate the process which will inevitably end, due to the lack of the necessary water right, in their being not suitable for designation under the Wild and Scenic River Act. (August 12, 2004)

Congressman Chris Cannon wrote:

I oppose any portion of Fish Creek or Gooseberry Creek being designated ‘Wild and Scenic.’

While the idea of preserving certain rivers, streams, etc., is surely praiseworthy, the scales of common sense ultimately have to balance. In this particular case, whatever benefits may result from designating Gooseberry or Fish Creeks as “Wild and Scenic” do not justify the likelihood that such a designation could deprive citizens, farmers, and businesses of the water which will become available from the Narrows project.

By far the most compelling reason not to designate, however, is the critical need for water in Sanpete County, and the unfulfilled commitments that have been made for many years regarding completion of The Narrows. (July 2, 2004)

The **Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget** states:

A review of the information contained in the DRAFT Fish Creek (Including Gooseberry Creek) Preliminary Suitability Factor Analysis, causes the State to conclude that the identified segments of Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek do not meet the suitability standard of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, even if its concerns about eligibility of the creeks are set aside. ...The state believes that the draft accurately and clearly illustrates that application of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek would create serious conflicts with existing priority water rights, a Bureau of Reclamation water development withdrawal which has existed for more that seventy years, and the economic and social needs of several counties and therefore, the citizens of the State of Utah.

The **Sanpete County Commissioners** wrote:

...that this river segment does not qualify as a wild & scenic river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers. The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act mandates that a river have two basic features to qualify as a wild and scenic river: first, the river must be free flowing, and second, the river must possess one of several outstandingly remarkable values (“ORVS”). We believe that Fish Creek does not meet either standard for this designation.

The very fact that Forest Service has declared Fish Creek as eligible has significantly impacted Sanpete Water Conservancy District’s efforts in pressing forward with the Gooseberry Narrows project. The Narrows Project will alleviate many of the adverse

effects that drought has brought to our County. The Narrows Project will finally allow Sanpete County to fully exercise its water right. The Narrows Project will provide another economic/recreational fishing and camping experience in our County.

It doesn't meet the suitability criteria for being maintained as a Wild & Scenic river because it has already been identified as a contributing tributary to the Gooseberry Narrows Project providing a much needed storage of water for our residents use and providing the water supply needed for the future growth needs of our municipalities. The Forest must determine Fish Creek not suitable for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act because the best use of the Fish Creek segment watershed is for water resources development, in other words, the Gooseberry Narrows Project. (July 5, 2004)

The **Carbon County Commissioners** wrote:

In reviewing the described characteristics and comparing these values to the existing National System now in place, we can find nothing that would make this stream nationally significant. The current landownership is U.S. Forest Service and the present use is Semi-Primitive Recreation, grazing, fish and wildlife habitat. The reasonable foreseeable potential uses of land and water would be the same as they are now. The water on Upper Fish Creek is over-appropriated, as is most water in this State. Inclusion in the national system could cause foreclosure or curtailment of existing uses and hinder or stop management objectives. This would not be consistent with Carbon County's goals and objectives.

Upper Fish Creek drainage contributes to a major portion of the water in Scofield Reservoir, which is the only water storage facility in western Carbon County. Over 90% of our residents depend on Scofield for their water needs. Virtually all of the agricultural and industrial needs for water in Carbon County are provided by this reservoir. The present and future development needs will best be satisfied in management of the entire drainage as a water shed. A water shed management plan would allow the drainage to continue to produce the amount of water that it does presently. Additionally, sound timber management practices and vegetative manipulation can increase the watershed potential long-term. (August 5, 2004)

On the other hand, the Utah Rivers Council, Trout Unlimited, Red Rock Forests, The Wilderness Society, The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, The Grand Canyon Trust, and The Three Forest Coalition support the designation.

The **Utah Rivers Council** wrote:

Carbon and Sanpete counties stand to gain jobs, tax revenue, and income from Wild and Scenic status. ...

...Designating Fish and Gooseberry Creeks as Wild and Scenic would provide a side benefit to Carbon County – source water protection for their only drinking water supply, Scofield Reservoir. By protecting the Creeks and associated corridor land from future development, the County can ensure that their water supply remains clean and healthy.... (July 15, 2004)

Responding to suitability of Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek, Huntington Creek, and Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek, **Trout Unlimited** wrote:

The three creeks currently under suitability review for Wild and Scenic River designation are among the most highly-valued trout fisheries in Utah and, accordingly, are of great interest to TU. All hold healthy populations of trout, exhibit tremendous natural beauty, provide myriad recreational opportunities, support terrestrial wildlife populations, and attract anglers and others from throughout the West. Because of their recreational and scenic value, they contribute significantly to local and regional economies. These streams merit Forest Service care and protection.

Issues associated with Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry Creek require particular attention....These segments are home to regionally-significant populations of wildlife. They provide increasingly rare opportunities for fishing in primitive areas with few roads and no impoundments. Their scenic values cannot be questioned. These stretches of stream are also critical to the health of Scofield Reservoir, which is one of the three most important flatwater fisheries in Utah and contributes millions to the regional economy. The reservoir often is on the verge of becoming eutrophic. Any reduction in flow into the reservoir could accelerate that process, resulting in a fish kill and significant economic harm. Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry Creek are critical spawning areas for the cutthroat trout in Scofield Reservoir. Without consistent spring flows, spawning activity will be in jeopardy, again at significant economic and social cost. (July 7, 2004)

In a joint letter, **Red Rock Forests, The Wilderness Society, The Southern Utah Wilderness Society, and the Grand Canyon Trust** wrote:

Until some rivers or watercourses on the Manti-La Sal NF are designated under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, all of them remain remarkable examples of unprotected rivers of regional and statewide importance....

Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry Creek is important habitat for most game animals in Utah, including those on the M-LS NF MIS list. The area is valuable habitat for Williamson's sapsucker, dwarf shrew, Utah milk snake, Utah mountain king snake, western boreal toad, northern goshawk, and many migratory bird species.

Fish Creek is a prime fishery and is known as a fly-fishing destination in Utah. Fish Creek contributes a large portion of the water for Schofield Reservoir, the Price water supply. The area should be kept as primitive as possible to protect the water quality entering Schofield Reservoir. (July 15, 2004)

Draft EIS Comments

Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek elicited high volumes of comment.

Comments from the Sanpete County Commission, elected officials, the Sanpete Water Conservancy District and residents voiced strong opposition to designation. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: the Narrows Project, the water rights that support the Narrows Project; historical rights that need to be protected, lack of sufficient irrigation water limiting economic growth; the fact that Fish Creek is protected by the Forest Plan and because Fish Creek is protected because it is in an Inventoried Roadless Area; County Plans should be supported; to maintain the ability to manipulate water in the Manti-La Sal; possible limits on sheep grazing; the ability to secure a loan from BOR and obtain a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers; water rights have been adjudicated; and designation would be contrary to state and state law, including water law.

Comments from the Carbon County Commission, the Helper Mayor, Orem High school class, home owners in the Fish Creek drainage, individuals and groups voiced strong support for WSR designation of Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek. Among the reasons for supporting designation were: to protect rivers in their free-flowing condition, because it is a favorite destination, Gooseberry and Fish Creeks are headwater tributaries and deserve protection because of the functions they perform, the pristine environment, fertile soil and plant vegetation, and animal life; it belongs to future generations; wild species depend on these ecosystems; to protect historic flows critical to Carbon County's water supply system; and to support downstream Blue Ribbon fishery. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest. All of the three organized campaign responses support a positive suitability finding and designation of this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Most activities currently emphasized and allowed under the current Forest Plan are compatible with either a scenic or recreational classification. Therefore, little change to actual management could be expected given designation. The following excerpt is from the 1986 Land and Resource Management Plan for the Manti-La Sal National Forest Chapter III page 55, which specifies that Fish Creek be managed with emphasis on semi-primitive recreation use:

Management emphasis is for providing semi-primitive motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities. Recreation opportunities such as hiking, horseback riding, hunting, cross-country skiing, vehicular travel etc., are available. Some units (Fish Creek), or areas within units may be closed seasonally or permanently to motorized use. Seasonal or permanent restrictions on human use may be applied to provide for the protection of the physical, biological, or social resources.

Investments in compatible resource uses such as timber harvest, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, mineral exploration and development, special uses, etc., may occur as long as they meet the planned VQO and maintain a high quality semi-primitive recreation opportunity. When the approved activity ceases, roads, structures, and appurtenances will be rehabilitated as closely as possible to reflect the previous, undisturbed condition.

Compared to the Forest Plan language above, the following wording from the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council Questions & Answers shows that activities allowed under a scenic or recreational classification are very similar to that direction in the Forest Plan.

Federal lands within the boundaries of river areas designated and classified as **scenic** or **recreational** are not withdrawn under the Act from the mining and mineral leasing laws.

Existing valid claims or leases within the river boundary remain in effect, and activities may be allowed subject to regulations that minimize surface disturbance, water sedimentation, pollution, and visual impairment. Reasonable access to mining claims and mineral leases will be permitted. For rivers designated **scenic** or **recreational** filing of new mining claims or mineral leases is allowed but is subject to reasonable access and regulations that minimize surface disturbance, water sedimentation, pollution and visual impairment.

Harvesting practices on federal lands located within WSR corridors must be designed to help achieve land management objectives consistent with the protection and enhancement of the values which caused the river to be added to the National System. WSR designation is not likely to significantly affect timber harvesting or logging practices

beyond existing limitations to protect riparian zones and wetlands which are guided by other legal mandates and planning direction. Federal timber management activities outside the corridor will be designed to not adversely affect values which caused the river to be designated.

Generally, existing agricultural practices (e.g., livestock grazing activities) and related structures would not be affected by designation. Guidelines issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Interior indicate that livestock grazing and agricultural practices should be similar in nature and intensity to those present in the area at the time of designation to maintain the values for which the river was designated. (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council Questions & Answers)

Canyon Fuel Company, LCC has an interest in coal exploration and potential coal reserves adjacent to the proposed segment. If Gooseberry Creek and Fish Creek were classified as **recreational** and **scenic**, designation would not impact their opportunity for coal extraction. Stipulations would be imposed that protect the creeks and the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value.

There would be no effect on the current range allotments within the area. There would be minimal limitations on oil and gas exploration since the river corridor is narrow and directional drilling would likely be able to take place.

There would be no effect on timber management, as it would continue to be managed to maintain scenic qualities and wildlife objectives.

Recreation management would be managed as it is in the current Forest plan. There would be no developed recreation allowed in the tentatively classified **scenic** portions of the river corridor.

The Bureau of Reclamation has been preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that proposes the building of a dam and water diversion to Sanpete County. A designation under the WSR Act may be contrary to the purpose of the proposed action and the withdrawal.

Sanpete and Carbon county planning documents do not support the designation of WSR for these segments.

Water for growth, development, and energy production are overriding concerns of the counties that would potentially be affected by a WSR designation.

The Sevier River Basin Plan (1999), which covers Sanpete County, identifies the Narrows Project as the only possibility for additional water from outside the Basin to meet current and future water needs. The Plan conflicts with the intent of a WSR designation that does not allow dams.

The West Colorado River Basin Plan (2000), which covers Carbon County, does not include any historic or current reservoir proposals that would include the eligible river segments.

Designation would be consistent with some of the goals and plans of the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources, specifically those protecting native avian populations and quality fisheries and, enhancing habitat for large mammals.

The area under study is one of 55 bird habitat conservation areas identified in the Draft Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in Utah. The riparian habitat is locally and regionally important because of its high quality and diversity, which provides a rich environment for a variety of

regionally important wildlife species and many other birds, fishes, and mammals. The area also provides transitory habitat for bald eagle.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Gooseberry Creek is located high in the Price River drainage. It is a tributary of Fish Creek, which flows directly into Scofield Reservoir. Seventy-one percent of the water entering Scofield Reservoir comes from Fish Creek. The Price River, which flows out of Scofield Reservoir, is a tributary of the Green River, which is a tributary of the Colorado River. Lower Gooseberry Reservoir on Gooseberry Creek and Scofield Reservoir at the terminus of Fish Creek preclude expanding the segments to include additional stretches of the segments.

The eligible segments of Fish and Gooseberry Creeks and the land surrounding them have minimal development and relatively unfragmented aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats. Fish Creek has been recognized for its unique riparian habitat and good condition. Fish Creek contains the largest breeding population of willow flycatchers known in the State. The area has been described as an “outstanding example of good riparian management” (1998 Southwestern Willow Flycatchers Surveys on U.S. Forest Service Lands in Utah). Willow flycatchers breed in shrubby or woodland habitats, usually adjacent to, or near, surface water or saturated soils. Willow flycatchers can be found from the inlet into Scofield Reservoir to the confluence with Gooseberry Creek. Fish Creek contains extensive tracts of willow-dominated habitat that is at least 100 meters wide and more than 500 meters long (Banding and Genetic Sampling of Willow Flycatchers in Utah: 1997 and 1998), making it ideal habitat for willow flycatchers and other birds. Fifty-four species of birds have been observed in Fish Creek during the breeding season. Ideal habitat in good condition is rare in the Upper Price River subwatershed, in the larger Price River watershed, and in the ecoregion.

Fish Creek also contains numerous mammalian species including beavers, moose, mink, muskrat, foxes, bobcat, snowshoe hare, black bear, mule deer, and elk. The variety of vegetation, remoteness, and the large size of the Fish Creek area provides excellent habitat for elk calving and rearing. Other species such as the Utah milk snake, northern goshawk, and Williamson’s sapsucker may be found there.

In addition to the outstandingly remarkable wildlife value, the Fish Creek area also provides increasingly rare opportunities for fishing in semi-primitive areas containing few roads and impoundments. These stretches of streams are important to the health of Scofield Reservoir, which is considered one of the three most important flatwater fisheries in Utah. Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek are also critical spawning areas for the cutthroat trout in Scofield Reservoir.

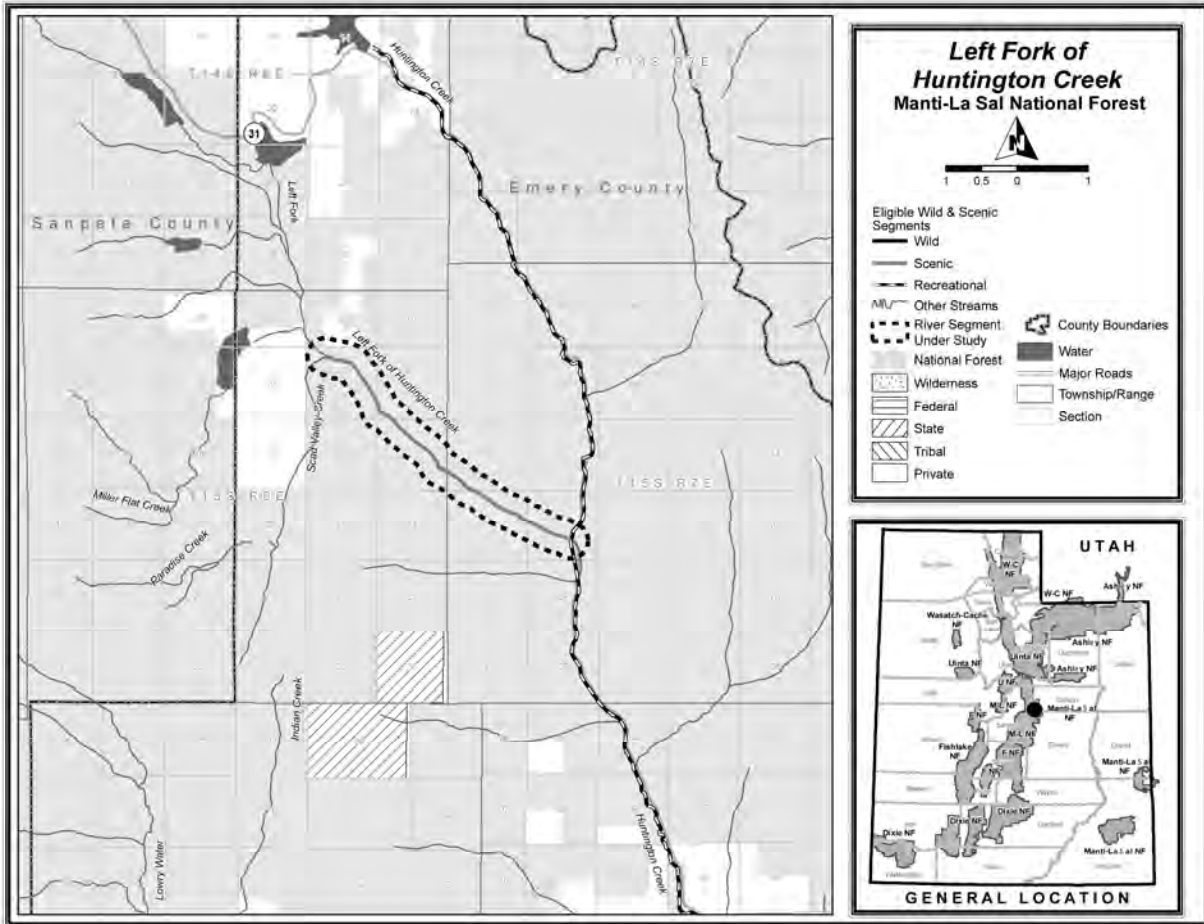
The Fish Creek area provides an environment for the recreationist that is unroaded and rather pristine. It provides an area for hunting, backpacking, day hiking, berry gathering, fishing, bird watching, horseback riding, and other kinds of activities where one can enjoy solitude and quiet. There are few areas in the northern portion of the Manti-La Sal National Forest where one can enjoy these pursuits without an ATV or other motorized vehicle’s sounds.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest.

Local, county and state governments have indicated their disapproval of designation of Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek as a Wild and Scenic River and their disinterest in any involvement in any management partnerships or funding.

Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 4.49 miles from the Upper Left Fork of Huntington Creek to the confluence with Huntington Creek in Huntington Canyon.

Eligible: Same

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek	Manti – La Sal National Forest, Ferron and Price Ranger Districts, Emery County, Utah				Congressional District 2	
	Start		End		Classification	Studied Miles
	Northing	Easting	Northing	Easting		
Segment 1	4376482	480759	4372300	486303	Scenic	4.49

Physical Description of River:

The Lower Left Fork of Huntington creek flows through well-defined canyons with steep side slopes and rock outcrops.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document:

Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers of Rivers, March 2003, (USDA Forest Service Supplement to the Manti-La Sal NF Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, 2005)

Determination of Free-flow:

There are no diversions on the stream channel and it is free of impoundments.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Scenic – The beauty and ruggedness of the canyon is the outstandingly remarkable value for which the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek was selected for consideration as a WSR.

The colorful geology and aspen, mountain brush, conifers, and riparian vegetation along the Lower Left Fork provide an outstanding scenic canyon environment. The north facing slopes are covered with a combination of conifer and aspen. The south facing slopes have splashes of conifer and aspen, but mostly mountain brush and sagebrush.

Riparian vegetation covers the stream banks. Rock outcrops and ledges add variety and a rugged beauty to this canyon. Due to the narrowness of this canyon bottom, there is not room for the creek and a roadway. Access into and up the Lower Left Fork drainage is by non-motorized trail. The relatively wide creek cuts through rock, rock ledges, and outcrops. The canyon bottom is replete with various conifers, cottonwoods, and aspen interspersed with mountain brush variety.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Scenic

It is accessible in some places by road and roads occasionally reach or bridge the river. The presence of grazing and evidence of past logging exists.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses –

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0 – 4.49	Forest Service	1436.8
	Total	1436.8

The economy and communities on the Huntington Creek drainage depend upon regulation of limited water resources. The Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is the primary tributary of Huntington Creek. Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company has multiple diversions for industrial, municipal, and agricultural use. All water is delivered to each of these diversions through the watercourse of the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek.

A very large part of the economic base of Carbon, Emery, and Sanpete Counties comes from generating electricity, providing those plants with fuel, and the auxiliary businesses associated with the workforce employed by those companies conducting business throughout the drainage.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no coal mining operations or oil or gas activities within the Lower Left Fork drainage. PacifiCorp relies on the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek to deliver water critical to its Huntington Power Plant operations at the mouth of Huntington Canyon (PacifiCorp, July 11, 2003).

Water Resources Development – Water resources and their development are the lifeblood of Emery County. The annual precipitation rate in the valley, where the population is concentrated, is about eight inches. This places the area in a semi-arid climate classification. Supplemental water resources must come

from somewhere else. The solution has been diversions from streams that originate on the Wasatch Plateau and from Huntington Creek.

Over-Appropriation of Existing Water Supplies

Much of the West Colorado River Basin is over-appropriated and, as a result, late season shortages exist in many of the agricultural areas. The San Rafael River is the most over-appropriated drainage in the basin.

Table 1. Perfected water rights versus the yields of the major drainages within the West Colorado River Basin.

Water Rights versus Yield Perfected Water Rights			
Drainage	Yield (acre foot)	Use	Acre Foot
Price	138,000	Irrigation	80,566
		M&I	64,147
		Subtotal	144,713
San Rafael	233,000	Irrigation	267,003
		M&I	41,128
		Subtotal	308,131
Dirty Devil	147,000	Irrigation	57,059
		M&I	27,864
		Subtotal	84,923
Escalante	86,000	Irrigation	14,616
		M&I	4,207
		Subtotal	18,823
Paria	21,000	Irrigation	6,644
		M&I	5,966
		Subtotal	12,610

Table 5-21 of the “West Colorado River Basin Water Plan”.

The economy and communities on the Huntington Creek drainage depend upon regulation of limited water resources. The Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is the primary tributary of Huntington Creek. Upstream flow regulation of the Huntington Creek drainage is constant except during brief periods of spring runoff when flows from tributaries below the reservoirs exceed the capabilities of the downstream users to utilize the water. During summer months, the flows from upstream storage reservoirs are regulated to meet the demands of industrial, agricultural, and municipal users. During the spring and winter months, storage reservoirs are filled and flows are reduced to meet demands of industrial, municipal, and stock water users.

Records from the past few years substantiate the regulated uses. The average annual flow in Huntington Creek is about 51,000 acre-feet as recorded by the State Engineer’s Office. Flows and diversions over the last few years are shown below:

Table 2. Flows and Diversions in Huntington Creek.

Year	Annual Flows	Total Diversions Acre-feet.	Industrial Use Acre-feet	% Industry
1991	50,000	50,000	8,600	17

1992	43,900	41,400	8,820	21
1994	44,900	44,400	10,880	25
1995	73,700	70,000	8,354	12
1996	66,100	66,100	10,924	17
1998	84,100	82,600	9,142	11
1999	75,250	73,500	10,950	15
2000	53,500	48,000	12,016	25

Flows in the river during a typical year (1991) are as follows:

Table 3. Flows in Huntington Creek during 1991.

Month	Flow Rate (cubic feet/second)			Flow (acre-feet)
	Min	Max	Mean	
October	25	73	45	3,400
November	13	30	22	1,812
December	12	24	17	1,864
January	9	19	14	1,699
February	7	22	11	1,432
March	13	22	16	1,838
April	16	49	32	2,486
May	48	185	115	7,632
June	132	234	188	11,642
July	64	178	92	6,444
August	48	102	66	4,882
September	41	109	65	4,944

It is impossible to consider management of Huntington Creek and its tributaries as an isolated river segment. The design of water storage facilities, delivery systems (canals and pipelines), and the water demand from the two coal-fired power plants (Hunter and Huntington), has created a system that incorporates all of the San Rafael River system. The depletion of stored water in Electric Lake and the subsequent leasing of water from Huntington/Cleveland Irrigation Company members have, in effect, placed water that will be used by the power company in the four reservoirs on the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek and in Joes Valley Reservoir on Cottonwood Creek. These transactions also affect the value and the use of water stored in Millsite Reservoir on Ferron Creek.

Five major reservoirs impound water at the head of Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek. Several smaller man-made earthen reservoirs currently exist or have existed in the area. Plans to enlarge Rolfson Reservoir in Lake Canyon are being evaluated at this time. After evaluation, Upper Huntington and Little Madson reservoirs that are breached may be put back in service.

Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company has multiple diversions for industrial, municipal, and agricultural use. All water is delivered to each of these diversions through the watercourse of the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek. These diversions and canals regulate water to Carbon, Emery, and Sanpete Counties.

An impoundment along Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is actively being sought by Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company in order to better control, distribute, preserve, and regulate water for its

owners. Engineering studies have been completed on one reservoir site (Johnny Jensen Hollow Reservoir) and others are currently being looked at. Although any potential impoundment would likely be above or below the stretch of river currently under consideration, WSR status upstream or downstream could have a direct impact on these projects and use of water administered by Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company. Designation would make future improvements or additions questionable because they would require federal funding or loans.

Prior to regulation, the natural stream flows were unpredictable and destructive. The uncontrolled flows were destructive both to man and the environment. Control allowed channels to fill in with vegetation. Riparian zones healed. It is important to Emery County that the (Wild and Scenic River) report stress the fact that conditions in Huntington Canyon are largely the result of manipulation by water users. (Ray Peterson, Emery County Public Lands Department, March 2006)

Because of the current water loss condition at Electric Lake, it is not possible to predict with certainty what actions PacifiCorp may need to take in the future to secure a long-term water source for the Huntington Power Plant. Better control of existing water through possible new impoundments and other measures would result in more efficient use of existing water. PacifiCorp has investigated construction of a lower site reservoir to better regulate water from this drainage. This is one of several ways to obtain additional water supplies for a possible fourth unit at Hunter Power Plant. If shares were to yield .5 acre-foot/share instead of .3, that would increase the water available to PacifiCorp.

Wild and Scenic River designation could also impact potential federally assisted water resource development projects. Salinity projects are being developed in the area with the goal of reducing the salinity in the Colorado River by providing pressurized water delivery systems to local agricultural users. These projects significantly reduce water loss from seepage, evaporation, and over-application. Salinity projects are typically federally subsidized. Without that subsidy, local farmers are unlikely to pursue widespread use of these systems.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – State Route 31, a National Scenic Byway, is adjacent to the eastern limit of the segment in Huntington Canyon and is promoted as part of the “Energy Loop”. The scenic byway corridor was designated because of the distinctive combination of scenery, heritage resources, and energy development. Forest Road #50014 passes about one mile west of the river segment near Miller Flat Reservoir. The Left Fork of the Huntington Creek National Recreation Trail(131) parallels the total length of the watercourse. The Forks of the Huntington Campground is located at the confluence of the Lower Left Fork of Huntington and Huntington Creeks.

Grazing Activities – The north side of the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek drainage is within the Candland Allotment. The south side of the drainage is within the Horse Creek Allotment. Both are sheep allotments.

Recreation Activities – The Left Fork of the Huntington Creek National Recreation Trail (131) parallels the total length of the watercourse. The Forks of the Huntington Campground is located at the confluence of the Lower Left Fork of Huntington and Huntington Creeks. The area is popular for dispersed camping and fishing.

Other Resource Activities –

Fish/Wildlife - The Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek provides predominantly brown trout with an occasional rainbow or Yellowstone cutthroat trout. There are isolated populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout within the drainage.

There are no known threatened or endangered plants or wildlife species in this river segment, but the Forest Service monitors the area for the northern goshawk. Golden eagles and red-tailed hawks do inhabit the corridor. Bald eagles are known to migrate through the area in the early

winter. The watercourse area contains potential nesting habitat for peregrine falcons and a variety of bats. Beaver also inhabit the canyon.

The river corridor is very important mule deer and elk habitat, especially for fawning, calving and rearing of these big game animals. Various predator species exist throughout the watershed (mountain lions, coyotes, and bears).

Cultural/Historical – The earliest Native American inhabitants used the area seasonally for hunting, gathering, and procurement of other resources. The later Fremont Culture also used the higher elevations for hunting and gathering on a seasonal basis as did the Ute tribes and their immediate ancestors. Eventually the westward expansion of Euro-American settlement displaced these cultures. The prehistoric native cultures are represented in the Huntington Creek drainage by alcove sites (rock shelters), open campsites, and rock art sites.

Early historic activities in this drainage included timber harvest, sheep and cattle grazing, and some mining. There is very little historic evidence of prehistoric or historic human activities in this drainage due to its extremely steep and rugged terrain. The only historic evidence remaining are the remnants of an old road and scattered aspen carvings associated with Basque shepherds. Prehistoric sites are limited to short-term campsites identified by scant remains of stone tools and the debris resulting from their manufacture.

Special Designations – The Left Fork of the Huntington Creek National Recreation Trail is located parallel to the river. The State of Utah has identified the Left Fork of Huntington Creek as a Blue Ribbon Fishery.

Socio-Economic Environment – A very large part of the economic base of Carbon, Emery, and Sanpete Counties comes from generating electricity, providing those plants with fuel, and auxiliary businesses associated with the workforce employed by those companies conducting business along the corridor. Apart from the local needs is the rapid growth in electrical demand along the Wasatch Front. PacifiCorp’s coal-fired power plants, including the Huntington Power Plant, are the primary sources of electricity for the Wasatch Front due, in part, to existing transmission facilities from the plants. At this point, there are insufficient transmission facilities leading from other plants to meet growth needs. Rolling brownouts would be expected along the Wasatch Front if regulations controlling water use were tightened and thereby limiting the Huntington Plant’s ability to produce power.

Most of Emery County’s employment is in the Mining, Government, and Trade, Transportation and Utilities Industries (Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget 2003). The mining, trade, and utilities industries rely on water to sustain and develop their business.

Figure 1. Nonagricultural Employment by Major Industry: 2001

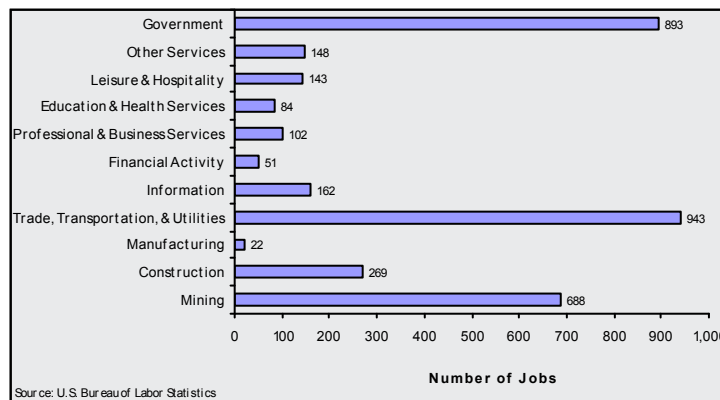
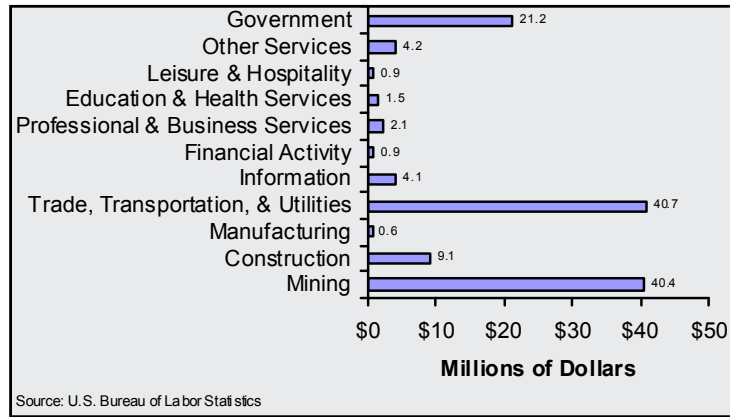


Figure 2. Nonagricultural Payroll Wages by Major Industry: 2001



PacifiCorp Power Plants in Emery County generate 17,400 megawatts annually. At a sale value of \$20/megawatt, the annual revenues would be \$350,000,000. They employ 750 workers (including their mining operations) with an annual payroll of over \$64,000,000. The addition of the proposed Hunter #4 project (located in the Huntington drainage) would add an additional 350 needed jobs in Emery County (see appendix A).

The following reports support the important uses of water to employment and income:

1997 Agriculture Report for Emery County

Acres irrigated - 55,000

- Value of Farms & Improvements - \$100,000,000
- Annual Crop Sales - \$1,300,000
- Number of Cattle and Calves - 28,500
- Annual Livestock Sales - \$5,000,000
- Total Annual Agricultural Sales - \$11,000,000

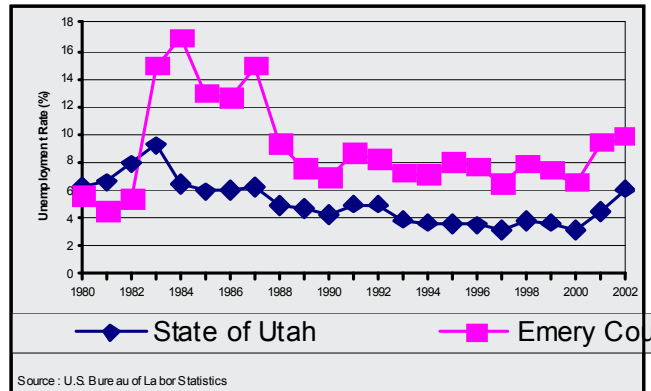
Table 4. Municipal Water Demand and Income

	Huntington	Cleveland	Elmo	North Emery	Total
Municipal - Population	2,131	508	368	1,400	4,400
Number of Connections	856	185	129	460	1,630
Annual Municipal Water Income	\$77,000	\$16,600	\$11,600	\$145,000	\$250,000

*See appendix B for a report on economics and water projects.

A sustainable economy is difficult to develop in an arid rural community without the continued ability to use, transfer, and sell water. The unemployment rate in Emery County (9.8%, compared to 6% for the State) would continue to increase if water development projects are curtailed.

Figure 3. Unemployment Rate in Emery County.



Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The increased administration and associated cost of managing the river segment would be the responsibility of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Forest Service funds are projected to decline over the course of the next planning period. Emery County Commissioners and the State of Utah do not support a WSR designation and have stated they are not interested in sharing administrative costs associated with managing a river designated under the WSR Act.

Land acquisition: The Forest Service manages land within the corridor of Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek.

Define the River Corridor: The river corridor would extend for the length of the river segment and ¼ mile in width from each bank of the river. That is, the corridor would run approximately 4.49 miles in length by ½ mile wide. The estimated cost of a land survey to meet the established corridor including the private land segment is approximately \$16,500.

Developing a Management Plan: A management plan would require the expertise of a number of specialists. It would take about two months to complete. Developmental cost would be approximately \$28,000.

Development of Lands and Facilities: Install two interpretive displays outlining the recreational opportunities within the canyon located at the trailhead north of Miller Flat reservoir and at the trailhead of Forks of Huntington Campground. Estimated cost: \$6,000.

First year start up costs on WSR: Approximately \$65,500. Additional Annual Operating Costs: Approximately \$26,900.

Maintenance: Trail maintenance for the Left Fork of the Huntington Creek National Recreation Trail is about \$6,000 annually. Maintenance of the interpretive signs would require approximately \$2000 annually.

User Capacities: No formal study on use or capacity purposes has been made. The cost of such a study is estimated at \$15,000.

Land Survey: No survey is necessary as the corridor is National Forest System land.

Resource Protection: Visits by personnel: \$12,400 annually.

Enhancement projects: Control of invasive plants. Estimated cost: \$6,500 annually.

Reporting to Congress on WSR: Preparation of Annual Report for Congress: Approximately \$1000 annually.

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

Neither the State of Utah nor Emery County supports any designation. They have stated they would not participate in any cost sharing or administration of this proposal.

The Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget wrote:

The State concludes that neither Huntington Creek nor Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek meet the suitability standard of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and reserves comment on the eligibility of the creek based upon the comments above and the provisions of the state law. (August 24, 2004)

Emery County Commissioners wrote:

Emery County opposes Wild and Scenic River designation of river segments within Emery County and counties downstream from Emery County. We want it to be unmistakable from comments provided to the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service in their respective Wild and Scenic River (W&SR) planning processes that our position has remained clear and consistent. (July 2004)

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

There are no non-federal lands within this river corridor. However, neither the State nor County supports designation of this segment. It is unlikely that either the State or County would pass zoning ordinances that would protect outstandingly remarkable scenery value. Emery County documents do not support a Wild and Scenic River designation.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Congressmen Jim Matheson and Chris Cannon, and the Emery County Commissioners have written in opposition to designation. The majority of County residents, water users, and businesspersons who have sent e-mails and letters to the Forest Service opposed designation. The preponderance of comments from attendees at the Forest Plan Revision public meetings held in Castle Dale was against designation. Environmental groups and individuals have attended public meetings to support designation for all eligible river segments.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget wrote:

The State concludes that neither Huntington Creek nor the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek meet the suitability standard of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and reserve comment on the eligibility of the creek based upon the comments above and the provisions of the state law.

The Emery County Commissioners wrote:

Emery County opposes Wild and Scenic River designation of river segments within Emery County and counties downstream from Emery County.

We believe that the identified river segments are not suitable for designation. W&SR designation is not necessary to protect the values of river segments in question. Existing management options are available to effectively protect those values. (July 8, 2004)

Congressman Chris Cannon wrote:

I write to inform you of my opposition to Wild and Scenic River (W&SR) designation of river segments within Carbon and Emery Counties...

... Additionally, W&SR designation is not necessary to protect the values of river segments in question. Existing management options are available to effectively protect those values.

Finally, W&SR designation could be devastating on a socio-economic basis. The limited water resource in Emery and other counties are already over allocated. Any interruption of these resources will have a far reaching impact locally regionally and, in the case of electrical generation, nationally. Any such designation could have a harmful consequence on water rights and proper land management, could cripple agriculture, and have serious impacts on the economic viability of the local economy. (August 25, 2004)

Congressman Jim Matheson wrote:

Local officials in Emery County are particularly concerned about the proposal to designate river segments within the County as a Wild and Scenic River because of the potential impact that such a designation could have on water rights and land management across the West. Throughout Emery County and much of Utah, a large system of canals, ditches and impoundments save and move water from one watershed to another, sending water where it is most needed. The ability to transfer and sell water rights during drought years is especially critical. There is question as to what effect Wild and Scenic River designation could have on this practice, given that the rivers in question are a part of this larger water system.

I hope that you will work with the local officials to ensure that no actions taken on behalf of your agency will encumber the ability of Emery County to provide water resources for its residents. (August 3, 2004)

The Huntington Cleveland Irrigation Company wrote:

In reviewing the proposed area for any of the three possible designations it is the opinion of Hunting Cleveland Irrigation Company (HCIC) that none of these designations would be acceptable to us...

Any restrictions placed upon us could have catastrophic results to the already difficult distribution and delivery of our water. HCIC feels Congress didn't have areas like this in mind when they created the Wild and Scenic Rivers act due to the fact that it would totally devastate the local economy & way of life. When the Act was passed in 1968, a number of river systems were classified within the Act itself. Those river systems (see section 1273 & 1274 of the original act) were large rivers. Huntingtons' river system doesn't really fit this profile. HCIC feels that we have been as good of stewards of the environment as is possible and not maintaining our system would be more detrimental to the environment than the current course. We strongly urge careful consideration to this process, as decisions made here can be very devastating to people in this drainage for a long time. (June 25, 2003)

Other organizations such as Trout Unlimited and Red Rock Forests Congress support designation.

Trout Unlimited wrote:

The three creeks currently under suitability review for Wild and Scenic River designation (Fish Creek, including Gooseberry Creek, Huntington Creek and the Lower Left Fort of Huntington Creek) are among the most highly valued trout fisheries in Utah and, accordingly, are of great interest to TU... Because of their recreational and scenic value,

they contribute significantly to local and regional economies. These streams merit Forest Service care and protection.

...Even if you determine they are not suitable for W&S designation, TU encourages you to take every appropriate step to protect and preserve the recreational, scenic, wildlife and other values identified in your eligibility analysis. (July 7, 2004)

Red Rock Forests wrote:

Again we think that much of the decision process in determining which rivers to bring to the level of suitability analysis was arbitrary and capricious. We do not believe it is reasonable to substitute the opinions of local politicians that likely originate from a bias against, and a lack of understanding of, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for the evaluations of resource specialists. (July, 2004)

Draft EIS Comments from local government, power/energy companies, water conservancy districts and residents were strongly opposed to WSR designation of Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: the significance of industrial, agricultural and municipal water resources and the need for further development; the ability to secure federal funding for salinity projects; and the water conservancy's ability to build new structures and upgrade facilities. Because Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is a tributary to Huntington Creek many of the same concerns regarding designation were voiced.

Comments from individuals and several groups voiced strong support for designation. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest. All of the three organized campaigns support a positive suitability finding and designation of this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation is in opposition to Emery County's General County Plan. The 1996 Plan as modified in 1999 states:

This plan includes extensive discussion and policy statements regarding the County's water resources, which apply both to public and private lands. It should nevertheless be reemphasized that Emery County opposes all efforts to designate any of its creeks, rivers, draws, and dry washes in such a way as to diminish the ability of Utah and Emery County to put its water resources to beneficial use. In particular, the county opposes Wild and Scenic Rivers designation of any of its streams, especially those without year-round flow, which could result in assertions of minimum water flows preempting upstream appropriation or reallocation of water rights for the benefit of Emery County businesses, communities and other water users. Utah is a member of the Colorado River Compact and Emery County believes that such an application of the Wild and Scenic River Act would violate its rights under said Compact.

"Wilderness", "Wild and Scenic River", and "Endangered Species" designations are federally legislated. These designations will adversely affect all rivers and streams in Emery County. The intent of this legislation is contrary to existing state water laws and to the well-being of the County. The County's position will be to oppose any taking of existing water rights, both diversion and storage. The County declares that any water dedicated to federal use must be appropriated under state law. The date of that appropriation will be set in accordance with state law. The County further declares that existing users have the right to fully develop their existing diversion and storage rights.

Designation is not consistent with Emery County plans.

Designation would not be consistent with PacifiCorp development plans, the Hunting/Cleveland Irrigation Company, Castle Valley Special Service District, and local agricultural interests.

The Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is located on National Forest System land. The 1986 Manti-La Sal Forest Plan management area emphasis for the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is to provide semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities. Opportunities within the corridor segment include dispersed camping, hiking, horseback riding, fishing, camping, and hunting. Motorized and mechanical use within the Lower Left Fork drainage is unauthorized. Sheep graze the upper reaches of the drainage

The 1986 Forest Plan is inconsistent with designation in that it does not prohibit water uses or development.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

River system or basin integrity is considered to include water quantity, water quality, and timing of flows in relation to natural conditions. In the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek, the quantity and quality of water are comparable to a natural condition. The timing is almost completely regulated by upstream reservoirs.

The Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek flows through Huntington and Cleveland Reservoirs. Some of its tributary streams are also regulated by reservoirs. Under recent operations, the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek contributes about two-thirds of the flow in Huntington Creek at the confluence. This ratio, however, depends entirely on the operation of the reservoirs in these drainages. The integrity of this segment is compromised by these existing reservoirs.

Water quality in the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is protected by the State's anti-degradation policy, which states:

Waters whose existing quality is better than the established standards for the designated uses will be maintained at high quality unless it is determined by the [Utah Water Quality] Board, after appropriate intergovernmental coordination and public participation in concert with the Utah continuing planning process, that allowing lower water quality is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development in the area in which the waters are located. However, existing in-stream water uses shall be maintained and protected. No water quality degradation is allowable which would interfere with or become injurious to existing in-stream water uses.

The contribution of the Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek is important to Huntington Creek.

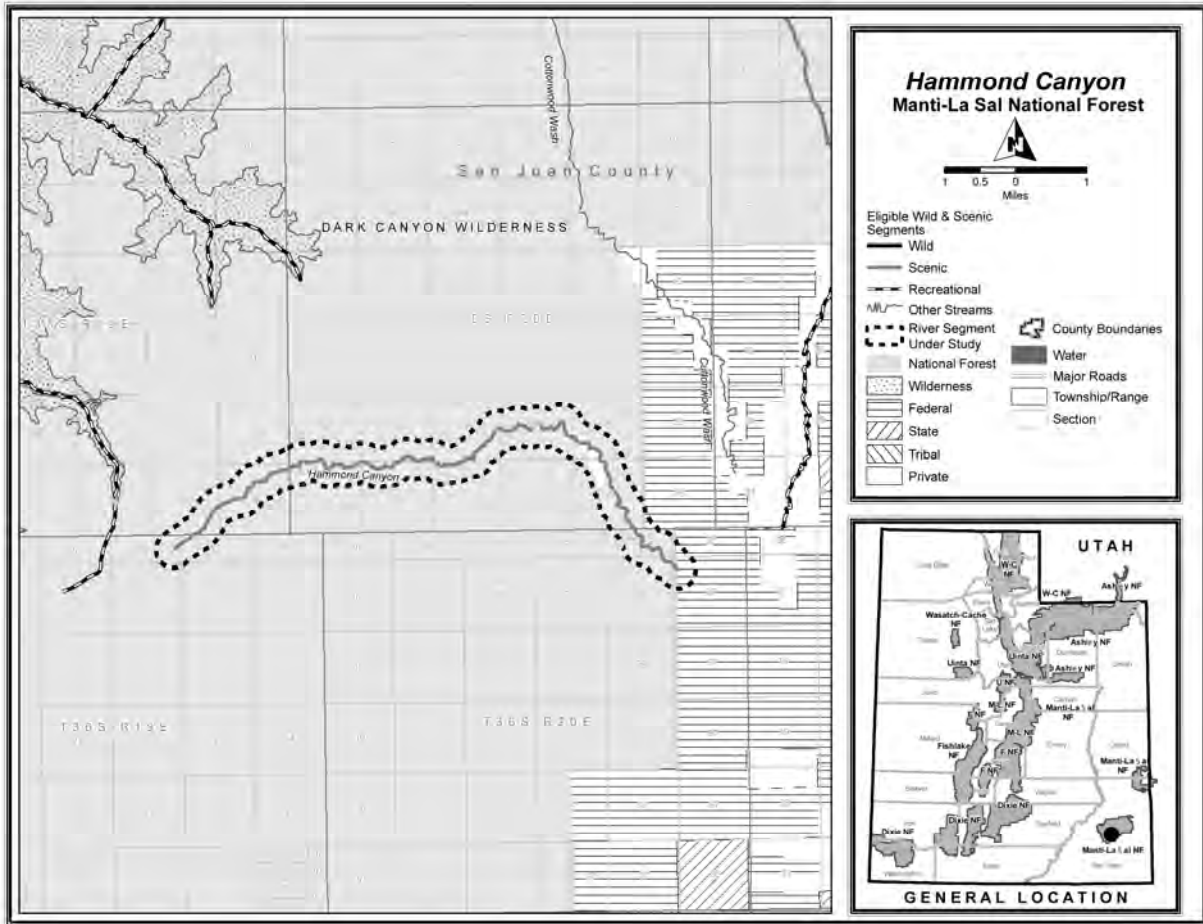
(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest.

Local, county and state governments have indicated their disapproval of designation of Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek as a Wild and Scenic River and their disinterest in any involvement in any management partnerships or funding.

Note: Appendix A: "Economic Impact Analysis, Proposed Hunter #4 Unit" and Appendix B: "Benefits of County Financial Support to San Rafael Soil Conservation District" were attached to this Suitability Evaluation Report (SER). Please see them attached as appendices to the Suitability Evaluation Report for Huntington Creek.

Hammond Canyon Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Hammond Canyon

River Mileage:

Studied: 10.4 miles, from headwaters to Forest boundary

Eligible: Same

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Hammond Canyon	Northing/ 4171162 Easting/ 605432	Northing/ 4170693 Easting/ 616862	Scenic	10.4

Physical Description of River: Hammond Canyon is of fluvial origin. There has been some erosion due to aeolian and mass-wasting processes, but the fluvial processes have dominated. The fluvial processes have been influenced by geologic structural process such as faulting and fracturing. Hammond Canyon incises the eastern side of the Elk Ridge Anticline. The northern “lobe” of the canyon appears to have been influenced by the dominant fracture patterns of the rocks in the area. Most of the canyons coming

off the southeastern portion of Elk Ridge trend NW-SE, as does the northern lobe of Hammond Canyon. The location of the stream forming the southern lobe of the canyon was probably heavily influenced by east-west trending faults. This watercourse has steep, vertical spires and large alcove features along the base of 400 to 800 foot escarpments of the Organ Rock formation. The channel descends through a deep gorge, with a variety of erosive sandstone outcrops. The valley bottom is flat and narrow. The watercourse has down cut through the sandstones of Navajo, Chinle, Moenkopi, Cutler, and Rico formations, creating a steep narrow canyon and side canyons. The channel is mainly in exposed bedrock. There is some perennial water in the upper and middle sections of the watercourse. Potholes are frequent in these areas and are filled during summer storms. Runoff in the lower half quickly disappears in the sandy soils or evaporates. Hammond Canyon contains both intermittent and perennial streams and was identified as having flows sufficient to support the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs).

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Eligibility of Wild and Scenic Rivers – Manti-La Sal National Forest (March 2003), Re-evaluation of Eligible River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (2006), Re-evaluation of Eight River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (June 2007)

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of Hammond Canyon on National Forest System lands.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Geology – Hammond Canyon incises the eastern side of the Elk Ridge Anticline. The northern “lobe” of the canyon appears to have been influenced by the dominant fracture patterns of the rocks in the area. Most of the canyons coming off the southeastern portion of Elk Ridge trend NW-SE, as does the northern lobe of Hammond Canyon. The location of the stream forming the southern lobe of the canyon was probably heavily influenced by east-west trending faults. The canyon is up to approximately 1,000 feet deep, with steeply cut walls. In some places erosional remnants have produced spires and fins hundreds of feet high. The stratigraphy exposed in the canyon goes from late Pennsylvanian through the Triassic. Large expanses of the aeolian Wingate formation (large rounded fossil sand dunes) with contrasting ponderosa pine are located in the eastern (lower) portion of Hammond Canyon. The northern and western portion of the canyon has extensive exposures of white Cedar Mesa sandstone with dark green vegetation. Hammond Canyon has a high rating for abundance of geologic features, diversity of features, and educational and scientific value. Based on the overall abundance and diversity of these geologic attributes, they would be similar to or equivalent to areas of regional importance.

Scenery – Scenic attractiveness of Hammond Canyon is rated Distinct within the Forest’s Scenery Management System. Hammond Canyon possesses an excellent combination of vegetative and geologic contrasts. Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir are well developed in the upper reaches of Hammond Canyon and contrast with the white cliffs of Cedar Mesa Sandstone. Hammond Canyon also exposes the Wingate Sandstone as it begins to cut through the east limb of the Elk Ridge anticline. This massive sandstone, so prominent within the canyonlands region, uniquely contrasts with ponderosa pine in Hammond Canyon. Exposed brownish red Moenkopi Formation sits atop the white Cedar Mesa Sandstone. This provides an additional color contrast visible in places where the upper slopes can be seen. Geologic features are abundant and include cliffs with greater than 1000 feet of relief and a number of free standing pinnacles. Hammond Canyon has an abundance of oak brush and mountain brush which change color seasonally and add to the distinctiveness of the scenery. Archaeological sites of these canyons enhance their scenic character. Hammond Canyon is rated high for diversity of view and special features. It is rated moderate for seasonal variations. Cultural modifications are highly appropriate. Based on the overall quality and uniqueness, the scenery is rated as regionally important.

Cultural – Hammond Canyon has prehistoric archaeological sites that span Archaic through Ancestral Puebloan times along with Historic period use by European-Americans and Utes. Recent work in the canyon has added eight prehistoric sites to the Manti-La Sal NF database including an important village with two-story buildings, prehistoric road segments, and a great kiva indicative of a community center. There are, no doubt, many more sites that remain undocumented within the canyon. Documented prehistoric sites in Hammond Canyon largely date to the Pueblo I-Pueblo III period and include cliff dwellings, isolated granaries, rock art sites, open air habitation sites, and other facets of the Ancestral Puebloan culture. Several known sites in the vicinity of Hammond Canyon lie outside the ¼ mile buffer required by the Wild and Scenic study. Even if we are extremely generous with the ¼ mile buffer, less than 20 to 25 sites are documented in Hammond Canyon at this time although hundreds of sites are known beyond the ¼ mile buffer area. None of the sites exhibit evidence of hydraulic agriculture. Most of the documented sites are high above the stream channel and are related to mesa top farming, not riverine adaptations. The documented sites possess a range of integrity from nearly destroyed to intact, standing conditions, but site integrity is generally good. The documented sites are generally considered eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and are currently being included in the South Cottonwood Watershed Archaeological District nomination being prepared by the Manti-La Sal National Forest. If eligibility for listing or actual listing on the National Register is evidence of National significance, then these sites exceed local significance. These sites may contribute information important to understanding prehistory in the area and are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. These sites are not necessarily part of the Cedar Mesa phenomenon that occurs on BLM lands west of Comb Ridge, but they are important components of the Mesa Verde regions archaeological heritage. The identification of the large village in Hammond Canyon with community integrative features (roads and great kiva) suggests local and regional scale social integration commonly associated with the Chaco Regional system. Elements of the Chacoan Regional System are not positively identified to the west of Comb Ridge. This village provides an important link between the Milk Ranch Point community and the Red Knobs and Cottonwood Falls communities along South Cottonwood Wash and provides evidence of complex social processes developing in the area as early as the late A.D. 800s. Current use by Native Americans is unsubstantiated. There may be gathering of sumac, pine nuts, etc. in the lower elevations of the segment by members of the Navajo Nation. The significance of these resources, therefore, is important at both local and regional scales providing important research and interpretive potential, indicating a high cultural value for this segment.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Scenic

Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial signs of human activity. The canyon bottom is unroaded. Forest Development Roads (FDRs) 088 and 200 follow the ridgeline to the west of the upper headwaters, but are outside of the watercourse corridor. The Posey Trail, Cream Pots Trail and Hammond Trail (166, 005, and 012) either parallel or cross the corridor associated with Hammond Canyon. Trailheads for these trails are located at the upper end of the canyon.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The Hammond Canyon segment contains both public lands managed by the US Forest Service and Ute Tribal lands. The table below shows ownership by river mileage. Tribal lands in the corridor are unoccupied but have been used for agriculture in the past. The Tribal lands contain several structures associated with past agricultural practices.

River Mile	Ownership/Acres
0 – 7.2	US Forest Service/ 2304 acres
7.2 – 7.6	Tribal land/ 115 acres
7.6- 8.2	US Forest Service/ 19 acres
8.2- 8.3	Tribal land/ 16 acres
8.3- 10.7	US Forest Service/ 774 acres

Water Resources Development – There are known dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on the Hammond Canyon segment, although not on Forest lands. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – No roads exist within the eligible stream corridor. The Posey, Cream Pots, and Hammond Canyon Trails either parallel or cross the eligible corridor. Trailheads for the trails are located outside the corridor. Several old structures and machinery associated with past agricultural activities exist on the Tribal lands.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – No current mining exist within the corridor, but old claims exist on the north side of the canyon and at the head of the canyon. No leases exist within the corridor, but three oil and gas leases are nearby: two on the north side and one on the south side of the canyon.

Grazing Activities – The entire corridor is grazed and is within the Babylon Pastures cattle allotment.

Recreation Activities – The Posey, Cream Pots, and Hammond Canyon Trails receive a fair amount of use and provide excellent opportunities for hiking, backpacking and horseback riding in a primitive setting. Several guides provide multi-day backpacking trips into the area. Several ancestral Puebloan ruins in the canyon are popular sites to visit.

Other Resource Activities – As described above, agriculture has been practiced in the past on the Tribal lands and may be implemented again on these lands. The tribe may also apply for access to their tribal lands with vehicles which may potentially change the character of the lower canyon if it were authorized.

Special Designations – Approximately 70 percent of the segment is located within the Hammond-Notch Roadless Area 10-437. This area is currently managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule which prohibits most timber harvesting and construction of new roads. The entire corridor is within an area that is not administratively available for leasing and is also within the proposed South Cottonwood Archeological District.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is located within San Juan County, the nearest population bases are Monticello and Blanding. The socio-economic setting of San Juan County is one based primarily on the service and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands. While the majority of visitors to the area come to see surrounding National Parks the Abajo Mountains and Elk Ridge in the Monticello Ranger District provide a respite from the heat of the desert in the summer and draw considerable use during the fall big game hunting seasons.

San Juan County is a depressed (EZ/EC) county. While the rest of the country has enjoyed a large increase in wages and job earnings, San Juan County has been declining. The average earnings have fallen from \$27,903 in 1970 to \$22,480 in 2000. Net farm income was \$9 million in 1970 and by 2000 had dropped to \$2 million. In 2000, 28% of transfer payments (retirement, disability, Medicare, dividends, interest, rent, welfare) were from welfare. In 2001 the unemployment rate was 9.1% in San Juan County compared to 4.4% statewide and 4.8% nationally. When unemployment figures on the Reservations are factored in, the unemployment rate for the County is 22%. On portions of the Navajo Indian Reservation the unemployment rate is well over 50%. With 92% of the county in State, Federal or Navajo Reservation lands, any decision a federal land management agency makes has an impact on the county population.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The non-federal land is zoned for agriculture. The county is not interested in changing this zoning to protect any river values as it is their opinion that sufficient policies are in place to protect those values.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab and Monticello Utah, San Juan County was opposed to any other "layers of protection" for the segment. The County generally feels that there are sufficient policies in place to protect the values associated with the eligible segment. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment.

Draft EIS Comments

Comments from the San Juan County Commission, City of Monticello and local residents strongly oppose WSR designation for Hammond Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: the BLM has not considered their portion of Hammond Canyon eligible; Tribal land ownership is not accurate; fear of a loss of grazing, mining and oil exploration opportunities that would effect San Juan's economy; the corridor is protected through the Forest Plan and a variety of archeological laws; land status of the tribe would effect management; and the flows are insufficient.

Comments from individuals and groups not living in San Juan County voiced strong support for WSR designation of Hammond Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for supporting designation were: it would contribute to the basin integrity, it is habitat for the Mexican spotted owl; and the canyon is unique; and support for the values. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest. All of the three organized campaigns support a positive suitability finding and designation of this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would be consistent with management of those portions of the stream within the Roadless Areas. The stream segment passes through two different areas of management emphasis as outlined in the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986. The majority of Hammond Canyon lies within the Semi-Primitive Recreation emphasis area where the management direction is to provide semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Other uses may occur so long as they are rehabilitated to reflect as

close as possible previous undisturbed conditions. Designation would be consistent with this direction. The remainder of Hammond Canyon is within an area where the management emphasis is on maintaining general big game winter range. Other uses may occur as long as it emphasizes habitat maintenance or enhancement and does not cause unacceptable stress on wildlife. Designation would be consistent with this direction.

The designation would conflict with the San Juan County Master Plan (Chapter 1 Policy of Public Lands, General/State: pages 9-13; Policy on Multiple Use: pages 13-15; Policy of Public Access: pages 18-21; Policy on Private and Public Land Ratios: pages 22-24; and Policy on Water Resources: pages 30-32).

Designation may potentially limit irrigation on the Tribal lands within the corridor.

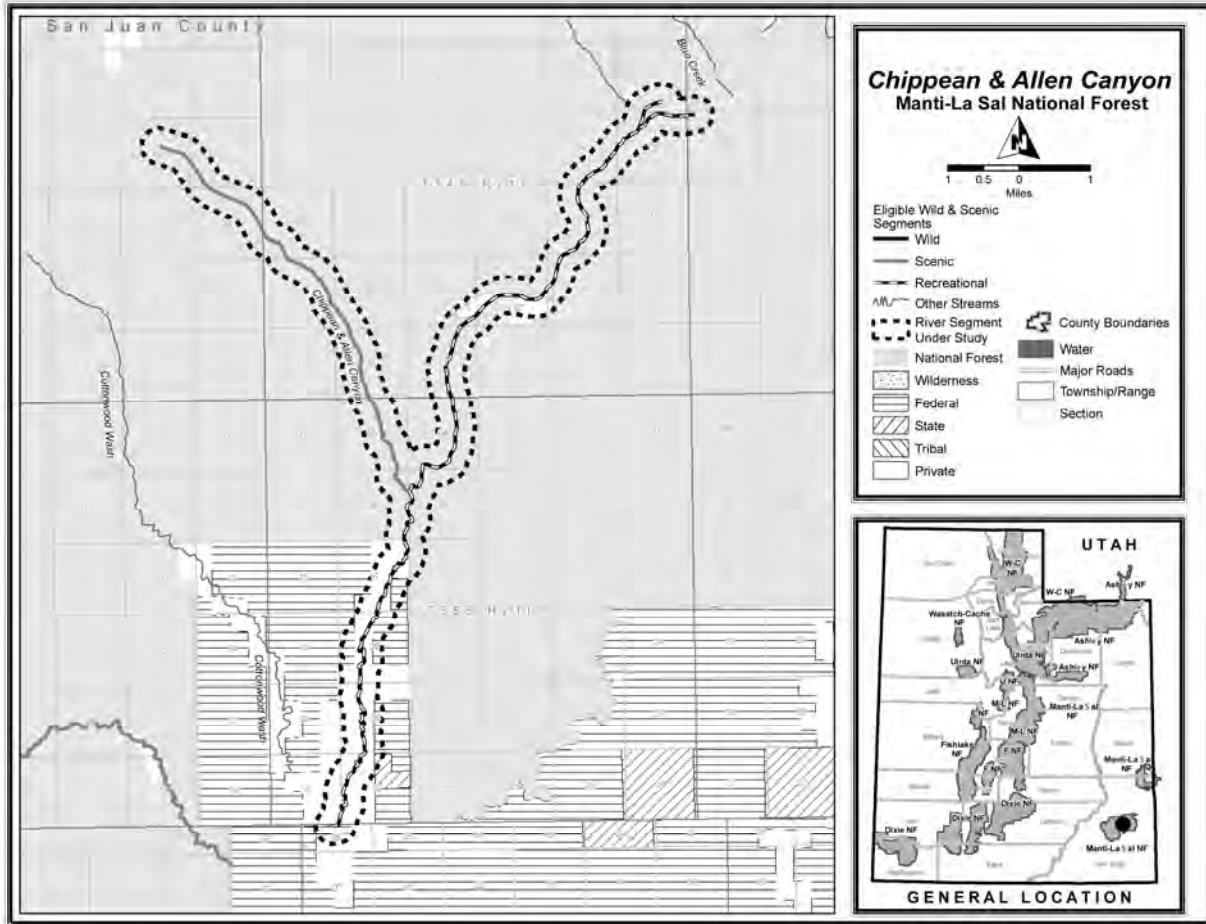
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Hammond Canyon is a tributary to Cottonwood Creek which flows into the San Juan River at the town of Bluff, Utah. Before joining Cottonwood Creek the stream flows through BLM, Tribal and private lands. The stream is not being considered for wild and scenic status on these other lands. If the Forest Service segment was designated by itself it would contribute very little to river system or basin integrity, as the segment is a very small portion of the watershed.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Hammond Canyons if it was designated.

Chippean and Allen Canyons Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Chippean and Allen Canyons

River Mileage:

Chippean Canyon

Studied: 2.6 miles, from headwaters to junction with South Cottonwood Creek

Eligible: Same

Allen Canyon

Studied: 18.7 miles, from headwaters to junction with South Cottonwood Creek

Eligible: Same

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N, NAD 83, meters*

Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
Start	End	Classification	Miles

Allen Canyon-Segment 1	Northing 4187792 Easting 627311	Northing 4171632 Easting 619135	Recreational	18.7
Allen Canyon-Segment 2	Northing 4188080 Easting 626580	Same as segment 1		
Chippean Canyon	Northing 4187072 Easting 615205	Same as Allen Canyon	Scenic	2.6

Physical Description of River:

Chippean and Allen Canyons are of fluvial origin. There has been some erosion due to aeolian and mass-wasting processes, but the fluvial processes have dominated. The fluvial processes have been influenced by geologic structural process such as faulting and fracturing. The watercourses have down cut through slickrock of Navajo Sandstone in a meandering pattern except at the upper ends where they are more deeply incised, creating a steep narrow canyon and side canyons. The channel is mainly in exposed bedrock. Chippean and Allen Canyons are both intermittent streams and were identified as having flows sufficient to support the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). There is some perennial water in the upper and middle sections of the watercourse. Potholes are frequent in these areas and are filled during summer storms. Runoff in the lower half quickly disappears in the sandy soils or evaporates. Several springs exist in the canyon areas and serve as part of the perennial flows in the upper half of the canyon. Green vegetation along the stream courses contrasts with the white sandstone that confines the stream.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document:

Eligibility of Wild and Scenic Rivers – Manti-La Sal National Forest (March 2003), Re-evaluation of Eligible River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (2006), Re-evaluation of Eight River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (June 2007)

Determination of Free-flow:

There are no known diversions or significant channel modifications of Chippean or Allen Canyons on National Forest System lands. However, a significant diversion occurs on the stream flowing through Allen Canyon on private land.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Cultural – The Forest has evidence from Chippean and Allen Canyons to suggest these canyon areas was used for over 6000 years attributable to Archaic, Ancestral Puebloan, Ute, and European-American cultures, although the majority of sites date to the Ancestral Puebloan era. Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings, granaries, rock art, and open air pueblo sites in these canyons are indicative of high altitude occupation of the forest, particularly during the Pueblo I period (A.D. 700-900). Sites from this period are not found on nearby Cedar Mesa and represent an important source of information for understanding the early formative period of the Ancestral Puebloan culture. Culturally, these sites exhibit ties toward the Mesa Verde core area to the east and may provide important data on prehistoric social interaction, economy, and other aspects of Ancestral Puebloan prehistory. Many of these sites are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and may yield important information about prehistory. Ninety sites have been documented within the ¼ mile buffer; 70 sites are of Ancestral Puebloan affiliation. Adjacent

to the Forest boundary are Ute allotment lands that were occupied during the early 1900s; these lands are no longer occupied, but are visited occasionally by land owners. Numerous additional sites are known to exist immediately beyond the corridors. Many of these resources are found on stream terraces and low ridges within the canyon bottoms, but there is no direct evidence of hydraulic agriculture. The intermittent streams would have provided water seasonally, but springs provided more reliable water for sustaining the population. The sites possess good integrity generally and have significant research and interpretive potential at a regional scale suggesting this river segment has high cultural values for these criteria. Current Native American uses are few in these canyons due to limited access.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Chippean Canyon –Scenic; Allen Canyon – Recreational
 Forest Development Road (FDR) 095 runs along the ridgeline or "The Causeway" located outside of and north of the upper headwaters of Chippean Canyon. There are several low standard roads along the bench area west of the headwaters of Chippean Canyon. The lower and mid-elevation areas of the canyon are crossed or paralleled by several four-wheel drive non-system roads, and the non-motorized Posey Canyon Trail (452) crosses Chippean Canyon at mid-elevation.

Some developments and substantial evidence of human activity exists within the corridor. FDR 095 descends from the east-west trending ridgeline and crosses the upper end of Allen Canyon. Forest Development Road 384 provides access to the non-motorized Allen Canyon Trail (453). This trail parallels and crosses the watercourse in the lower half of the canyon and terminates at a low standard road on private land. This road then parallels the watercourse from the Forest boundary to the junction of the watercourse with South Cottonwood Creek. There is a water diversion and ditch in Allen Canyon above Bayles Ranch which fills an irrigation pond on the private land.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The corridor around the eligible segment in Chippean Canyon is entirely on lands managed by the US forest Service.

The Allen Canyon segments contain both public lands managed by the US Forest Service and private lands. The table below shows ownership by river mileage. Private lands in the corridor are primarily used for agriculture in the form of irrigated alfalfa fields. The private lands also contain several residential structures and farm buildings.

Allen Canyon	
River Mile	Ownership/Approximate Acreage
0 – 4.4	US Forest Service/ 1420 acres
4.4- 4.8	Private land surrounds corridor/ 120 acres
4.8-5.1	US Forest Service/120 acres
5.1- 5.5	Private lands surround corridor/ 121 acres
5.5- 9.6	US Forest Service/ 1299 acres
9.6- 14.6	Private lands surround corridor/ 1606 acres
14.6- 14.7	BLM lands/22.4 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORV’s of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability

study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Several old claims exist within upper Chippean Canyon and lower Allen Canyons, but no current claims are known to exist. No current oil and gas leases exist within the corridor.

Water Resources Development – No water rights are listed in Utah’s Water Rights Database within the Chippean Creek Watershed. There are known dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on the Allen Canyon segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Two Forest Service roads cross the segment including Forest Road 095, which is maintained for low clearance vehicles. Forest Road 384 that crosses the segment is not currently accessible to the public because it is closed on private land. Several roads on the private lands are located adjacent to the stream segments. Forest Roads 215 and 209 are within the corridors of the eligible segments. Forest Service motorized trail 569 is within the corridor of Chippean Canyon for less than a mile. Forest Service non-motorized trails 013, 452, and 453 are within the corridor and cross the stream segments in several places.

Several structures are located within the corridor on private lands including residences and out buildings.

A line cabin associated with grazing in the area is located in the upper Allen Canyon drainage within the corridor.

Several old chainings exist along Chippean Ridge adjacent to the corridor.

Grazing Activities – Allen Canyon is within the West Mountain cattle allotment. Chippean Canyon is not within an allotment and is not currently grazed. Grazing also occurs on the private lands within the corridor.

Recreation Activities – As described above, several non-motorized and one motorized trail are within the corridor. Several of these trails see very little use and are difficult to locate on the ground. Trail 013 receives the most recreational use and is used to access the Skyline Trail located outside the corridor. The primary recreational activities occurring in the area are hiking, horseback riding, OHV touring along roads and motorized trails, big game hunting and dispersed camping.

Other Resource Activities – As described above irrigated agriculture occurs on private lands within the corridor. The potential exists for timber harvest in the upper end of Chippean Canyon.

Special Designations – The lower portions of both Allen and Chippean Canyons are located within the Allen Canyon-Dry Wash Roadless Area 10-249 and a portion of Allen Canyon corridor is also within the Cliff Dwellers Pastures Roadless Area. These areas are currently managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule

which prohibits most timber harvesting and construction of new roads. The entire corridor is within an area that is not administratively available for leasing and is also within the proposed South Cottonwood Archeological District.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segments are located within San Juan County, the nearest population bases are Monticello and Blanding. The socio-economic setting of San Juan County is one based primarily on the service and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands.

San Juan County is a depressed (EZ/EC) county. While the rest of the country has enjoyed a large increase in wages and job earnings, San Juan County has been declining. The average earnings have fallen from \$27,903 in 1970 to \$22,480 in 2000. Net farm income was \$9 million in 1970 and by 2000 had dropped to \$2 million. In 2000, 28% of transfer payments (retirement, disability, Medicare, dividends, interest, rent, welfare) were from welfare. In 2001 the unemployment was 9.1% in San Juan County compared to 4.4% statewide and 4.8% nationally. When unemployment figures on the Reservations are factored in, the unemployment rate for the County is 22%. On portions of the Navajo Indian Reservation the unemployment rate is well over 50%. With 92% of the county in State, Federal or Navajo Reservation lands, any decision a federal land management agency makes has an impact on the county population.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The non-federal land is zoned for agriculture and currently diverts much of the streams flow for irrigation use. The county is not interested in changing this zoning to protect any river values as it is their opinion that sufficient policies are in place to protect those values.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab and Monticello Utah, San Juan County was opposed to any other "layers of protection" for the segments. The County generally feels that there are sufficient policies in place to protect the values associated with the eligible segments. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment.

Draft EIS comments

Comments from the San Juan County Commission, City of Monticello and local residents strongly oppose WSR designation for Chippean and Allen Canyons. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: land ownership in Allen Canyon and its effect on management; San Juan County and White Mesa Ute have plans for water development; fear of loss of grazing and effect on economy; little hope of Forest getting extra money to manage river; probability of reduced grazing, and mining and oil exploration, and water rights restrictions having negative effect on economy.

Comments from individuals and groups not living in San Juan County voiced strong support for WSR designation of Chippean and Allen Canyons. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest. None of the three organized campaigns supported a positive finding of suitability for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

The designation is consistent with the management plan prepared for the Cliff Dwellers Pasture RNA, as it would further protect the unique resources within the RNA. The designation would also be consistent with those portions of the streams within the Roadless Areas. The stream segment passes through three different areas of management emphasis as outlined in the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986. The majority of Allen Canyon lies within the Range Emphasis area where the management direction is to produce wood fiber and where appropriate, forage. Other uses occur and the use or its rehabilitation will emphasize rangeland maintenance or enhancement. Designation would not be entirely inconsistent with this direction, but could potentially limit the ability to harvest wood fiber within the corridor to protect the ORV's. The portion of Allen Canyon within the Cliff Dwellers Pasture RNA is within an area that emphasizes protection of the values that the RNA was designated to protect. Other uses are limited by the need to maintain these values. Designation would be consistent with this management direction. The majority of Chippean Canyon and the lower end of Allen Canyon are within an area where the management emphasis is on maintaining general big game winter range. Other uses may occur as long as it emphasizes habitat maintenance or enhancement and does not cause unacceptable stress on wildlife. Designation would be consistent with this direction.

The designation would conflict with the San Juan County Master Plan (Chapter 1 Policy of Public Lands, General/State: pages 9-13; Policy on Multiple Use: pages 13-15; Policy of Public Access: pages 18-21; Policy on Private and Public Land Ratios: pages 22-24; and Policy on Water Resources: pages 30-32).

Designation could impact the irrigation on the private lands within the corridor.

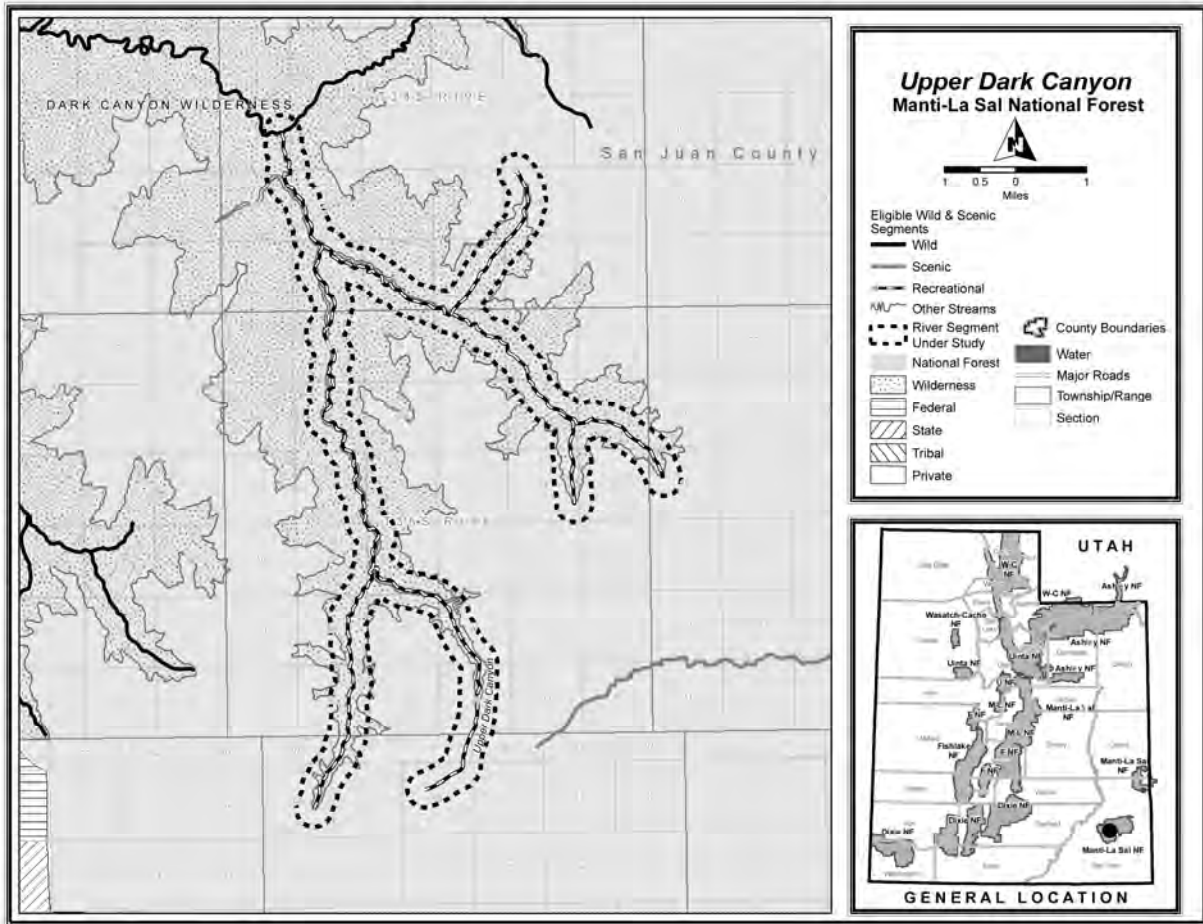
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Chippean and Allen Canyons are very small tributaries to Cottonwood Creek which flows into the San Juan River at the town of Bluff, Utah. Before joining Cottonwood Creek the stream flows through BLM, Tribal and private lands. The stream is not being considered for wild and scenic status on these other lands. If the Forest segment was designated by itself it would contribute very little to river system or basin integrity, as the segment is a very small portion of the watershed.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Chippean and Allen canyons if they were designated.

**Upper Dark Canyon Including Horse Pasture Canyon, Peavine & Kigalia Canyon
Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)**



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Upper Dark Canyon Including Horse Pasture Canyon, Peavine & Kigalia Canyon

River Mileage:

Studied: 31.9 miles, from headwaters between North and South Elk Ridge on the East and Dry Mesa on the West to the junction of Upper Dark Canyon with Poison Canyon.

Eligible: Same

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah	Congressional District 2		
	Start (Legal Description)	End	Classification	Miles

Upper Dark Canyon -Horse Pasture Canyon	Northing/ 4184242 Easting/ 604994	Northing/4185112 Easting/599664		
- Kigalia Canyon	Northing/ 4170223 Easting/602916			
- Peavine Canyon	Northing/ 4169782 Easting/600395		Recreational	26.2*
-Upper Dark Canyon East	Northing/ 4177284 Easting/ 606297			
-Upper Dark Canyon West	Northing/417667 Easting/606297			

* The mileage of this segment has been changed from an ocular estimate of mileage to mileage that was calculated using GIS

Physical Description of River

Upper Dark, Peavine, Kigalia, and Horse Pasture Canyons are intermittent streams with flows sufficient to support the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). The landscape is typical of the Colorado Plateau with rugged canyons bisecting rolling montane to sub montane mesas. Upper Dark Canyon and its tributaries have flashy hydrographs due to shallow soils and large amounts of exposed rock in the watershed. There is little absorption of precipitation events resulting in floods during convective events. Conversely, because of the lack of storage in soils in the system, it often goes dry during the growing season. Riparian areas are present in the drainage bottoms, although cover is discontinuous and of narrow aerial extent (with the exception of Horse Pasture Canyon). Unregulated livestock use at the turn of the century coincided with wetter years and more frequent and large floods. Although the wetter regime would have brought about some incision in the valley bottom, the combination of unregulated livestock and climatic fluctuations that changed regional flood frequency resulted in the formation of deep gullies in areas of unconsolidated alluvial fill throughout much of the canyons. One of the exceptions is Horse Pasture Canyon and an unnamed tributary to Dark Canyon to the southeast of Horse Pasture Canyon. Because gullies did not form in these areas, the water table remains at the surface of the canyon floor and supports large riparian wetland of reeds, sedges, willows, box elder and much else. Riparian vegetation is also present in the bottom of the wetter gullies in the canyons and narrow floodplains are becoming established in those areas also.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document:

Eligibility of Wild and Scenic Rivers – Manti-La Sal National Forest (March 2003), Re-evaluation of Eligible River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (2006), Re-evaluation of Eight River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (June 2007)

Determination of Free-flow:

There are no major diversions or significant channel modifications in these segments.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Geologic – These canyons are located on the northwestern flank of the Elk Ridge Anticline. The stratigraphic section shown goes from the Upper Pennsylvanian through the Triassic, with several prominent unconformities. The canyons are generally oriented northwest-southeast, probably due to the dominant fracture pattern in the area. Abandoned uranium mines are present along the upper canyon rims where they meet Elk Ridge. The uranium deposits are in the Moss Back Member of the Chinle Formation, where it unconformably overlies the Moenkopi Formation. These canyons contain the most

striking example of the white Cedar Mesa sandstone with dark green vegetation in the area, which produces one of the most characteristic features of Dark Canyon. The bottom of the canyon also contains green vegetation (grass, sagebrush, and mountain brush), contrasted with most of the canyon country in the area. In the area of the intersection of Peavine Canyon with Dark Canyon, the Cedar Mesa has weathered to form spires, fins, and arches. These canyons have a high rating for feature abundance, diversity of features, and education and scientific value. Based on the overall abundance and diversity of these geologic attributes, they would be similar or equivalent to areas of regional importance.

Cultural – Ample evidence from Upper Dark Canyon suggests the canyon area was used for over 6000 years. There are numerous prehistoric sites ranging from artifact scatters to cliff dwellings. Many of these sites are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and may yield important information about prehistory. Temporally, there are well preserved Archaic period sites and Ancestral Puebloan sites. There is a Historic period cultural landscape related to early 20th century European-American use of the canyon for livestock and early oil extraction activities. The Scorup cattle operation is significant in local history and the settlement of San Juan County. Most of the resources are within the ¼ mile buffer. These resources are not strongly associated with the stream segments, but rather the general canyon environment (e.g., topography). Ancestral Puebloan occupations in this area reach elevations exceeding 7600 ft and represent prehistoric agricultural adaptations to high altitudes that are not found on surrounding BLM lands and few places in the region, such as Mesa Verde National Park. Early and Middle Archaic period sites found in this area contain cultural deposits that are of high research value for understanding this poorly understood period of prehistory. Several resources have significant research and interpretive potential suggesting this river segment has high cultural values.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Recreational

Some developments, significant evidence of human activity. Improved and unimproved Forest Development Roads (FDR's) are located on Elk Ridge east of Upper Dark Canyon and on Dry Mesa located between Upper Dark Canyon and Lower Dark Canyon. Roads under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management are located to the west and north of the canyon areas. These Forest Service and BLM Roads serve as access routes to the perimeter of the Dark Canyon Watershed and Dark Canyon Wilderness.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire corridor is located on lands managed by the US Forest Service

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – No current claims or leases exist within the corridor.

Water Resources Development – Currently the only existing water developments in these canyons are related to livestock management and consist of small stock ponds and spring developments. These developments do not affect the river's free-flowing condition. There are no known water resource projects that could be limited by designation of this river segment as wild and scenic. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The only roads within the corridor are FS Road 089 and 378 known as the Peavine Corridor. This road drops into Kigalia Canyon and follows it to the confluence with Peavine Canyon and then down to Dark Canyon. The road goes up Dark Canyon almost to the mouth of Horse Pasture Canyon and down Dark Canyon to Rig Canyon and then up Rig Canyon a short distance.

The Peavine Canyon (157), Kigalia Canyon (026), Brushy Knoll (023), Dark Canyon (006), Drift Trail Canyon (024), and Horse Pasture (025) Trails parallel and cross several of the eligible segments.

Several corrals, one in Peavine Canyon and one at the mouth of Rig Canyon, exist within the corridor as well as the historic Scorup Cabin at the mouth of Horse Pasture Canyon.

An abandoned drill rig is also within the corridor in Rig Canyon.

Grazing Activities – The eligible segment corridors are located within the Twin Springs and Babylon Pasture cattle allotments. The permittee is also authorized to graze Horse Pasture Canyon with 6-7 horses for several months in the summer and fall.

Recreation Activities – The Peavine Canyon (157), Kigalia Canyon (026), Brushy Knoll (023), Dark Canyon (006), Drift Trail Canyon (024), and Horse Pasture (025) Trails provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in the form of hiking, backpacking and horseback riding. The Horse Pasture Dark Canyon and Peavine trails are the most heavily used and receive substantial use in the spring and fall.

OHV touring occurs along the Peavine Corridor.

Hunting for big game is popular along the adjacent uplands and mesa tops

Other Resource Activities – Timber harvest potential exists in the heads of the canyons outside the Wilderness and Roadless Areas.

Special Designations – The majority of the eligible corridor is within the Dark Canyon Wilderness designated in 1984 to protect the wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and untrammeled character found in the canyon system. The heads of the canyons are located within the Dark -Woodenshoe 10-436 Roadless Area. The Roadless Area is currently managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule which prohibits most timber harvesting and construction of new roads.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is located within San Juan County, the nearest population bases are Monticello and Blanding. The socio-economic setting of San Juan County is one based primarily on the service and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands. While the majority of visitors to the area come to see surrounding National Parks the Abajo Mountains and Elk Ridge in the Monticello Ranger District provide a respite from the heat of the desert in the summer and draw considerable use during the fall big game hunting seasons.

San Juan County is a depressed (EZ/EC) county. While the rest of the country has enjoyed a large increase in wages and job earnings, San Juan County has been declining. The average earnings have fallen from \$27,903 in 1970 to \$22,480 in 2000. Net farm income was \$9 million in 1970 and by 2000 had dropped to \$2 million. In 2000, 28% of transfer payments (retirement, disability, Medicare, dividends, interest, rent, welfare) were from welfare. In 2001 the unemployment rate was 9.1% in San Juan County compared to 4.4% statewide and 4.8% nationally. When unemployment figures on the Reservations are factored in, the unemployment rate for the county is 22%. On portions of the Navajo Indian Reservation the unemployment rate is well over 50%. With 92% of the county in State, Federal or Navajo Reservation lands, any decision a federal land management agency makes has an impact on the county population.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The entire corridor is located on lands managed by the US Forest Service. The county is not interested in changing this zoning to protect any river values as it is their opinion that sufficient policies are in place to protect those values.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab and Monticello Utah, San Juan County was opposed to any other "layers of protection" for the segment. The County generally feels that there are sufficient policies in place to protect the values associated with the eligible segment. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment.

Draft EIS comments from the San Juan County Commission, City of Monticello and local residents strongly oppose WSR designation for Upper Dark Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: segment is in a designated Wilderness Area; the probability of reduced grazing, mining and oil exploration water rights restrictions would have a negative effect on the economy; financially it would be difficult to manage; it is not free-flowing; and it is inconsistent with the San Juan County Master Plan.

Draft EIS comments from individuals and groups not living in San Juan County voiced strong support for WSR designation of Upper Dark Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for supporting designation were: it is unique; and its contribution to the basin integrity; to be consistent with BLM designation. All of the three organized campaigns support a positive suitability finding and designation of this segment. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

The designation would be consistent with those portions of the stream within the Dark Canyon Wilderness and Roadless Area. The management direction in the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986 for the area is to protect wilderness opportunities. Other uses can occur so long as they do not violate the intent of wilderness or wilderness values. Designation would be consistent with this management direction. A portion of the stream also flows through an area with a Semi-Primitive Recreation emphasis where the management direction is to provide semi-primitive recreation

opportunities. Other uses may occur so long as they are rehabilitated to reflect as close as possible previous undisturbed conditions. Designation would also be consistent with this direction.

The designation would conflict with the San Juan County Master Plan (Chapter 1 Policy of Public Lands, General/State: pages 9-13; Policy on Multiple Use: pages 13-15; Policy of Public Access: pages 18-21; Policy on Private and Public Land Ratios: pages 22-24; and Policy on Water Resources: pages 30-32).

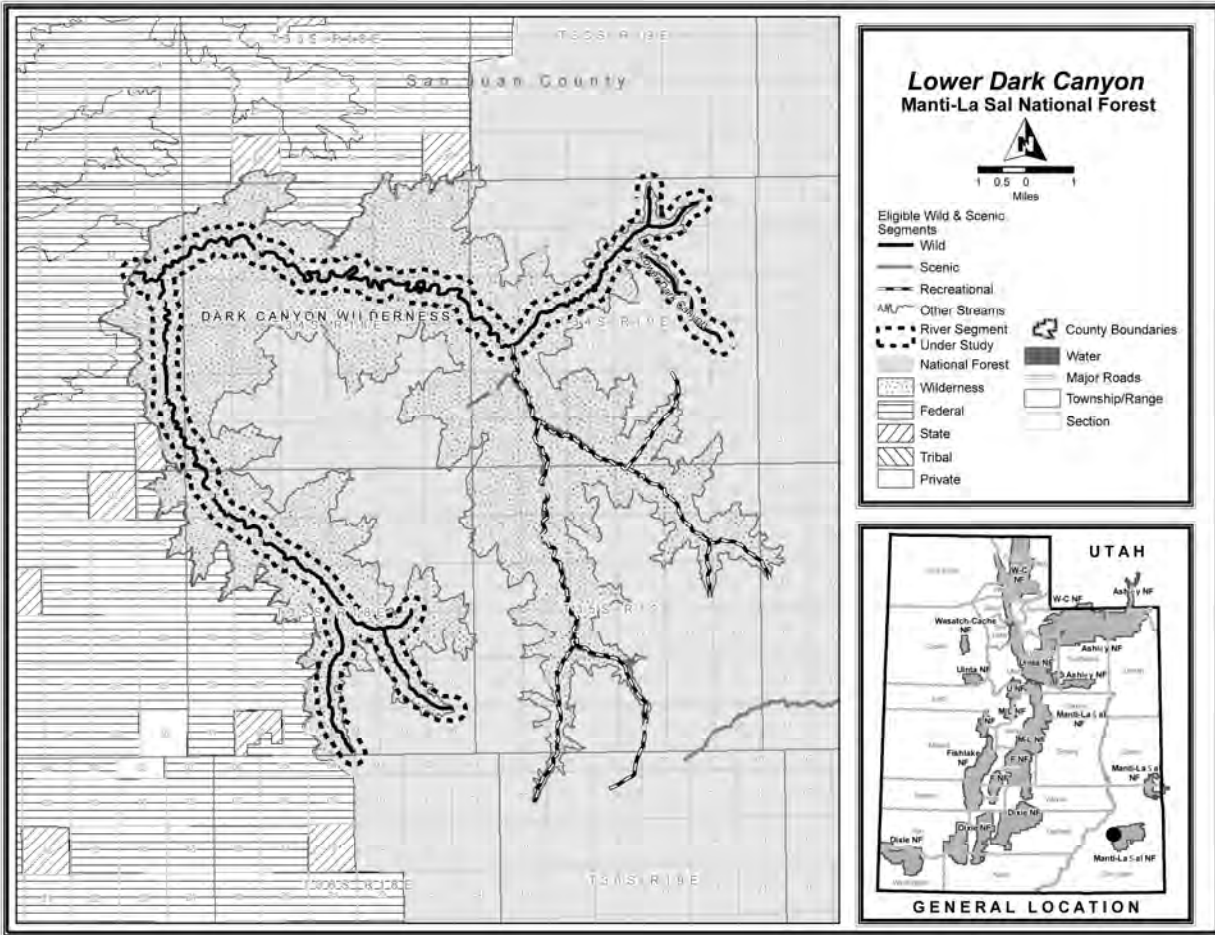
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Upper Dark Canyon and the associated eligible tributaries is a tributary to the Colorado River. Upper Dark Canyon joins the Colorado River in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Before joining the Colorado the stream flows through BLM and NPS lands. If the Forest Service segment was designated by itself, it would contribute some to basin integrity since the eligible Forest Service segment contains the entire upper watershed of Dark Canyon. However, if the Forest Service, BLM and NPS portions of the creek were designated it would add protection to the entire watershed. Currently the BLM portion of the stream has been found eligible from Youngs Canyon to the confluence. Suitability has not yet been determined for the BLM portion.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Dark Canyon if it were designated.

**Lower Dark Canyon including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon,
Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons
Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)**



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Lower Dark Canyon including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon, Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons

River Mileage:

Studied: 41.2 miles from the junction with Upper Dark Canyon and Poison Canyon to the Forest boundary; and from the upper headwaters of Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons to the junction with Lower Dark Canyon.

Eligible: Same

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah	Congressional District 2	
	Start (legal description)	End	Miles

Lower Dark Canyon				
Poison Canyon East	Northing/4189961 Easting/605919	Northing/4187631 Easting/ 586967		
Poison Canyon West	Northing/4190503 Easting/608243			
Deadman Canyon	Northing/4185221 Easting/606684		Wild	41.2
Woodenshoe Canyon	Northing/4171428 Easting/594321			
Cherry Canyon North	Northing/4185221 Easting/606684			
Cherry Canyon South	Northing/4172917 Easting/597687			

Physical Description of River: Lower Dark, Poison, Deadman, Woodenshoe, and Cherry Canyons are intermittent streams and were identified as having flows sufficient to support the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). The landscape is typical of the Colorado plateau with rugged canyons bisecting rolling montane to sub montane mesas. Dark Canyon and its tributaries have flashy hydrographs due to shallow soils and large amounts of exposed rock in the watershed. There is little absorption of precipitation events resulting in floods during convective events. Conversely, because of the lack of storage in soils in the system, it often goes dry during the growing season. Riparian areas are present in the drainage bottoms although cover is discontinuous and of narrow aerial extent. Unregulated livestock use at the turn of the century coincided with wetter years and more frequent and large floods. Although the wetter regime would have brought about some incision in the valley bottom, the combination of unregulated livestock and climatic fluctuations that changed regional flood frequency resulted in the formation of deep gullies in areas of unconsolidated alluvial fill throughout much of the canyons. Riparian vegetation is also present in the bottom of the wetter gullies in the canyons and narrow floodplains are becoming established in those areas also. The fluvial processes of erosion have been influenced by geologic structural process such as faulting and fracturing. The canyons abruptly cut through rim rock and exposed bedrock of Navajo sandstone as they descend from the bench and mesa areas of Elk Ridge. The steep, narrow canyon areas are unique representations of six sequential geologic formations, starting with Navajo sandstone and ending in the Cutler formation. The lower reaches drop in to broad valley bottoms of deep alluvial material. Canyon terrain consists of steep terraces, spires, hanging gardens, and arches. Springs, seeps, and potholes are found in the upper and middle reaches of the canyons. Several intermittent pour over waterfalls are present in Woodenshoe Canyon.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Eligibility of Wild and Scenic Rivers – Manti-La Sal National Forest (March 2003), Re-evaluation of Eligible River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (2006), Re-evaluation of Eight River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (June 2007).

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of Lower Dark Canyon including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon, Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Cultural – Evidence from Woodenshoe and Lower Dark Canyon suggest the canyon area was used for over 6000 years. There are numerous prehistoric sites ranging from artifact scatters to cliff dwellings. Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings, granaries, rock art, and open air sites in Woodenshoe and Lower Dark Canyon are indicative of high altitude occupation of the forest, particularly during the late A.D. 1100s. Culturally, these sites exhibit ties toward the west and may provide important data on prehistoric social interaction, economy, and other aspects of late Ancestral Puebloan prehistory. Many of these sites are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and may yield important information about prehistory. Many of the resources are within the ¼ mile buffer. These resources are not strongly associated with the stream segments, but rather the general canyon environment (e.g., topography). Several resources have significant research and interpretive potential suggesting this river segment has high cultural values.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity, and generally inaccessible except by trail.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire corridor is located on lands managed by the US Forest Service

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – No current claims or leases exist within the corridor. There are several current uranium claims along the rim of Woodenshoe Canyon outside of the corridor of the eligible segment. Several old mines and claims are located in Woodenshoe and Peavine Canyons.

Water Resources Development – Currently the only existing constructions in these canyons are related to livestock management and consist of small stock ponds and spring developments. These developments do not affect the river's free-flowing condition. There are no known water resource projects that could be limited by designation of this river segment as Wild and Scenic. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Dark Canyon (006) and Woodenshoe Canyon (165) trails parallel and cross the eligible segments. Trail Canyon (007) and Poison Canyon (158) trails also provide access to the segments. All of these trails are within the wilderness and are non-motorized trails.

Grazing Activities – The eligible segments are within the Twin Springs allotment, but Wooden Shoe Canyon and Lower Dark Canyon are closed to grazing.

Recreation Activities – The Woodenshoe-Dark Canyon is a relatively popular multi-day backpack trip which provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation and a chance to view Ancestral Puebloan ruins in a wilderness setting. The wilderness is also popular with day hikers and horse back riders.

Hunting for big game is popular along the adjacent uplands and mesa tops.

Other Resource Activities – No other resource activities are proposed at this time

Special Designations – The majority of the eligible corridor is within the Dark Canyon Wilderness designated in 1984 to protect the wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and untrammled character found in the canyon system. The heads of the canyons are located within the Dark -Woodenshoe 10-436 Roadless Area. The Roadless Area is currently managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule which prohibits most timber harvesting and construction of new roads.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is located within San Juan County, the nearest population bases are Monticello and Blanding. The socio-economic setting of San Juan County is one based primarily on the service and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands. While the majority of visitors to the area come to see surrounding National Parks the Abajo Mountains and Elk Ridge in the Monticello Ranger District provide a respite from the heat of the desert in the summer and draw considerable use during the fall big game hunting seasons.

San Juan County is a depressed (EZ/EC) county. While the rest of the country has enjoyed a large increase in wages and job earnings, San Juan County has been declining. The average earnings have fallen from \$27,903 in 1970 to \$22,480 in 2000. Net farm income was \$9 million in 1970 and by 2000 had dropped to \$2 million. In 2000, 28% of transfer payments (retirement, disability, Medicare, dividends, interest, rent, welfare) were from welfare. In 2001 the unemployment rate was 9.1% in San Juan County compared to 4.4% statewide and 4.8% nationally. When unemployment figures on the Reservations are factored in, the unemployment rate for the county is 22%. On portions of the Navajo Indian Reservation the unemployment rate is well over 50%. With 92% of the county in State, Federal or Navajo Reservation lands, any decision a federal land management agency makes has an impact on the county population.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration of the eligible section by the State or it's political subdivision

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The entire stream corridor is located on federal lands. The county is not interested in changing this zoning to protect any river values as it is their opinion that sufficient policies are in place to protect those values.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab and Monticello Utah, San Juan County was opposed to any other "layers of protection" for the segment. The County generally feels that there are sufficient policies in place to protect the values associated with the eligible segment. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment.

Draft EIS comments from the San Juan County Commission, City of Monticello and local residents strongly oppose WSR designation for Lower Dark Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: segment is in a designated Wilderness Area; the probability of reduced grazing, mining and oil exploration water rights restrictions would have a negative effect on the economy; financially it would be difficult to manage; and it is inconsistent with the San Juan County Master Plan

Draft EIS comments from individuals and groups not living in San Juan County voiced strong support for WSR designation of Upper Dark Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for supporting designation were: its contribution to the basin integrity; to protect the Mexican spotted owls; unsurpassed beauty, peace and solitude; could complement Wilderness designation; and to be consistent with BLM designation. All of the three organized campaigns support a positive suitability finding and designation of this segment. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation would be consistent with those portions of the stream within the Dark Canyon Wilderness and Roadless Area. The management direction in the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986 for the area is to protect wilderness opportunities. Other uses can occur so long as they do not violate the intent of wilderness or wilderness values. Designation would be consistent with this management direction.

The designation would conflict with the San Juan County Master Plan (Chapter 1 Policy of Public Lands, General/State: pages 9-13; Policy on Multiple Use: pages 13-15; Policy of Public Access: pages 18-21; Policy on Private and Public Land Ratios: pages 22-24; and Policy on Water Resources: pages 30-32).

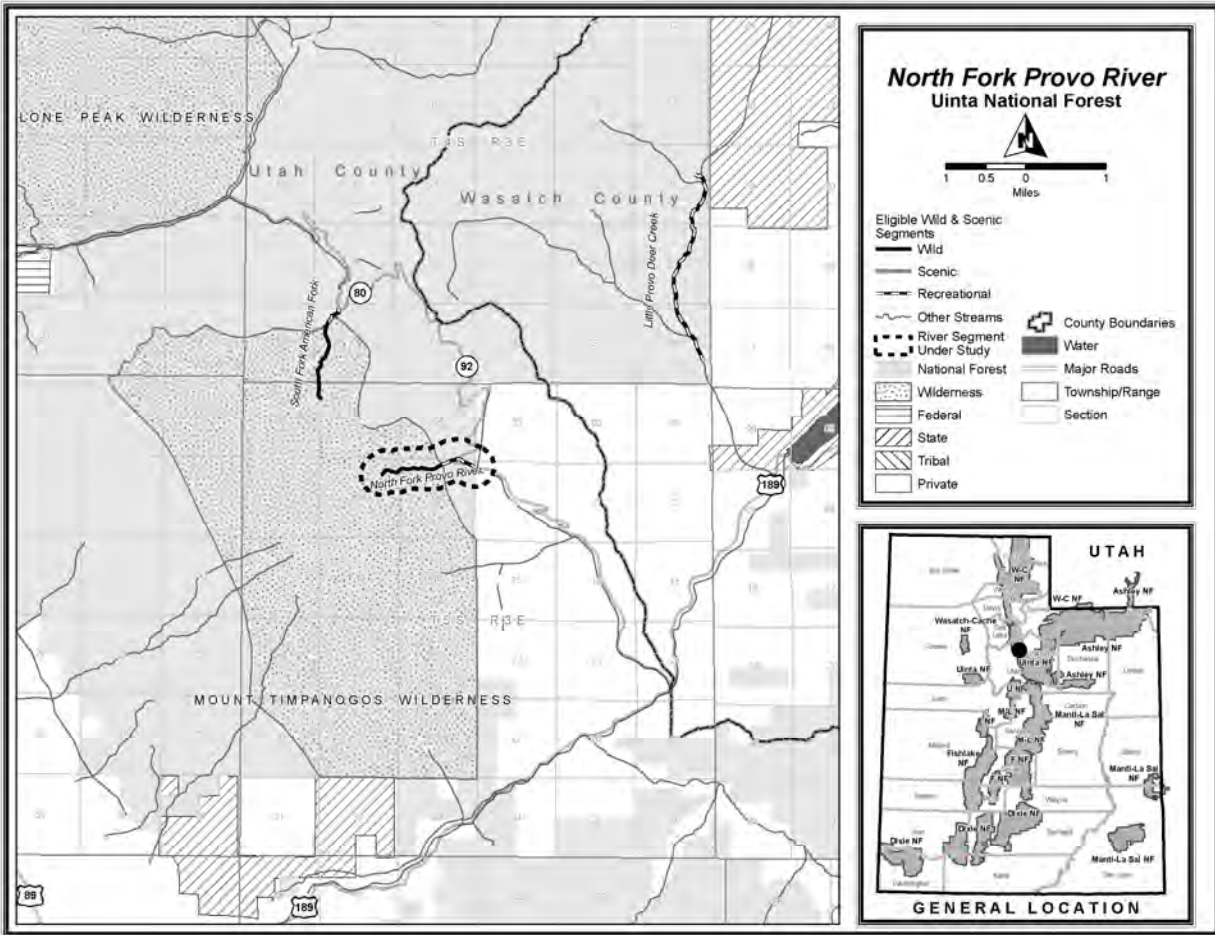
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Lower Dark Canyon and associated eligible tributaries, is a tributary to the Colorado River. Dark Canyon joins the Colorado River in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Before joining the Colorado the river segment flows through BLM and NPS lands. If the Forest Service segment was designated by itself, it would contribute some to the basin integrity, since the eligible Forest Service segment contains the entire upper watershed of Woodenshoe Canyon and a portion of Dark Canyon. However, if the Forest Service, BLM, and NPS portions of the creek were designated it would add protection to the entire watershed. Currently the BLM portion of the stream has been found eligible from Youngs Canyon to the confluence. Suitability has not yet been determined for the BLM portion.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Lower Dark Canyon if it was designated.

North Fork Provo River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: North Fork Provo River

River Mileage:

Studied: 1.3 miles from the confluence near the National Forest boundary and Mt. Timpanogos Campground to the headwater spring in Section 8.

Eligible: Same

Location:

North Fork Provo River	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Pleasant Grove Ranger District, Utah County, Utah		Congressional District 3	
	Start - Legal Description	End - Legal Description	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ NE ¼, Sect. 8, T5S, R3E	NW ¼ NE ¼, Sect. 9, T5S, R3E	Wild	0.9
Segment 2	NW ¼ NE ¼, Sect. 9, T5S, R3E	NW ¼ NW ¼, Sect. 10, T5S, R3E	Recreational	0.4

Segment 1 - Confluence with another North Fork tributary just above the National Forest Boundary and just below Mount Timpanogos Campground, to the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness boundary, as a recreational river (0.4 miles)

Segment 2 - From Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness boundary to headwater spring in Section 8, as

a wild river (0.9 miles)

Physical Description of River Segment: North Fork Provo River is a small high mountain stream originating from a series of springs located in glacial cirques high on Mt. Timpanogos. The stream descends through a series of glacial cirques, down steep exposed glacial headwall cliffs, into a glacially carved valley below. Upper reaches of the stream are extremely steep with several waterfalls. Exposed rock strata and steep cliffs common in the area. Elevations range from about 8,160 feet at the headwaters in Section 8 to about 6,870 feet at the lower end of the segment in Section 10. The stream's course, particularly in the upper half of the segment, is steep; dropping 1,290 feet over the 1.3 mile segment length. The lower portion (about half) of the river traverses through a glacial valley and is not as steep. At high flows the entire length of the study segment flows water. However, when flows are lower the stream disappears into the coarse cobble and gravel glacial, colluvial, and alluvial materials in the valley floor. The point at which this occurs varies depending upon the stream flow, ranging from just above the Wilderness boundary to a few hundred yards further upstream. The valley floor is subject to avalanches and debris flows which periodically modify the stream channel here. The river forks into multiple channels as it traverses through the valley bottom. Two primary channels exist: one following the northern side of the valley bottom and the other the following the southern side of the valley. The southern channel, currently only flows when water is collected from the adjacent slopes (to the south) and during very high runoff periods. The southern channel and associated side-channels are crossed by the Stewart-Cascade Trail (#056) via fords and rock and log culverts, a trail accessing Theater-in-the-Pines Picnic Site (bridges and a culvert), and the Theater-in-the-Pines Amphitheater (culvert) and group site. The southern channel leaves National Forest System (NFS) lands just below the Theater-in-the-Pines Group Site parking area. The northern channel (which is identified as the river for this study) is currently the primary North Fork channel. This channel is crossed by the Aspen Grove (Mt. Timpanogos) Trail (#052) via a bridge and culvert (on a side channel), State Route 92 (culvert), and Mount Timpanogos Campground Road (#70140). This channel joins another North Fork tributary on NFS lands just below Mount Timpanogos Campground and just above the Forest Service/private property boundary.

ELIGIBILITY

This segment of North Fork Provo River is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as it is free-flowing and has outstandingly remarkable scenic value. The portion of segment within Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness is eligible as a wild river, while the portion below the Wilderness boundary is eligible as a recreational river.

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: *Final Inventory of Rivers on the Uinta National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, January 1998.*

Determination of Free-flow: The North Fork Provo River is free of major channel modification, and is free of major structures, and thus is free-flowing. This portion of the North Fork Provo River is mostly unaltered from a hydrological perspective. Debris from a 2004 avalanche clogged the northern valley bottom channel and destroyed a trail bridge. The few yards of channel affected were recently cleared. As described above, the lower reaches of the river segment are intermittent due to coarse channel substrate and streamflows are generated only during snowmelt and high intensity storm events. Some springs in the corridor have been developed and diverted, but there are no water diversions from the channel. The trails in the corridor do not impinge on or affect the stream's hydrologic character.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic Value – The stream and features in the entire viewshed contribute significantly to the overall scenic quality of the segment. The stream is steep, traversing from its alpine headwaters on Mt. Timpanogos through the forest below. There is a wide variety of vegetation in the corridor and along the stream including alpine grasses, forbs and wildflowers in the upper reaches; to riparian cottonwood,

oak/maple, Douglas-fir, spruce-fir, and aspen forests with diverse grass, forb and wildflower understories at the lower reaches. Similar vegetation communities and diversity can be found both within the corridor and on other mountain slopes adjoining the corridor and in the vicinity. In the fall, this diversity of vegetation communities is especially attractive with its mosaic of yellow, orange, red, browns and greens. This fall color attracts thousands of viewers to the Aspen Grove (Mt. Timpanogos) National Recreation Trail and American Fork Scenic Backway which cross through the corridor. Mt. Timpanogos is also widely known for its wild flowers. Each summer thousands of visitors traverse the Mt. Timpanogos National Recreation Trail to view wildflowers in the meadows and on the slopes in, adjacent to, and above the corridor. Lower reaches of the stream are intermittent, but the intermittent water still supports mesic plants such as cottonwood, willow, grasses, forbes and wildflowers which contribute to the scenic diversity. The upper half or so of the segment is perennial and is characterized by steep cascading runs and several short waterfalls. These are visible in several places from the stream and trail below. The Mt. Timpanogos National Recreation Trail passes under or next to some of these, which contributes greatly to the aesthetic and recreational appeal. The stream plunges from the heights of Mt. Timpanogos through a glacial cirque and into the glacial valley below. The exposed geologic strata and steep cliffs along the stream, in the corridor, and on nearby mountain slopes contribute to the scenic diversity and quality of the scenery. The summit of Mt. Timpanogos, located outside the corridor, provides a not too distant majestic scenic focal point for viewers located along the stream and trail. This combination of features and access are unusual in northern Utah. The eligibility inventory rated this segment as scenic, regionally significant, with a high value in diversity of view, high value in special features and high value in seasonal variation. Cultural modification is highly appropriate.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Segment 1—Recreational; Segment 2—Wild
 The portion of the stream within the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness is eligible as a wild river, fully meeting the wild criteria. The portion below the wilderness boundary is eligible as a recreational river as it is readily accessible by road.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The corridor for the 1.3 mile-long river segment encompasses about 461 acres, and all of this is on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Privately-owned property directly adjoins the river segment to the east, but no private lands occur within the corridor. The *2003 Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan* (Uinta Forest Plan) made the following land allocations for this area:

Uinta Forest Plan Management Allocations				
Management Area	Overlying Management Prescription Allocation		Underlying Management Prescription Allocation	
Lower Provo	2.1 – Wild and Scenic Rivers – Wild	317 acres	1.4 - Wilderness	317 acres
	2.3 – Wild and Scenic Rivers – Recreation	144 acres	3.1 - Aquatic, Terrestrial and Aquatic Resource Emphasis	84 acres
			4.4 - Dispersed Recreation Emphasis	40 acres
			4.5 - Dispersed Recreation Emphasis	20 acres

The entire North Fork Provo River corridor lies in Utah County, Utah, and all of it lies within the

“Mountain Resort and Recreation Zone” identified in the 1997 Utah County General Plan. The intent and purpose of this zone includes carefully utilizing the resources of the watershed, wildlife, soils, vegetation, and scenic beauty while considering the delicate nature of the land; preserving the aesthetic appearance of the landscape; and protect water influence areas, flood plains, vital big game winter range, ground water recharge areas, and other sensitive lands from incompatible development.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no existing salable, locatable, or leasable mineral and energy resources development occurring in the corridor or adjacent area. This area is considered to have low potential for oil and gas resources. At this time, no lands within the corridor have been identified as available and suitable for leasing. The wild segment within the wilderness would not be open to leasing. An oil and gas leasing analysis is underway (decision anticipated winter 2008-2009), and this would determine the availability and suitability of the recreation segment for leasing. Due to the retention visual quality objective, Alpine Loop Scenic Backway, Mount Timpanogos Campground and Theater-in-the-Pine Site the proposed action for this leasing analysis the recreation segment would make this segment available for leasing with No Surface Occupancy and Controlled Surface Use stipulations.

Water Resources Development – This portion of the North Fork Provo River has little alteration from a hydrological perspective. There are no historic, current, or known planned Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits or license applications for this corridor. Downstream from this segment, the BOR has withdrawn lands to support its Provo River /CUP project, Bonneville Unit. Designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Three trails, one State highway, the Timpanogos Emergency Response Team (TERT) shed, and several Forest campground roads are within the corridor. The Aspen Grove (Mt. Timpanogos) Trail, #052, is a very popular non-motorized trail accessing Mt. Timpanogos from Mt. Timpanogos Campground and a large paved trailhead (with restrooms). The lower reaches of this trail are paved. About 0.3 miles of this trail below the Wilderness boundary, and 1.6 miles above the wilderness boundary lie within the river corridor. This trail crosses the stream via a culvert and wooden bridge, and in one place goes under a waterfall. The Lame Horse Trail (#055), a section of the Great Western Trail, is open to motorcycles and extends from the Aspen Grove Trail north out of the corridor. The Stewart-Cascade Trail, #056, is a non-motorized trail running from Aspen Grove parking lot out of the corridor to the south and east.

About 0.6 miles of Utah State Highway 92 crosses through the east end of the corridor. This very popular paved National Scenic Backway is well-known for its spectacular scenery, particularly in the fall. The Backway runs from Provo Canyon to and thru American Fork Canyon. Sundance Ski Area, BYU’s Aspen Grove facility, and the North Fork Provo community are located on private land just to the east and south of the corridor. Theater-in-the-Pines, a CCC-constructed amphitheater/Group Site, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Aspen Grove (Mt. Timpanogos) National Recreation Trail (#052) crosses the stream in places; in one location via a bridge. This trail bridge was crushed by a 2004 avalanche in the drainage and rocks and gravel collected behind the bridge. This section of trail and bridge have been relocated. The Stewart-Cascade Trail (#056) crosses the secondary southern stream channel with rock and log culverts and fords, and does not affect the stream’s hydrologic character.

Two water developments exist within the corridor. A pipeline extends from 3 springs in a headwater tributary down-valley for domestic and irrigation use in the Mt. Timpanogos Campground and the North Fork Community. The pipeline is located beneath the old Mt. Timpanogos Trail alignment and includes a partially buried valve-box adjacent to the trail, approximately 0.25 miles above the trailhead. This valve-box separates US Forest Service and North Fork Special Service District water. Pipelines extend down-canyon from here to their points of use in and below the corridor. The North Fork Service District’s water

is routed to their treatment plant near the Aspen Grove facility below the Forest Boundary. The Forest Service portion is stored in a 10,000-gallon underground storage tank located a few feet north of the Aspen Grove Trail and just within the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness. The storage tank is scheduled to receive heavy maintenance, or to be relocated and replaced.

Grazing Activities – None of the corridor is within an open grazing allotment and no lands within the corridor are considered suitable for domestic livestock grazing.

Recreation Activities – Mt. Timpanogos Trail (#052) runs along the river corridor. The stream segment is not the primary draw of the area for hikers; rather it is the wilderness setting and scenic hiking experiences that pull in most users. An estimated 13,000 visitors use this corridor each year to access the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness, and portions of the corridor are accessible year-round. The area has an unusually high percent of visitors from outside the region due to the proximity of Sundance Ski Area and Brigham Young University's Aspen Grove facility. These two sources contribute approximately 30% of the use in the area. There is dispersed camping in the wilderness, and Mt. Timpanogos is designated as a wildlife viewing area. Developed camping occurs at the Theater-in-the-Pines Amphitheater/Group Site and in Mt. Timpanogos Campgrounds. Both of these are heavily used during the summer season, particularly on holidays and weekends. The Alpine Loop Scenic Backway (SR 92) is heavily used, especially during the fall, by bikers and motorists enjoying the scenery in the area. SR 92 is also groomed in the winter and receives considerable snowmobile use.

Other Resource Activities – No lands within the corridor are considered suitable for timber harvest, and there are no farming activities within the river corridor.

Special Designations – The Alpine Loop Scenic Backway (SR 92) are partly within the river corridor. The wild segment is within the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness. Mt. Timpanogos is also designated as a wildlife viewing area.

Socio-Economic Environment – The entire river segment is located in Utah County, Utah. 2006 Census data indicates the population of Utah County is 464,460, and about 1,389 of these work in the entertainment and recreation industries. Utah County is an urban county, with about 343,000 acres (about 25%) of the 1,370,000-acre county in farms. An estimated 13,000 visitors use this corridor each year to access the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness, and portions of the corridor are accessible year-around. This area receives an unusually high percent of visitors from outside the region than other areas of the Forest due to the proximity of Sundance Ski Area and Brigham Young University's (BYU) Aspen Grove facility. Sundance and BYUs Aspen Grove facility are located near/adjacent to, but not within the corridor. These facilities are major attractions that generate substantial economic contributions. The area has social ties to area communities; most visitors are within a 21 mile radius of Provo, Utah, and repeatedly return to the area (Recreation Facilities Master Plan).

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS. The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation since 2001, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104) The North Fork Provo River would likely be a low or moderate complexity river.

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The entire corridor, as delineated is in Utah County, Utah, on NFS lands administered by the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The lower end of the corridor as delineated was truncated at the ownership boundary rather than being extended a ¼-mile below the end of the delineated reach of river. If it had not been truncated, the corridor would have extended onto nearby private land.

Utah County supported inclusion of this segment in the NWSRS when it was inventoried, but more recently they question the manageability of this segment (due to its short length) and do not support its designation. The State of Utah has not committed whether they would support preservation and administration of the river segment. Considering this, it is unlikely either the County or State would participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river.

(2) The state/local government’s ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not applicable, as the entire river corridor encompasses approximately 461 acres, and all of this is located on NFS lands administered by the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. There are no non-federally managed lands within the corridor. Designation appears to be compatible with the zoning allocation (Mountain Resort and Recreation Zone) in the 1997 Utah County Plan.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Fourteen comment letters were received on the *Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Uinta National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (1997)*. One of these letters was from Utah County. The Utah County Planner supported the Forest’s findings and stated “At this time, I would agree that the four river segments chosen for recommendation as part of the NWSRS findings (North Fork of the Provo River, South Fork of the American Fork River, Fifth Water Creek, and Little Provo Deer Creek) are great examples of scenic and unique river segments in the United States. While human impacts have left little truly “wild” areas within this area of the state, these rivers do reflect the wild and scenic characteristics that, I believe, are the intent of this Federal designation.”

Additionally, three comments were received from the public on the *Draft Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement*. All three were in support of designation of river segments (2003 FEIS, Appendix L).

In response to scoping for the State-wide EIS, 5 comments specific to North Fork Provo River were received. The Mountainland Association of Governments and Utah County both questioned if it was wise to designate such short river segments considering the potential cost associated with management and that existing policies (i.e., wilderness designation) are in place to protect these segments. The Brigham Young University (BYU) Aspen Grove facility was not in favor of designation. They also commented that if this segment is designated, they would like to have the designated segment end at the campground boundary about ¼-mile above the property boundary as they are planning on building a number of new improvements and would prefer not to be guided by federal land use and resource management objectives. American Rivers and Utah Rivers Council/Center for Biological Diversity supported designation and commented that the segment has one of the most incredible, jaw dropping views along the Wasatch Front and receives a lot of visitor use.

In the recent State-wide DEIS comment period, the Forest Service received approximately 375 original responses and 2,183 organized campaign responses for a total of 2,558 total responses. The 2,183 organized campaign responses support a positive suitability finding and designation, as follows:

- ◆ There were six requests that the Forest Service designate about 20 rivers/river systems, including the

North Fork Provo River and Little Provo Deer Creek.

- ◆ There were 737 responses that support a positive suitability finding for all outstanding rivers in Utah's National Forests. This organized campaign response identified several rivers/river systems, including North Fork Provo River and Little Provo Deer Creek, as "the best of the best" in Utah's National Forests, especially deserving of the Wild and Scenic designation.
- ◆ There were 1,440 responses that support a positive suitability finding for all 86 eligible rivers in Utah's National Forests, listing about 40 (including North Fork Provo and Little Provo Deer Creek) that especially possess qualities that place them at the top of the list of rivers to be included.

Of the 375 original responses received on the State-wide DEIS, 13 related specifically and 3 generally related to river segments on the Uinta portion of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The general responses supported suitability for all rivers in the study. Four of the 375 original responses specifically commented on North Fork Provo River. The Utah Rivers Council and two individuals supported suitability for all study rivers, and especially for some including this river. Utah Rivers Council also noted that thousands of others also supported this. The North Fork Special District opposed suitability, noting designation could severely impact the operation of their water system and that increasing the protection was unnecessarily.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

All of this segment lies on NFS lands managed by the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and all of this river segment lies within Utah County, Utah. Designation is consistent with the 2003 Uinta Forest Plan direction. Designation appears to be compatible with the zoning allocation (Mountain Resort and Recreation Zone) in the 1997 Utah County Plan. The State of Utah, Division of Water Resources, expressed no concerns with designation of this segment when they commented on the 1997 Draft Inventory.

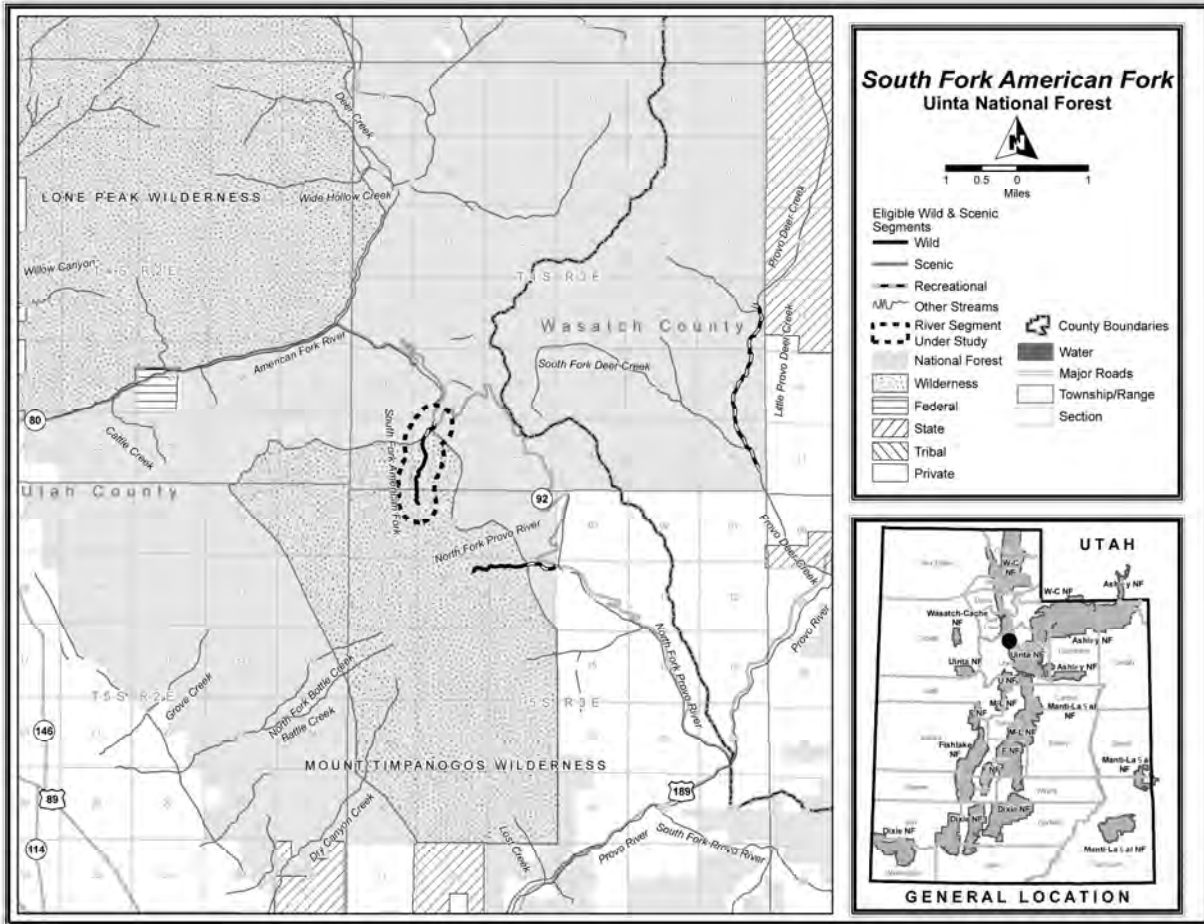
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the basin integrity as it incorporates the source of the North Fork Provo River. The majority of this segment is within the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness Area, so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to the stream. This 1.3-mile long segment would have more basin integrity if the segment was longer (e.g., it extended an additional 5.2 miles to the North Fork's confluence with the Provo River); however, the lower 5.2-mile reach is intermittent in places and was not found to have any outstandingly remarkable values.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed to date. Brigham Young University's (BYU) Aspen Grove facility, which is located directly adjacent to but not within the corridor, and the North Fork Water Conservancy District, who uses water diverted from within the corridor, have expressed concern about designation. These two entities are highly influential, and with their concerns it is unlikely Utah County or the State would commit resources for management of this corridor. The nearby Sundance Ski Area might potentially be interested, but to date they have not commented. The Pleasant Grove Ranger District which manages this river has a long history of high volunteerism. It is likely that, regardless of the support or potential lack of support by the entities named above, volunteers would come forward or could be found to help with management of the river segment. It is less likely partners for funding management of this river segment would step forward.

South Fork, American Fork Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: South Fork American Fork

River Mileage:

Segment 1 - South Fork American Fork

Studied: 0.3 miles, from confluence below Timpooneke Campground and State Road 92 to Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness boundary

Eligible: Same

Segment 2 - South Fork American Fork

Studied: 1.1 miles, from Wilderness boundary to Scout Falls Spring

Eligible: Same

Location:

South Fork American Fork	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Pleasant Grove Ranger District, Utah County, Utah		Congressional District 3	
	Start – Legal Description	End – Legal Description	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 6, T5S, R3E	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 6, T5S, R3E	Wild	1.1
Segment 2	NW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 32, T4S, R3E	NE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 32, T4S, R3E	Recreational	0.3

Physical Description of River Segment: South Fork American Fork is a high mountain stream originates from a series of springs located in glacial cirques high on Mt. Timpanogos. The stream descends through a series of glacial cirques, down steep exposed glacial headwall cliffs, into a glacially carved valley below. Upper reaches of the stream are extremely steep with waterfalls in some places, the most prominent and well known being Scout Falls. The lower reaches have a gentler gradient. Most of the stream and its corridor is natural appearing and undisturbed except for trails, State Road 92 crossing, and Timpooneke Campground and trailhead located at the lower-most end of this river segment. Elevations along the segment range from about 7160 to 8200 feet.

ELIGIBILITY

This segment of South Fork American Fork is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as it is free flowing and has outstandingly remarkable scenic value. The portion of the stream within the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness is potentially eligible as a wild river, while the portion below the wilderness boundary is eligible as a recreational river.

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: *Final Inventory of Rivers on the Uinta National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, January 1998.*

Determination of Free-flow: The South Fork American Fork has no diversions or other structures within this segment, and thus is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic Value – The stream course and features in the entire viewshed contribute significantly to the overall scenic quality of the segment. The stream course is steep, traversing from its alpine headwaters on Mt. Timpanogos through the forest below. There is a wide variety of vegetation in the corridor and along the stream including alpine grasses, forbs and wildflowers in the upper reaches; to riparian cottonwood, oak/maple, Douglas-fir, spruce-fir, and aspen forests with rich grass, forb and wildflower understories at the lower reaches. Similar vegetation communities and diversity can be found both within the corridor and on other mountain slopes adjoining the corridor and in the vicinity. In the fall, this diversity of vegetation communities is especially attractive with its mosaic of yellow, orange, red, browns and greens. This fall color attracts thousands of viewers to the American Fork Scenic Backway which crosses the very lower end of the corridor. Mt. Timpanogos is also widely known for its wild flowers. Each summer thousands of visitors traverse the Giant Staircase-Timpooneke Trail, a portion of a National Recreation Trail, through the corridor to view wildflowers found on the alpine meadows and slopes in, adjacent to, and above the corridor. The stream though small, is characterized by steep cascading runs and short waterfalls. Scout Falls, located at the very upper end of this segment, is a well-know and relatively popular local attraction. The Giant Staircase-Timpooneke Trail is generally not located immediately adjacent to the stream, but does lie within and extends the length of the corridor. Distant (but still within the corridor) views of the stream and falls contribute to the aesthetic and recreational appeal of this very heavily used trail. The stream descends from the heights of Mt. Timpanogos through a glacial cirque and valley. The exposed geologic strata and steep cliffs along the stream, in the corridor, and on nearby mountain slopes contribute to the scenic diversity and quality of the scenery. The summit of Mt. Timpanogos, located outside the corridor, provides a not to distant majestic scenic focal point for the scenery observed from the stream and trail. The Inventory rated this segment as scenic, regionally significant, with a high value in diversity of view, special features and seasonal variation. Cultural modification is highly appropriate.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Segment 1—Recreational; Segment 2—Wild
The portion of the stream within the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness is eligible as a wild river, fully meeting

the wild criteria, while the portion below the wilderness boundary is eligible as a recreational river as there is substantial evidence of human activity and is mostly adjacent to roads.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire 1.4 mile-long river corridor encompasses approximately 471 acres, and all of this is located on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The 2003 Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Uinta Forest Plan) made the following land allocations for this area:

Uinta Forest Plan Management Allocations				
Management Area	Overlying Management Prescription Allocation		Underlying Management Prescription Allocation	
American Fork	2.1 – Wild and Scenic Rivers – Wild	383 acres	1.4 - Wilderness	383 acres
	2.3 – Wild and Scenic Rivers – Recreation	151 acres	3.1 - Aquatic, Terrestrial and Aquatic Resource Emphasis	7 acres
			3.2 – Watershed Emphasis	9 acres
			4.4 - Dispersed Recreation Emphasis	45 acres
			4.5 - Dispersed Recreation Emphasis	26 acres

The entire South Fork American Fork river corridor is within the Critical Environmental Zone Planning Area of the Utah County General Plan. The intent and purpose of this zone includes conserving the water resource in a way that will assure a continued supply of pure water in the streams, springs, and wells which sustains the civilization occupying the valley floor of the county; most effectively use the wildlife resources found in the area; and conserve and use the valuable tourism and scenic resources of the county’s uplands.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no existing salable, locatable, or leasable mineral and energy resources development occurring in the corridor or adjacent area. This area is considered to have low potential for oil and gas resources. At this time, no lands within the corridor have been identified as available and suitable for leasing. The wild segment within the wilderness would not be open to leasing. An oil and gas leasing analysis is underway (decision anticipated winter 2008-2009), and this would determine the availability and suitability of the recreation segment for leasing. Due to the retention visual quality objective, Alpine Loop Scenic Backway, Timpooneke Campground and Altamont Campground the proposed action for this leasing analysis the recreation segment would make this segment available for leasing with No Surface Occupancy and Controlled Surface Use stipulations.

Water Resources Development – There are no historic, current or known Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits or license applications filed for this segment. Designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Access to the river corridor is via Utah State Highway (SR) 92. This is a narrow paved highway that is open seasonally. SR 92 is a Scenic Backway. The only diversions or other structures on this river segment are two trail/road crossings located in the lower 0.3 miles of the corridor. These consist of a culvert crossing (3 small [~12”] culverts) for Utah State Road (SR) 92 and a bridge crossing (2 wooden bridges) where Trail #150 crosses the river.

Three trails pass through the corridor. The Giant Staircase-Timpooneke Trail, Forest Trail #053, is a well developed connecting the trailhead by SR 92 and Timpooneke Campground (CG) with the upper elevations and Aspen Grove (Mt. Timpanogos) Trail on Mt. Timpanogos. This trail is part of the Mt. Timpanogos National Recreation Trail. The Giant Staircase-Timpooneke Trail is heavily used, and is open to non-motorized, non-mechanized use. This trail follows the river for its length, though in most places the river is not directly adjacent to or visible from the trail. The trailhead has a parking lot with restrooms. The Timpooneke-Chris Flats section of the Great Western Trail, Forest Trail #151, connects Trail #053 and Timpooneke CG with other trails and points west. Forest Trail #150, another section of the GWT, connects Trail #053 and Timpooneke CG with other trails and points northeast. A bridge (2 wooden structures crossing the twin channels) on this portion of the GWT crosses, but does not impede, the stream. Both of these sections of the GWT are open to nonmotorized and single-track motorized (motorcycle) use.

Part of Timpooneke Campground adjoins the river, and about 26 of the 55 acres of this campground are within the river corridor. This campground has 13 single family camp units, 7 double family camp units, 7 single family horse camp units, 1 group site, and 2 double family horse camp units. Facilities include 9 horse corrals, 2 stock watering troughs, 9 vault toilet buildings, 1 water system, 1 entry station, and 1 host site with sewer holding tank. The Altamont Group Site Campground also lies just below the river corridor and has a 100-person capacity. The site includes a pavilion and a flush toilet building with septic system. Both of these facilities are currently operated by concessionaire.

The Forest Service's Timpooneke Guard Station Administrative Site is also within the corridor. This site consists of a house, 2-stall garage and outhouse. This site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and is used seasonally by Forest Service employees.

Grazing Activities – None of the corridor is within an open grazing allotment and no lands within the corridor are considered suitable for domestic livestock grazing.

Recreation Activities – Scenic views from the stream are very striking. Majestic views of Mt. Timpanogos and seasonal variability in the colors of aspen, wild flowers, and other vegetation add to the experience. Recognizing this attraction, the Mt. Timpanogos (including the Giant Staircase-Timpooneke trail) National Recreation Trail was designated and is partly within the river corridor. The trail is a popular route to Emerald Lake, to the summit of Mt. Timpanogos, and to Aspen Grove. Aside from this scenic viewing, most recreation use is focused on hiking and horseback riding, although there is some wilderness dispersed camping in the corridor. The stream is not the primary focus of recreation use, but it does add to the diversity of the overall backcountry experience. The season of use is about 4 months. The stream cannot support white-water recreation. An estimated 9,000 visitors use this corridor to access the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness each year, of whom an estimated 20% are from outside the region. The difficulty of the hike up Timpanogos keeps this level of use relatively moderate compared to use on some other local trails.

Developed camping occurs at the Altamont Group Site and in Timpooneke Campgrounds. Both of these are heavily used during the summer season, particularly on holidays and weekends. The Alpine Loop National Scenic Backway (SR 92) is heavily used, especially during the fall, by bikers and motorists enjoying the scenery in the area. SR 92 is also groomed in the winter and receives considerable snowmobile use.

Other Resource Activities – No lands within the corridor are considered suitable for timber harvest, and there are no farming activities within the river corridor.

Special Designations – The Giant Staircase-Timpooneke Trail section of the Mt. Timpanogos National Recreation Trail and Alpine Loop Scenic Backway (SR 92) are partly within the river corridor. The wild segment is within the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness. Mt. Timpanogos is also designated as a wildlife

viewing area.

Socio-Economic Environment – The entire river segment is located in Utah County, Utah. 2006 Census data indicates the population of Utah County is 464,460, and about 1,389 of these work in the entertainment and recreation industries. Utah County is an urban county, with about 343,000 acres (about 25%) of the 1,370,000-acre county in farms. An estimated 9,000 visitors use this corridor to access the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness each year, of whom an estimated 20% are from outside the region.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS. The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation since 2001, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104) The South Fork American Fork River would likely be a low or moderate complexity river.

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The entire corridor is located on NFS lands within Utah County, Utah. Utah County supported inclusion of this segment in the NWSRS when it was inventoried, but more recently they question the manageability of this segment (due to its short length) and do not support its designation. The State of Utah has not committed whether they would support preservation and administration of the river segment. Considering this, it is unlikely either the County or State would participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river. Neither Utah County nor the State commented on this in the recent State-wide DEIS comment period.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not applicable, as the entire river corridor encompasses approximately 471 acres, and all 471 acres are NFS lands administered by the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Designation appears to be compatible with the zoning allocation (Critical Environmental Zone) in the 1997 Utah County Plan.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Fourteen comment letters were received on the *Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Uinta National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (1997)*. One of these letters was from Utah County. The Utah County Planner supported the Forest's findings and stated "At this time, would agree that the four river segments chosen for recommendation as part of the NWSRS findings (North Fork of the Provo River, South Fork of the American Fork River, Fifth Water Creek, and Little Provo Deer Creek) are great examples of scenic and unique river segments in the United States. While human impacts have left little truly "wild" areas within this area of the state, these rivers do reflect the wild and scenic characteristics that, I believe, are the intent of this Federal designation." The State of Utah, Division of Water Resources, had "no concerns". The Superintendent of Timpanogos Cave National Monument, National Park Service, commented that "We find the draft's discussion appropriate and concur with its findings".

Additionally, three comments were received from the public on the *Draft Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement*. All three were in support of designation of

river segments (2003 FEIS, Appendix L).

In response to scoping for the recent State-wide EIS, 2 comments specific to South Fork American Fork were received. The Mountainland Association of Governments and Utah County both questioned if it was wise to designate such short river segments considering the potential cost associated with management and that existing policies (i.e., wilderness designation) are in place to protect these segments.

In the recent State-wide DEIS comment period, the Forest Service received approximately 375 original responses and 2,183 organized campaign responses for a total of 2,558 total responses. The 2,183 organized campaign responses support a positive suitability finding and designation, as follows:

- ◆ There were six requests that the Forest Service designate about 20 rivers/river systems, but South Fork American Fork was not one of those identified.
- ◆ There were 737 responses that support a positive suitability finding for all outstanding rivers in Utah's National Forests. This organized campaign response identified several rivers/river systems as "the best of the best" in Utah's National Forests, especially deserving of the Wild and Scenic designation. South Fork American Fork was not one of those identified.
- ◆ There were 1,440 responses that support a positive suitability finding for all 86 eligible rivers in Utah's National Forests listing about 40 that especially possess qualities that place them at the top of the list of rivers to be included. South Fork American Fork was not one of those listed.

Of the 375 original responses received on the State-wide DEIS, 13 related specifically and 3 generally related to river segments on the Uinta portion of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The general responses supported suitability for all rivers in the study. One of the 375 original responses specifically commented on South Fork American Fork. This commenter supported suitability noting the river was a peaceful and beautiful place.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

All of this segment lies on NFS lands managed by the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and all of this river segment lies within Utah County, Utah. Designation is consistent with the 2003 Uinta Forest Plan direction. In addition, designation appears to be compatible with the zoning allocation (Critical Environmental Zone) in the 1997 Utah County Plan. The State of Utah, Division of Water Resources, expressed no concerns with designation of this segment when they commented on the 1997 Draft Inventory. Utah County did not comment on this subject in the recent State-wide DEIS comment period.

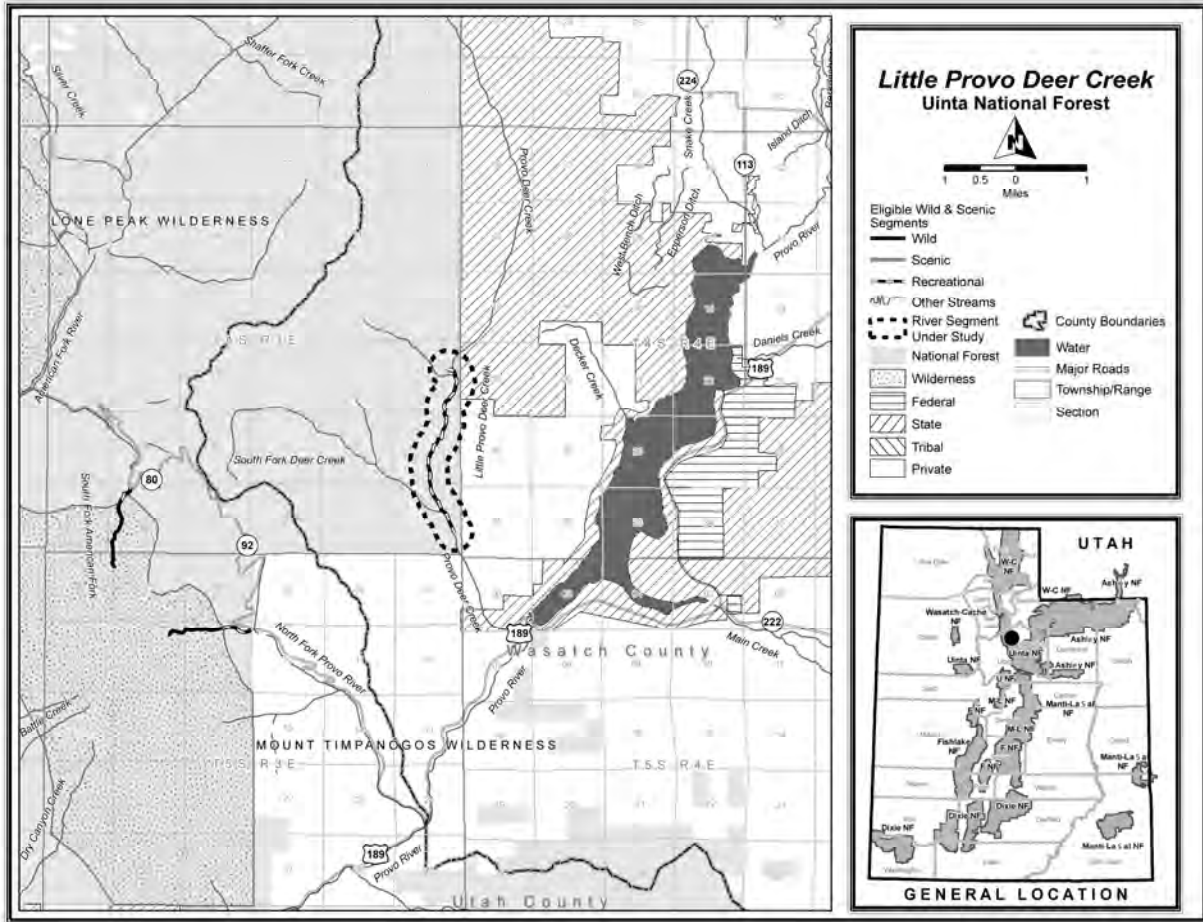
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the basin integrity as it incorporates a primary source of the South Fork American Fork River. The majority of this segment is within the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness Area, so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to the stream. This 1.4-mile long segment would have more basin integrity if the segment was longer (e.g., it extended an additional 3.4 miles to the South Fork's confluence with the North Fork American Fork); however, the lower reaches were not found to have any outstandingly remarkable values.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed to date. The Pleasant Grove Ranger District which manages this river has a long history of high volunteerism and if the river were designated, it is highly likely volunteers would come forward or could be found to help with management of the river segment. It is less likely partners for funding management of this river segment would step forward.

Little Provo Deer Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Little Provo Deer Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 2.6 miles from road crossing in the southern quarter of Section 36, T. 4 S., R. 3 E. to the top of Cascade Springs following the tributary stream to Cascade Springs from Little Provo Deer Creek.

Eligible: Same

Location:

Little Provo Deer Creek	Uinta National Forest, Pleasant Grove Ranger District, Wasatch County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE1/4 SE1/4, Sect. 36, T.4 S, R.3 E, SLM	SE ¼ NE ¼, Sect. 24, T.4 S, R.3 E, SLM	Recreational	2.6

Physical Description of River Segment: Little Provo Deer Creek is in many ways a typical Wasatch Mountains stream. However, it does have some unusual characteristics that set it apart from others. Elevations along the study segment range from about 5,680 to 6,240 feet. Water quality in Cascade

Springs and the tributary connecting Cascade Springs to Little Provo Deer Creek is good. However, water quality in the Little Provo Deer Creek is being impacted by sediment from erosion from the stream channel and cutbanks along the stream and from roads, both within and upstream of this segment.

The stream was segmented above Cascade Springs because of this very unusual feature, and because the stream upstream of Cascade Springs is substantially smaller, and the stream is impacted by roads and potentially by water diversions. The stream was segmented below the road crossing because the stream below this point is heavily impacted by roads and water withdrawals.

Cascade Springs is a unique feature. Cascade Springs is a relatively large set of perennial springs and cascading limestone pools that are unusual geological and hydrologic features for the region of consideration. Several levels of naturally developed cascading pools with clear spring waters and wetlands, are present and these and the adjoining uplands are inhabited by a wide variety of flora and fauna.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Inventory of Rivers on the Uinta National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, January 1998

Determination of Free-flow: This segment of Little Provo Deer Creek is free of major channel modification, and is free of major structures, and is thus free flowing. The Cascade Springs Recreation Site lies within the corridor, and has several trails, boardwalks and bridges adjacent to or crossing the pools and/or stream. However, these have minimal effect on the free-flowing character of the segment. The Little Deer Creek Road runs parallel to the stream the entire length of the segment, but does not affect this stream segment's free-flowing character. Portions of two other roads lie within the corridor, but these do not cross the stream or affect the free-flowing nature of the study stream segment. There are several water rights that potentially affect streamflows in the eligible segment. The Forest Service holds a number of these, including one just outside the corridor which provides water for the Cascade Springs Recreation Site. These have minimal affect on flows at the springs or in the stream.

The segment of Little Provo Deer Creek upstream of the eligible segment (i.e. Cascade Springs Recreation Site to the headwaters) is impacted by road crossings. In addition, Wasatch State Park maintains a water right for about 2.0 cfs for irrigation use. Exercise of this water right does not affect the flow or the character of Cascade Springs, but does substantially reduce flows in the segment of Little Provo Deer Creek upstream of the eligible segment. This water use also reduces flows in the eligible segment; however, the flows from Cascade Springs are significant (approximately 50 cfs) and are sufficient to maintain ecological values in the eligible corridor.

The segment of Little Provo Deer Creek downstream of the eligible segment is heavily impacted by numerous road crossings, road incursions, and water withdrawals. At the very lower end of this segment (from the railroad crossing downstream to the confluence with Provo River), the stream is heavily modified and in places is rip-rapped. The Canyon Meadows Mutual Water Company also maintains a groundwater right for 0.17 cfs for domestic use. The point of diversion for this water right is located just over ¼-mile below the downstream end of the eligible corridor and just below the eligible segment corridor.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: The study corridor was found to have two stream-related outstandingly remarkable values: geological/hydrological and ecological. Both of these are interrelated in that both are heavily influenced by unusual features that create and form Cascade Springs, and the educational/scientific value Cascade Springs affords.

Geological/Hydrological Value – This segment was found to have an outstandingly remarkable geologic/hydrologic value because the stream segment was judged to have moderately high value for the abundance of geologic/hydrologic features, and high geologic/hydrologic values for diversity of features, and educational/scientific uses these are providing.

Cascade Springs is a big perennial spring complex that significantly augments water flows to the stream, and has interesting geological and hydrologic characteristics. The springs form an unusual environment for the area. Several levels of naturally developed cascading pools with clear spring waters and wetlands are inhabited by a wide variety of flora (cattails, watercress, and wildflowers) and fauna. This is a very unusual environment for the area. The springs' cool riparian setting makes them a popular attraction, and an interpretive site has been developed here because of this character. Cascade Springs was developed in the 1980's as an environmental education site and is a popular attraction for local users. Its boardwalks, bridges, paved paths, and interpretive signing make this unusual setting a very pleasant and popular destination. Educational groups use the springs as a teaching site, and it is a designated wildlife viewing area.

Ecological value – This segment was found to have an outstandingly remarkable ecological value because the stream corridor was determined to have moderately high value for the ecological function and rare communities, and a high value for species diversity, and ecological-related educational/scientific use and value the area affords.

Riparian forest communities occur around Cascade Springs and along Little Provo Deer Creek and South Fork Deer Creek, and Gambel oak and sagebrush-grass communities occur in the upland portions of the corridor. Cascade Springs is an unusual environment for the area. Several levels of natural limestone cascading pools with clear spring waters and wetlands are inhabited by a wide variety of flora (cattails, watercress, and wildflowers) and fauna. The pools are currently inhabited by German brown trout, rainbow trout, and some Bonneville cutthroat trout. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and Uinta National Forest are considering a potential future (possible 2009-2011) project to further the recovery of Bonneville cutthroat trout, a Forest-Service Intermountain Region and State of Utah listed sensitive species, and to improve habitat quality, water quality and ecological integrity of study corridor. Although no other rare species of flora or fauna are known to inhabit the corridor, the biological communities found in the corridor are unusually diverse and complex. There are many species of noxious weeds in the corridor. These have been and will continue to be targeted for control and eradication.

The 2003 Cascade II fire burned about 8,000 acres in the area, including the study corridor. Burn intensities varied throughout the fire, and within the corridor. Significant efforts were made to restore areas intensely burned. The grass-forb plant communities have since recovered, and most of the moderate-intensively burned riparian forest and upland shrub communities within the corridor have resprouted. Aquatic resources within the corridor were minimally affected by the burn. Informational signs were placed at Cascade Springs regarding the burn, burned area rehabilitation, and ecological implications of fire.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment– Recreational

Little Provo Deer Creek is classified as recreational river due to the presence of the Cascade Springs Recreation Site development, full-length access by roads, and the overall substantial evidence of human activity.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire river corridor encompasses approximately 843 acres, and all of this is located on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Uinta National Forest.

The 2003 Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Uinta Forest Plan) made the following land allocations for this area:

Uinta Forest Plan Management Allocations				
Management Area	Overlying Management Prescription Allocation		Underlying Management Prescription Allocation	
Lower Provo	2.3 – Wild and Scenic Rivers – Recreation	843 acres	3.1 – Aquatic, Terrestrial and Aquatic Resource Emphasis	562 acres
			4.4 - Dispersed Recreation Emphasis	272 acres
			4.5 - Dispersed Recreation Emphasis	10 acres

Little Provo Deer Creek is within the Wasatch Mountain Planning Area of the Wasatch County General Plan (2001-2016). The Wasatch County General Plan states that land uses in the Wasatch Mountains Planning Area should be limited to watershed protection, recreation, livestock grazing and wildlife habitat. If summer homes and recreational resorts are permitted, they should be in harmony with the natural setting, be developed in such a way as to not significantly degrade the quality of the environment and provide all essential utilities.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no existing salable, locatable, or leasable mineral and energy resources development occurring in the vicinity. At this time, there is no leasable land available. Oil and gas resource potential for this area is considered low. An oil and gas leasing analysis is underway; there would likely be lands available for lease once completed.

Water Resources Development – There has been no Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits or license applications filed. There is no farmland within the vicinity. However, BOR has withdrawn lands downstream of the studied segment for support of the Provo River CUP-Bonneville Unit. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Within the corridor for the eligible river segment, there are sections of three roads, the Cascade Springs Recreation Site, and the South Cascade Dispersed Camping Site. A right of way also exists for the State of Utah across the corridor.

The Cascade Springs Recreation Site is a day-use area that includes a boardwalk/paved/graveled trail network, three restrooms, two paved parking areas, a kiosk/building, and several benches and interpretive signs. The Cascade Springs trail network consists of a set of paved trails connecting the parking areas, kiosk, and restrooms with a series of trails that encircle or cross the Cascade Springs pools. Two bridges and a boardwalk allow water from the springs and Little Provo Deer Creek to pass largely unimpeded. Sections of the trail network are barrier-free. The kiosk/building is used during educational/interpretive activities.

The Cascade Springs Scenic Drive [Forest Road (FR) #114] accesses Cascade Springs. This is a paved, 2-lane road maintained by the Forest Service. This road connects to the Alpine Loop (State Road 92), and via the Cascade Springs Road (FR #216) and a Wasatch County road through Wasatch Mountain State Park to Midway, Utah. FR #216 is a native-surfaced Maintenance Level 3 road that becomes soft and slick when wet. The Wasatch County road is similar to the Cascade Springs Road.

The general area is accessed by several local roads and contains several undeveloped dispersed camping spots. The Little Deer Creek Road (FR #475), runs south from Cascade Springs along the stream,

eventually crossing the stream several times and provides access from Cascade Springs to Provo Canyon. The lower extent of the eligible river segment is located at the northern-most FR #475 stream crossing. FR #475 is a Maintenance Level #2, high-clearance vehicle road that becomes soft when wet. It is generally very rough, and steep and rocky in spots.

Above Cascade Springs and in the stream reach below the segment (outside the study corridor), and above Deer Creek State Park, the stream is heavily impacted by road incursions. In a few places fill from the adjacent road has encroached into the channel.

Grazing Activities – The northern portion of the eligible river segment and corridor are within the Deer Creek Sheep and Goat Allotment. This allotment is shared with Wasatch Mountain State Park, and has been vacant for several years. There are no known proposals for or plans to reopen this allotment to grazing, due to conflicts with recreation use, water quality concerns, and potential interaction with bighorn sheep on Mt. Timpanogos.

Recreation Activities – A variety of dispersed recreation activities occur in the area. The pools at Cascade Springs are closed to fishing, but the nearby stream does provide fishing opportunities. Some hunting and dispersed camping also occurs in the area. The Cascade Springs Drive, #114, is groomed in the winter and receives heavy snowmobile use. The Little Deer Creek Road, #475, and connecting roads in adjoining Wasatch Mountain State Park are open for ATV, motorcycle, and other motorized vehicle use, and use of these is heavy. The Cascade Springs Scenic Drive and connecting road into Midway are heavily used by recreationists driving for pleasure, viewing the scenery (including distant views of Mt. Timpanogos and the Provo Peak area), and accessing Cascade Springs.

Wasatch Mountain State Park is heavily used for similar purposes, and has additional attractions such as golf courses, snow tubing area, and Nordic skiing center. The lands in Deer Creek State Park below the segment exhibit evidence of heavy recreation use. Homestead Resort has a permit for outfitter and guide snowmobiling service that includes the eligible river corridor.

Other Resource Activities – There is no timberland or farmland within the eligible river corridor. Thus, no lands within the corridor are considered suitable for timber harvest, and there are no farming activities within the river corridor.

Special Designations – Cascade Springs is a designated wildlife viewing area and interpretive site. Cascade Springs has boardwalks, bridges, paved paths, and interpretive signing.

Socio-Economic Environment – The entire river segment is located in Wasatch County, Utah. 2006 Census data indicates the population of Wasatch County is 20,255, and about 1,023 of these work in the entertainment and recreation industries. Farms encompass about 69,600 acres (about 9%) in the 774,000-acre Wasatch County. This area is very popular with recreationists, many of these are non-resident visitors to nearby Sundance and BYU's Aspen Grove facility. These facilities are major attractions that generate substantial economic contributions.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using

an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The entire corridor, as delineated is in Wasatch County, Utah, on NFS lands administered by the Uinta National Forest. However, in spots the corridor width, as delineated, was truncated at the ownership boundary rather than being extended the full ¼-mile. If it were, the corridor would extend onto nearby Wasatch Mountain State Park in one reach, and onto private land in another. Neither of these entities commented on this river corridor during the Draft Inventory or the Forest Plan revision process.

Wasatch County provided two comments on the *Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Uinta National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System (1997)*. The County Planner stated they felt designation would conflict with the County Resolution 97-19. The County Board of Commissioners stated their “resolve to oppose and resist any such designation”. The Commissioners felt that “cultural and traditional uses of adjacent public lands would be severely limited and the economy of our county could be unnecessarily affected.”

More recently (scoping comments for the State-wide EIS) Wasatch County indicated they do not feel this segment is eligible, and do not support inclusion of this segment in the NWSRS. They commented that this segment is extensively used for multiple use resources; many opportunities enjoyed by the public could be compromised by the decision to include the segment, and that in their opinion, this stream is nothing more than a typical Wasatch Mountains stream. The State of Utah has not committed whether they would support preservation and administration of the river segment. Considering this, it is unlikely either the County or State would participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river.

(2) The state/local government’s ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not Applicable, as the entire river corridor encompasses approximately 843 acres, and all of this is located on NFS lands administered by the Uinta National Forest. The eastern edge of the corridor, as delineated, is truncated in places at the Forest boundary and does not extend a full ¼ mile in places where this would have encompassed privately-owned lands and State lands managed by Wasatch Mountain State Park. Designation appears to be compatible with the zoning allocation (Wasatch Mountain Planning Area) in the Wasatch County General Plan which states that land uses should be limited to watershed protection, recreation, livestock grazing and wildlife habitat.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Fourteen comment letters were received on the *Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Uinta National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System (1997)*. As stated under Suitability Factor 1, Wasatch County did not support designation of the River segment. The State of Utah, Division of Water Resources, had no concerns. Many respondents wanted to see additional segments of rivers designated.

Additionally, three comments were received from the public on the Draft Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement. All three were in support of designation of river segments (FIES, appendix L).

In the recent state-wide EIS scoping, 5 comments specific to Little Provo Deer Creek were received. Wasatch County commented they do not feel this segment is eligible and that they do not support

inclusion of this segment in the NWSRS. The County also commented that this segment is extensively used for multiple use resources; many opportunities enjoyed by the public could be compromised by the decision to include the segment, and that in their opinion, this stream is nothing more than a typical Wasatch Mountains stream. The Mountainland Association of Governments questioned if it was wise to designate such short river segments considering the potential cost associated with management and that existing policies are in place to protect this segment. The Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) commented that they operate a gauging station on the stream and that measurements from this station are used to determine minimum stream flows in the Provo River. They indicated that this ability needs to be maintained in order to meet water right deliveries and obligations. In addition, CUWCD noted that there is a water treatment diversion and other irrigation diversion on the stream, and concluded that because of these facilities, they do not believe this stream is appropriate for WSR designation. American Rivers and Utah Rivers Council/Center for Biological Diversity support designation of this river and both noted that this stream, and particularly Cascade Springs, provides great recreational values and incredible interpretive opportunities.

In the recent State-wide DEIS comment period, the Forest Service received approximately 375 original responses and 2,183 organized campaign responses for a total of 2,558 total responses. The 2,183 organized campaign responses support a positive suitability finding and designation, as follows:

- ◆ There were six requests that the Forest Service designate about 20 rivers/river systems, but Little Provo Deer Creek was not one of those identified.
- ◆ There were 737 responses that support a positive suitability finding for all outstanding rivers in Utah's National Forests. This organized campaign response identified several rivers/river systems as "the best of the best" in Utah's National Forests, especially deserving of the Wild and Scenic designation. Little Provo Deer Creek was not of those identified.
- ◆ There were 1,440 responses that support a positive suitability finding for all 86 eligible rivers in Utah's National Forests listing about 40 that especially possess qualities that place them at the top of the list of rivers to be included. Little Provo Deer Creek was one of those listed.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

The entire segment lies on NFS lands managed by the Uinta National Forest, and the entire segment lies within Wasatch County, Utah. Designation is consistent with the 2003 "Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan" direction. The eastern edge of the corridor, as delineated, is truncated in places at the Forest boundary and does not extend a full ¼ mile in places where this would have encompassed privately-owned lands and State lands managed by Wasatch Mountain State Park. Wasatch Mountain State Park has not commented on compatibility of designation with management of this Park. Designation appears to be compatible with the zoning allocation (Wasatch Mountain Planning Area) in the Wasatch County General Plan which states that land uses should be limited to watershed protection, recreation, livestock grazing and wildlife habitat. Wasatch County has stated that they do not support designation of this river.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

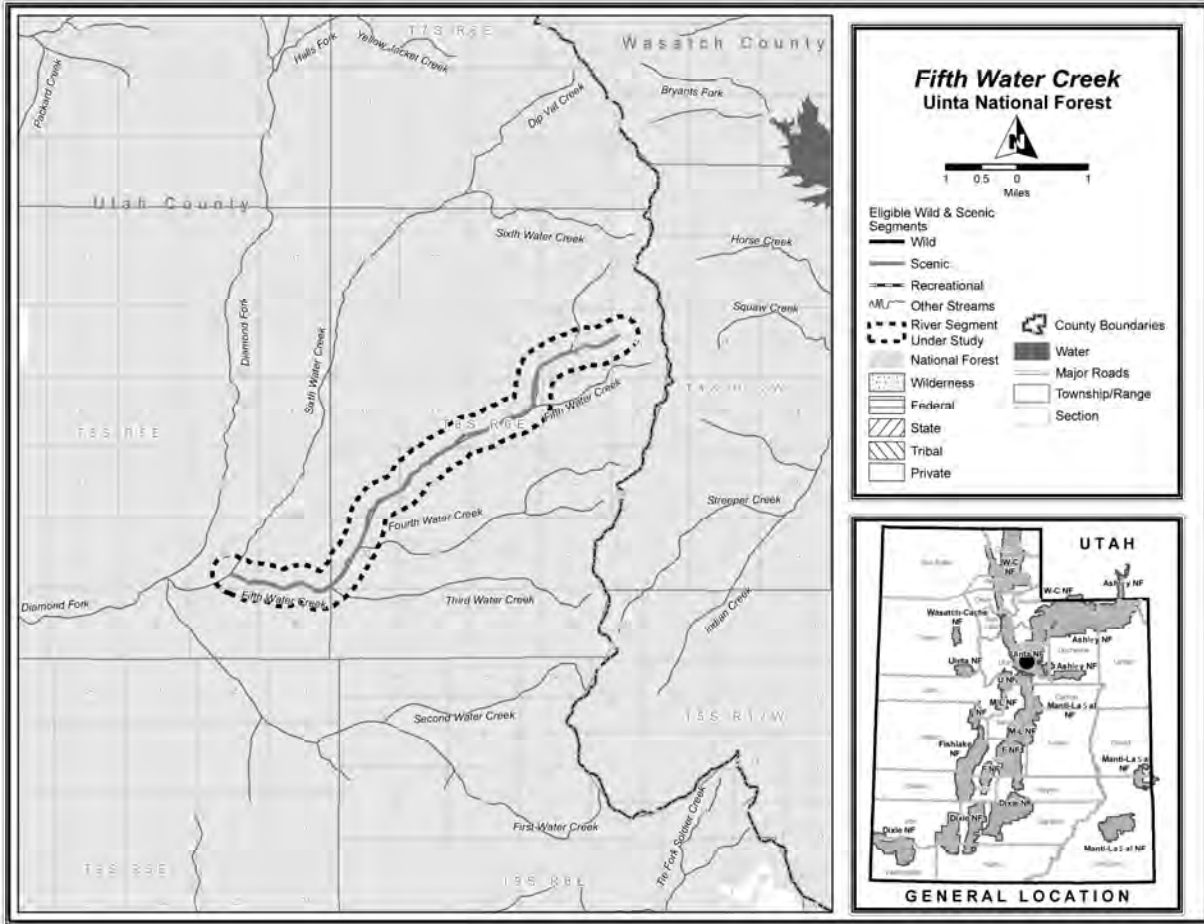
This segment contributes to the basin integrity as it incorporates Cascade Springs and its source. Designation of this stream segment would provide additional protection to Cascade Springs and the stream below it. This 2.6-mile long segment would have more basin integrity if the segment was longer (e.g., it extended an additional 6.9 miles upstream of the segment to the source of Little Provo Deer Creek, and if it extended an additional 1.9 miles downstream of the segment to the stream's confluence with the Provo River); however, these reaches extend off-Forest, are heavily impacted by water diversions and other land uses, and were not found to have any outstandingly remarkable values.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed to date. Wasatch Mountain State Park which adjoins the river corridor might potentially be interested in sharing management commitments; however, they have not commented on designation or indicated such interest to date. Wasatch County has clearly indicated they do not support designation and therefore, would be unlikely to contribute resources for management of this river segment.

Visitors from Brigham Young University's (BYU) Aspen Grove facility and Sundance Ski Area, which are located a few miles west of the corridor, frequently visit Cascade Springs. Consequently these entities may potentially be interested, but to date they have not offered such support. The Pleasant Grove Ranger District which manages this river has a long history of high volunteerism. It is likely, that irregardless of the support or potentially lack of it by the entities named above, that volunteers would come forward or could be found to help with management.

Fifth Water Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Fifth Water Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 7.8 miles from the Sixth Water Creek confluence to headwaters

Eligible: same

Location:

Fifth Water Creek	Uinta National Forest, Spanish Fork Ranger District, Utah County, Utah		Congressional District 3	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ Sect. 26, T 8 S, R 5 E, SLM	NW ¼ Sect. 11, T 8 S, R 6 E, SLM	Scenic	7.8

Physical Description of River Segment: Fifth Water Creek is in most respects a relatively typical Wasatch Range upland tributary stream that joins with other similar streams to add to a larger river (Diamond Fork). This stream flows from an elevation of about 7900 feet at its headwaters near Strawberry Ridge and drops to about 6400 feet at the confluence with Sixth Water Creek. The segment contains an unusual hot springs and several small waterfalls, the largest of which has a drop of about 12-

14 feet. Water temperatures have been measured ranging from 122 to 129 degrees Fahrenheit at the hot springs, while summer temperatures in the adjacent creek were 57 degrees.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Final Inventory of Rivers on the Uinta National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, January 1998

Determination of Free-flow: Fifth Water Creek is free of major channel modification, and is free of major structures, and is thus free flowing. There are no diversions on Fifth Water Creek, and only one culvert crosses the creek. The road that crosses the creek in the middle of the segment, the trail crossing, and short road segment and trail segments that run along the creek are within the corridor, but do not significantly affect the stream channel, its ability to flow freely, or other stream characteristics. The stream channel and riparian corridor have been modified indirectly over the last 75 years due to channel incision related to construction and operation of CUP facilities, flow augmentation in Sixth Water Creek, erosive soils and geology, and historic grazing impacts.

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation – The hot springs are a major visitor attraction, drawing bathers year-round from a surprisingly broad area considering that the feature is not particularly large, and it is relatively remote. An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 visitors hike or bike into the hot springs annually, with about 10-20% coming from outside the region. Trail # 015 is the only developed recreation available to the users of the corridor, but dispersed camping is practiced by those using the hot springs, and for hunting, fishing, hiking, biking and motorcycle riding. Access to the area is easy with paved access up Diamond Fork Creek and also crossing near the middle of the segment, with trail and a short segment of native surface road paralleling most of the remainder of the segment. The hot springs can be accessed from either road by a hiking trail that follows the stream. Most of the upper reaches of the segment can be reached by a motorcycle trail connecting the paved Sheep Creek-Rays Valley Road to the Great Western Trail and onto the Strawberry Ridge Road. General Recreation with a high value in length of season and experience quality, moderate value in diversity of use and attractions, low value in site and facilities and a low to moderate value in associated opportunities.

CLASSIFICATION –

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Scenic

Fifth Water Creek is accessible in some places by road or motorized trail, but is largely primitive and undeveloped. Except for the user created pools at the hot springs, the Fifth Water Trail and Great Western Trail, the Sheep Creek-Rays Valley Road crossing, and a corral and livestock troughs at the end of Fifth Water road, there is no substantial evidence of human activity.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire 7.8 mile-long river corridor encompasses approximately 2513 acres, and all of this is located on National Forest System (NFS) lands administered by the Uinta National Forest. The 2003 Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Uinta Forest Plan) made the following land allocations for this area:

Uinta Forest Plan Management Allocations				
Management Area	Overlying Management Prescription Allocation		Underlying Management Prescription Allocation	
Diamond Fork	2.2 – Wild and Scenic Rivers – Scenic	2513 acres	5.1 – Forested Ecosystems, Limited Development	886 acres
			6.1 Non-forested Ecosystems	1627 acres

The entire Fifth Water Creek corridor is within the Critical Environmental Zone Planning Area of the Utah County General Plan. The intent and purpose of this zone includes conserving the water resource in a way that will assure a continue supply of pure water in the streams, springs, and wells which sustains the civilization occupying the valley floor of the county; most effectively use the wildlife resources found in the area; and conserve and use the valuable tourism and scenic resources of the county's uplands.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The area around Fifth Water is currently under an oil and gas lease. No Applications for Permits to Drill (APDs) have been filed. This area is considered high potential for oil and gas resources. There are no locatable or salable developments in the vicinity.

Water Resources Development – Lands surrounding Fifth Water Creek are withdrawn or proposed to be withdrawn by the Department of Interior, Central Utah Project for protection of their water infrastructure. There are no historic, current, or known planned Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits or license applications for this corridor. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Sheep Creek-Rays Valley Road (#051), a double-lane, paved, arterial Forest road, crosses the stream in about the middle of the segment. The Fifth Water Road (#398), a short (~0.5 mile-long) native-surfaced high clearance Forest road follows Fifth Water Creek from the #051 upstream to an unimproved trailhead. The Diamond Fork Road (#029), a double-lane, paved, arterial Forest road, provides access to the Fifth Water Creek Trailhead located about a mile below the end of this segment and river corridor.

A segment of the Fifth Water Trail (#015), a Forest trail, follows Sixth Water Creek about 1 mile from a trailhead located along the Diamond Fork Road to the downstream end of the corridor at the Sixth Water Creek/Fifth Water Creek confluence. The trail then follows Fifth Water Creek to the hot springs and on upstream to the Sheep Creek-Rays Valley Road crossing parking area. The trail continues in the river corridor for a total of 5.8 miles of trail within the corridor. This trail is a native surface hiking/biking trail and is closed to motorized use.

The Fifth Water Trail (#015) continues upstream from the parking area located at the end of FR 70398 about 1.5 miles to the confluence with the Great Western Trail (#009). This segment of the Fifth Water Trail is open to motorcycles, hikers equestrian, and bikes. The Great Western Trail intersects Fifth Water Creek, crosses and runs adjacent to Fifth Water Creek for about 0.6 miles, then leaves the river corridor. The Great Western Trail is a native surface hiking/biking/ATV/motorcycle trail. The remainder of the Fifth Water Creek Trail is about 2.3 miles in length, and extends from the Great Western Trail to the Strawberry Ridge Road (# 518). This trail is a native surface hiking/biking/motorcycle trail. About 0.8 miles of the Fifth Water Creek Trail is located adjacent to Fifth Water Creek and within the corridor, the remaining upper reach of this trail (~ 1.5 miles) leaves Fifth Water Creek and is outside the river corridor. The Strawberry Ridge Road (#518) is a high clearance Forest road open to ATV use, but is not located within the river corridor.

Grazing Activities – Fifth Water Creek is within the Diamond Fork Allotment. This is a cattle allotment and also has associated livestock fencing and water troughs.

Recreation Activities – The hot springs are a major visitor attraction drawing bathers year around. An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 visitors hike or bike to the hot springs annually, with about 10%-20% coming from outside the region. Trails in the corridor offer hiking, biking, and motorcycle opportunities. The stream cannot support white-water recreation.

Other Resource Activities – Fuels management activities are planned within the corridor above Sheep Creek-Rays Valley Road. A powerline crosses the corridor; utility maintenance is performed. There are no private lands in the corridor, thus no farming.

Special Designations – Fifth Water Creek is within the Strawberry Ridge (#418015) and Diamond Fork (#418016) Inventoried Roadless Areas.

Lands surrounding Fifth Water Creek are withdrawn or proposed to be withdrawn by the Department of Interior, Central Utah Project for protection of their water infrastructure.

Socio-Economic Environment – The entire river segment is located in Utah County, Utah. 2006 Census data indicates the population of Utah County is 464,460, and about 1,389 of these work in the entertainment and recreation industries. Utah County is an urban county, with about 343,000 acres (about 25%) of the 1,370,000-acre county in farms. There are several outfitter and guides that have permits that overlap the corridor.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency is the USFS.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

The entire corridor is located on NFS lands within Utah County, Utah. Utah County supported inclusion of this segment in the NWSRS when it was inventoried, but more recently they commented that the river (i.e., hot pots) has been altered with rocks, plastic sheeting, and piping to control water temperature and question the eligibility of this segment due to this.

The State of Utah has not committed whether they would support preservation and administration of the river segment. Considering this, it is unlikely either the County or State would participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

Not Applicable, as the entire river corridor encompasses approximately 2,513 acres, and all of this is located on NFS lands administered by the Uinta National Forest. Designation appears to be compatible with the zoning allocation (Critical Environmental Zone) in the 1997 Utah County Plan.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Fourteen comment letters were received on the *Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Uinta National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System (1997)*. One of these letters was from Utah County. The Utah County Planner supported the Forest's findings and stated "At this time, I would agree that the four river segments chosen for recommendation as part of the NWSRS findings (North Fork of the Provo River, South Fork of the American Fork River, Fifth Water Creek, and Little Provo Deer Creek) are great examples of scenic and unique river segments in the United States. While human impacts have left little truly "wild" areas within this area of the state, these rivers do reflect the wild and scenic characteristics that, I believe, are the intent of this Federal designation." The State of Utah,

Division of Water Resources, had “no concerns”. The Superintendent of Timpanogos Cave National Monument, National Park Service, commented that “We find the draft’s discussion appropriate and concur with its findings”.

Additionally, three comments were received from the public on the Draft Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement. All three were in support of designation of river segments (2003 FEIS, Appendix L).

In the recent state-wide EIS scoping, four comments specific to Fifth Water Creek were received. The Mountainland Association of Governments and Utah County both commented that the river (i.e., hot pots) has been altered with rocks, plastic sheeting, and piping to control water temperature and question the eligibility of this segment due to this. The Central Utah Water Conservancy District commented that during shutdown/drainage of the Syar tunnel (every 5 years) the water is diverted into a holding pond in the 5th Water Creek drainage, which could overflow the pond and travel to 5th Water Creek. They commented that it is important to the operation & maintenance of the tunnel that this ability stays in place. USDI’s Central Utah Project Completion Act Office commented that the proposed Sixth Water power transmission line is planned to cross Fifth Water Creek, that land for the power transmission facilities was withdrawn, and that this may impact the proposed scenic status.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

The entire segment lies on NFS lands managed by the Uinta National Forest, and the entire segment lies within Utah County, Utah. Designation is consistent with the 2003 “Uinta National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan” direction. The corridor is within a grazing allotment and cattle use the corridor to move from one part of the allotment to another. Designation could increase user conflicts between recreation users and cattle grazing, both of which may be appropriate uses under the Forest Plan and with designation as a Scenic River. Designation appears to be compatible with the zoning allocation (Critical Environmental Zone) in the 1997 Utah County Plan. The State of Utah, Division of Water Resources, expressed no concerns with designation of this segment when they commented on the 1997 Draft Inventory.

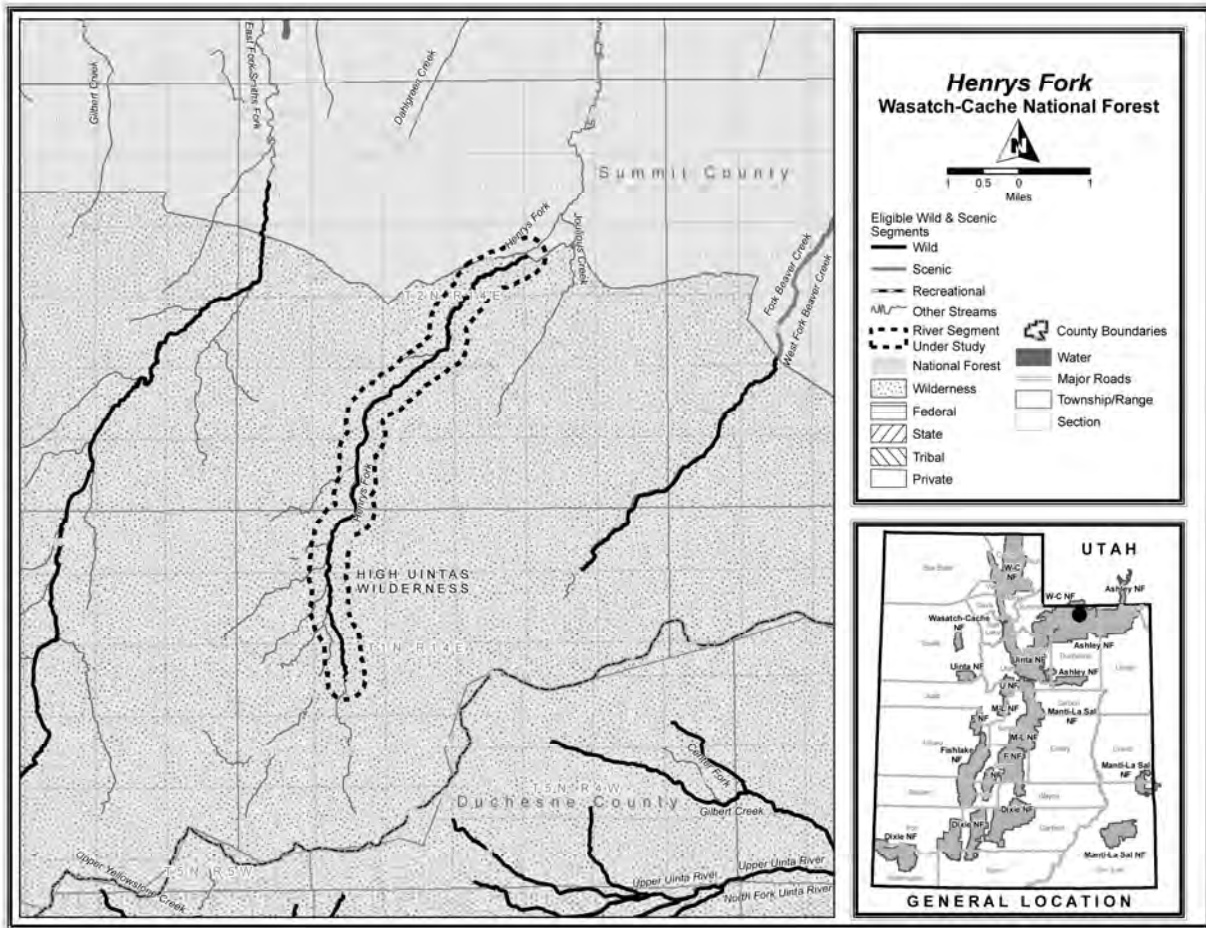
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This 7.8-mile long segment contributes to the basin integrity as it incorporates the entire length of Fifth Water Creek, a tributary of Diamond Fork Creek. The majority of this segment has little development, other than trails which follow the stream. Although the area encompassing the corridor lies within two different forest plan management prescriptions, these prescriptions are similar other than that one pertains to more of a forested environment than the other.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

No commitment has been expressed to date. The Spanish Fork Ranger District which manages this river corridor has a long history of considerable volunteerism. It is possible that, given the importance of the hot pots to many users and the history of volunteer service on the District, some volunteers would come forward or could be found to help with management of the trails and/or hot pots and corridor.

Henry's Fork Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Henry's Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 8.0 miles, from Henry's Fork Lake to the trailhead

Eligible: same

Location:

Henry's Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
Segment 1	Start	End	Classification	Miles
	SW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 17, T 1 N, R 14 E, SLM	SW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 14, T 2 N, R 14 E, SLM	Wild	8.0

Physical Description of River Segment:

This river segment flows between elevations ranging from 9,400-10,900 feet. The entire segment flows through National Forest system lands. The stream originates in a glacially carved basin that includes many glacial features such as cirques, arêtes, horns, talus slopes, and lakes. The stream traverses extensive glacial deposits in the upper portions of the watershed.

No threatened, endangered, or sensitive species have been identified in the corridor, although habitat is available for wolverine, Canada lynx, boreal owl, goshawk, and great gray owl, all sensitive species. Deer, elk, moose and rocky mountain big horn sheep inhabit the area. Habitat for mountain goats is also present. Smaller species include pika and ptarmigan. Fish species include cutthroat trout (possibly Colorado cutthroat trout, a sensitive species), brook trout and rainbow trout. The State of Utah ranks the fishing on this segment as Class II (of great importance).

Upland vegetation consists of lodgepole pine and aspen at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forest at higher elevations. Krummholz spruce-fir parklands and true alpine vegetation grow near the upper cirque basin. There is diversity of riparian communities including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities, with a variety of willows and associated understory species are in relatively stable condition. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur in the corridor

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: This segment from Henrys Fork Lake to the trailhead is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. This segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic – Henrys Fork Lake nestled in an alpine mountain basin in the heart of the High Uintas Wilderness marks the origin of this segment. The broad riparian areas mix with the spruce-fir parklands to offer a striking alpine view to visitors. Lodgepole pine and aspen and scattered alpine meadows found lower on the segment create an exceptional riparian environment as the river descends. At times hikers on the nearby trail are afforded an especially attractive view looking down on the river. Though outside of the corridor, breathtaking views of Gilbert Peak and Kings Peak complement the values found in the corridor. The scenic value is outstandingly remarkable.

Recreation – The recreational experience is relatively diverse for a primitive setting. Both solitude and small group experiences are common. Access is easy from the trailhead. This is the shortest and probably the easiest access to Kings Peak. The recreation experience is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Wildlife – Diversity of wildlife species, including four large ungulates and their habitats, are good. Unique species such as the ptarmigan and reintroduced big horn sheep are attractions people look for. Wildlife represents an outstandingly remarkable value.

Ecology – Diversity of riparian communities, including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities with a variety of associated understory species in relatively stable condition constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Wild

The Henrys Fork segment from Henrys Fork Lake to the trailhead is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a wild river because the stream and the stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.

- It is essentially primitive.
- There is little or no evidence of human activity.
- There is some presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- There is a limited amount of domestic grazing.
- There is little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- The area is inaccessible except by trail.
- There are no roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the river area except one accessing the Henrys Fork Trailhead and parking lot.
- The stream meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The ownership pattern of land of this river segment begins at the origin at the headwaters in the High Uintas Wilderness. The majority of this river segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness (7.9990 miles) except for the lowest 0.0016 mile portion between the trailhead and the wilderness boundary.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0- 8.0	Wasatch-Cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness	2571
	Total:	2571 acres

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Trail 117 parallels the segment for its full length to Henrys Fork Lake from the trailhead and offers good hiking, horseback riding, and fishing.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral or oil and gas development. The small portion of the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Grazing Activities – Sheep graze in the upper part of the drainage as part of the Henrys Fork and Hessie Lake Allotments and cattle graze in the lower part of this valley on the Red Mountain Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Recreation Activities – Trail 117 parallels the segment for its full length from the trailhead to Henrys Fork Lake and offers good hiking, horseback riding, and fishing. The many lakes in this pristine setting are heavily used during the summer months and into the early fall. Boy Scout groups are common users. These are wonderful settings for high quality primitive recreation experiences, with vistas of high elevation lakes and massive rock outcrops and ridges. Experience quality is relatively diverse for a primitive setting, with both solitude and small group experience common. Access to Henrys Fork Lake is easy from the trailhead and access to Kings Peak is short and easy from the lake basin.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in the stream corridor.

Special Designations – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness Area and is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. Activities specifically prohibited in the Wilderness Act are: commercial enterprises; roads and structures; the landing of aircraft; the use of motorized equipment; and motor or mechanical transport.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor in the High Uintas Wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.1 Opportunity Class I: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. RFP 4-64 2003

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to

meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed, except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

The small part of this stream corridor that is outside the Wilderness is within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.2d consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in a part of Summit County that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through the Evanston Ranger District.

Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the Trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away: people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency for lands along this segment is the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the Henrys Fork.

During scoping comments were received that both supported and opposed designation of this segment. Conservation organizations and others thought protecting the Henrys Fork was important. Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses.

During the Draft EIS comment period comments were received in opposition and support for the Henry's Fork segment. Daggett County and interests from Lyman, Wyoming did not support designation of this segment. Reasons given for not supporting the segment include possible future restriction of access to

Kings Peak and that the stream is not regionally or nationally significant. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for the Henrys Fork.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the Henrys Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness, RHCA, and roadless within the stream corridor. Designation would increase regulation over the small area of this stream corridor that is outside the Wilderness boundary and would be applied to allowable activities listed in the Forest Plan (2003) for this area such as future recreation and timber/fuels projects to the ¼-mile corridor.

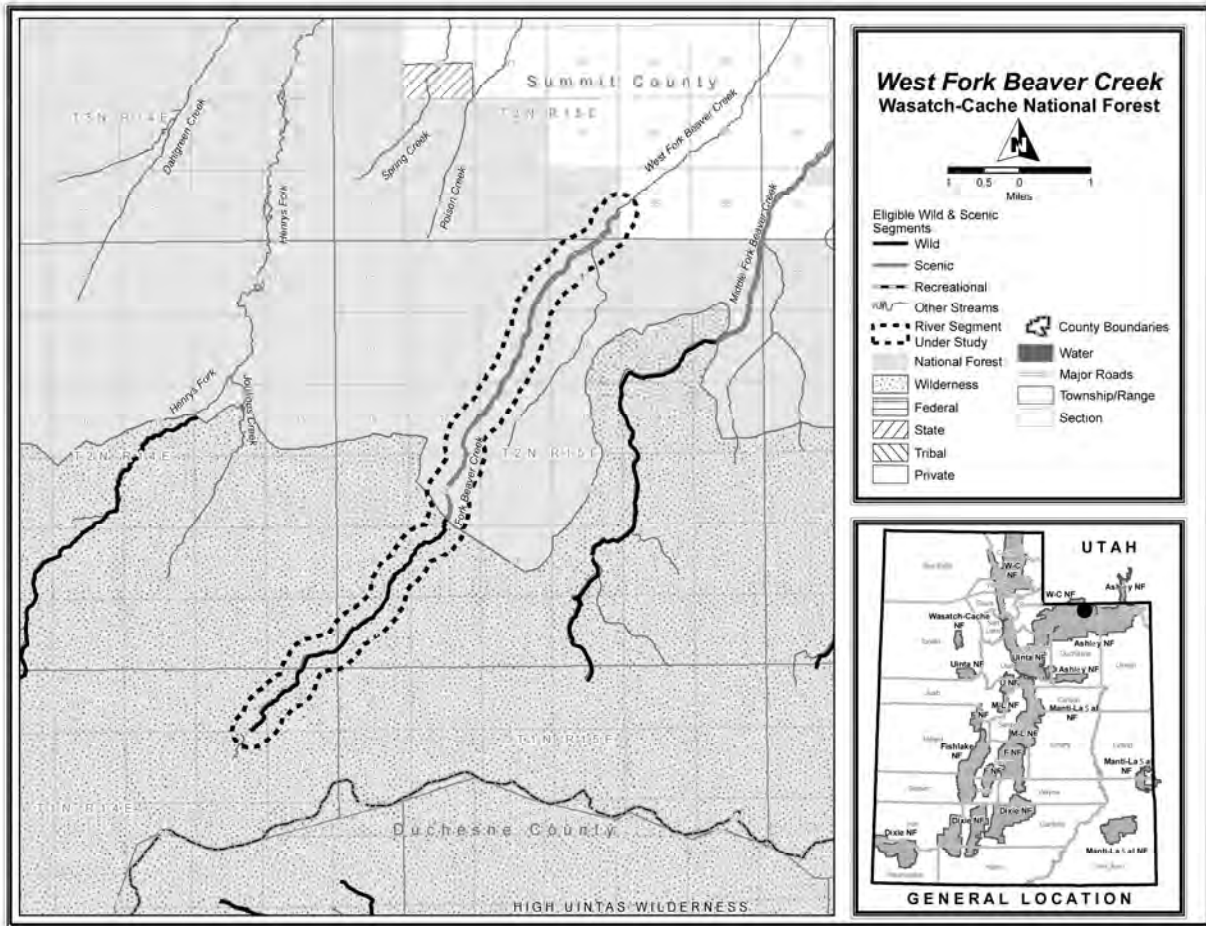
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the basin integrity since other nearby headwater streams in the Henrys Fork drainage have been found eligible. However because the eligible segment does not extend downstream much beyond the Wilderness boundary its contribution is limited to protecting the upper basin. The majority of this stream is in the High Uintas Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are currently no public volunteer commitments currently for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

West Fork Beaver Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: West Fork Beaver Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 10.1 miles, from source to Forest boundary

Eligible: Same

Location:

West Fork Beaver Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 12, T 1 N, R 14 E, SLM	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 20, T 2 N, R 15 E, SLM	Wild	4.6
Segment 2	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 20, T 2 N, R 15 E, SLM	NE ¼ NSE ¼ Sect. 34, T 3 N, R 15 E, SLM	Scenic	5.5

*The stream length has changed based on more accurate GIS data from 9 miles to 10.1 miles.

Physical Description of River Segment:

This river segment flows between elevations ranging from 8,720-11,033 feet. The stream originates in a

glacially carved basin that includes many glacial features such as cirques, arêtes, horns, talus slopes, and lakes. The stream traverses extensive glacial deposits in the upper portions of the watershed. Lower elevation riparian areas have conifers invading the riparian ecosystem, which is indicative of fire exclusion along this portion. Diversity of communities and species is, however, high throughout the segment with willow bottoms and narrow conifer bottoms, much like Henrys Fork. The upland vegetation consists of lodgepole pine and aspen at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forest at higher elevations. Krummholz spruce-fir parklands and true alpine vegetation grow near the upper cirque basin. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur in the corridor.

No threatened, endangered, or sensitive species have been identified in the corridor, although habitat is available for wolverine, Canada lynx, boreal owl, goshawk, and great gray owl, all sensitive species. Deer, elk, moose and rocky mountain big horn sheep inhabit the area. Habitat for mountain goats is also present. Smaller species include pika and ptarmigan. Fish species include cutthroat trout (possibly the Colorado cutthroat trout, a sensitive species), brook trout, longnose dace, sculpin and mountain sucker. The State of Utah ranks the fishing on this segment a Class III, an important fishery.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: Except for one road crossing, which does not restrict flow, there are no modifications or diversions on this segment. This segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Wildlife – Diversity of wildlife species, including four large ungulates and their habitats, are good. Unique species such as the ptarmigan and reintroduced big horn sheep are attractions people look for. Wildlife represents an outstandingly remarkable value.

Ecology – Diversity of riparian communities, including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities with a variety of associated understory species in relatively stable condition constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Segment 1—Wild; Segment 2--Scenic
The West Fork of Beaver Creek is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a wild river above the Wilderness boundary and scenic below the Wilderness boundary because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

The scenic segment is classified as scenic because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.
- Presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.
- The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable.
- Evidence of past logging or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable provided the forest appears natural from the river bank.
- Accessible in places by road.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The West Fork of the Beaver Creek from its source to the forest boundary is on the Mountain View Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. The segment is entirely on National Forest lands.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-4.6	Wasatch-Cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness	1536
4.6-10.1	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1844
Total acres:		3380 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The portion of the stream segment within the High Uintas Wilderness has been withdrawn from mineral or oil and gas development. The portion of the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – Except for one road crossing within the segment, there are no diversions or modifications within the segment. There are several irrigation diversions below the Forest boundary. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Road 189 provides access to the stream at the Forest boundary and Forest Road 082 crosses the stream about 1 mile above the Forest boundary. Trail 119 provides access to the remainder of the stream. The trail starts at the West Beaver Trailhead on Forest Road 082.

Grazing Activities – There are two cattle allotments on the scenic portion of West Fork Beaver Creek. The stream segment is within the Beaver Creek and Poison Mountain Cattle Allotments. There is a closed sheep allotment in the wild section. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. Ranchers must comply with grazing permits administered by the Forest.

Recreation Activities – The corridor receives moderate fishing and heavy hunting use, mostly by local residents. Hikers and some horseback riders use the trail to access the High Uintas Wilderness.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in this stream corridor.

Special Designations – West Fork Beaver Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas

(RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 4.3 miles of this stream corridor is within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Approximately 4.6 miles of this stream segment are within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the Wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.1 Opportunity Class I: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. RFP 4-64 2003

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land below the Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness: These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12, 7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities

(roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Management Prescription 3.2 Terrestrial Habitats (3.2U Undeveloped/3.2D Developed) Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

Management Prescription 3.2d consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County in a location that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the

years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency for lands along this segment is the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the West Fork Beaver Creek.

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses. A general comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

No comments were received specific to the West Fork Beaver Creek during the public comment period for the Draft EIS.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the West Fork Beaver Creek segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness, Recommended Wilderness and the RHCA within the stream corridor.

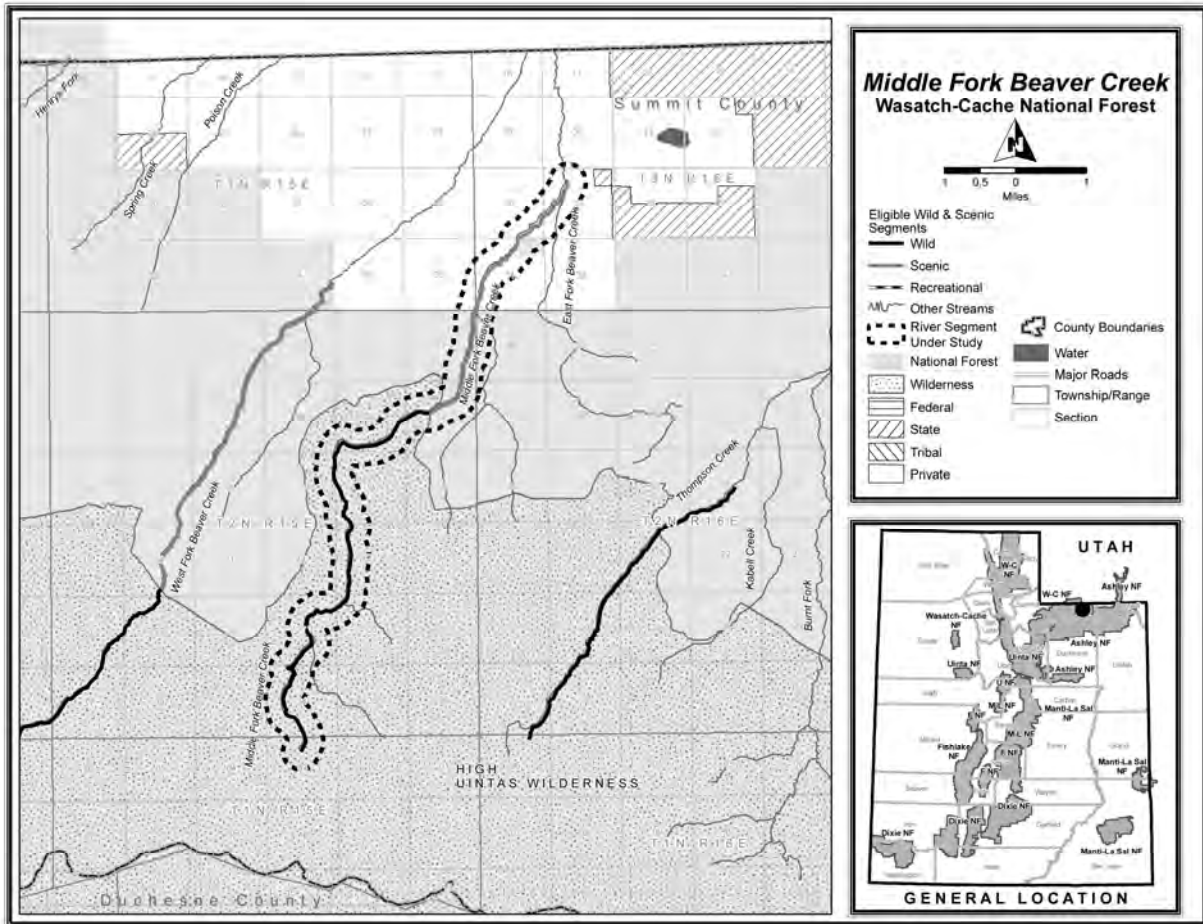
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the basin integrity as it incorporates the source of the West Fork Beaver Creek to the Forest boundary. This segment when combined with the Middle Fork Beaver Creek provides designation for two headwater streams of Beaver Creek.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

Middle Fork Beaver Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Middle Fork Beaver Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 11.1 miles, Beaver Lake to confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek

Eligible: Same

Location:

Middle Fork Beaver Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 3, T 1 N, R 15 E, SLM	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 12, T 2 N, R 15 E, SLM	Wild	6.9
Segment 2	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 12, T 2 N, R 15 E, SLM	SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 35, T 12 N, R 113 W, 6 th Principal Meridian (Wyoming)	Scenic	4.2

Physical Description of River Segment:

This river segment flows between elevations that range between 8,200 - 10,505 feet. The stream originates in a glacially carved basin that includes many glacial features such as cirques, arêtes, horns, talus slopes, and lakes. The stream traverses extensive glacial deposits in the upper portions of the

watershed.

Lower elevation riparian areas have conifers invading the riparian ecosystem, which is indicative of fire exclusion along this portion. Diversity of communities and species is, however, high throughout the segment with willow bottoms and narrow conifer bottoms, much like Henrys Fork. The upland vegetation consists of lodgepole pine and aspen at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forest at higher elevations. Krummholz spruce-fir parklands and true alpine vegetation grow near the upper cirque basin. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur in the corridor.

No threatened, endangered, or sensitive species have been identified in the corridor, although habitat is available for wolverine, Canada lynx, boreal owl, goshawk, and great gray owl, all sensitive species. Deer, elk, moose and rocky mountain big horn sheep inhabit the area. Habitat for mountain goats is also present. Smaller species include pika and ptarmigan. Fish species include cutthroat trout (possibly the sensitive Colorado cutthroat), brook trout, longnose dace, sculpin and mountain sucker. Above the Forest boundary the State of Utah ranks the fishing on this segment a Class III, an important fishery.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The stream is free from major channel modifications and structures. There is one small diversion below the Forest boundary. There are two road crossings, one on the Forest and one below the boundary. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. This segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Wildlife – Diversity of wildlife species, including four large ungulates and their habitats are good. Unique species such as the ptarmigan and reintroduced big horn sheep are attractions people look for. Wildlife represents an outstandingly remarkable value.

Ecology – Diversity of riparian communities, including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities with a variety of associated understory species in relatively stable condition constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segments: Segment 1—Wild; Segment 2—Scenic
The Middle Fork of Beaver Creek is eligible for the national Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a wild river above the wilderness boundary because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary

contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

The scenic segment is classified as scenic below the wilderness boundary because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.
- Presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.
- The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable.
- Evidence of past logging or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable provided the forest appears natural from the river bank.
- Accessible in places by road.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is on the Mountain View Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. Most of the segment is within Wilderness. The lower 2 miles are on private land.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-6.9	Wasatch-Cache National Forest Wilderness	2208
6.9-9.1	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	704
9.1-11.1	Private land	640
	Total:	3552 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

This area is zoned Agricultural Grazing (AG-160) by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. For private land in Utah, the Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral or oil and gas development. The portion of the

segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams or diversions inside the Forest boundary, and one small diversion below the Forest boundary. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – There are multiple access points to this area via Forest roads and trails. Forest roads 078, 082 and 164 provide access to the lower 3.5 miles of the segment. Forest road 164 terminates at the Middle Beaver Trailhead; Trail 120 starts at this trailhead and provides access to the Wilderness. Trails 105 and 108 merge near Long Meadow. Trail 109 follows the corridor from Long Meadow upstream to Beaver Lake.

Recreation Activities – In most of the corridor, views from the stream are limited to the surrounding coniferous forest. From the meadows, some of the nearby Uinta peaks can be viewed. Fishing use is moderate in the lower reaches and the Long Meadows area, and very light in the rest of the corridor. There is moderate use by local hunters and hikers in the corridor.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in this stream corridor. In lower reaches of the corridor there is some evidence of past logging.

Grazing Activities – The scenic section of Middle Fork Beaver Creek is within the Beaver Creek Cattle Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Special Designations – Middle Fork Beaver Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 6.0 miles of this stream corridor is within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Approximately 6.9 miles of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the Wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.1 Opportunity Class I: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. RFP 4-64 2003

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land below the Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than five inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Management Prescription 3.2 Terrestrial Habitats (3.2U Undeveloped/3.2D Developed) Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

Management Prescription 3.2d consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired

conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County, in a location that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions

numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

The majority of this stream segment is on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land and will be managed to maintain the integrity of the stream corridor. The level of development allowed on the private land within the corridor is managed by the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning regulations for AG-160.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the Middle Fork Beaver Creek.

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses including livestock grazing. A general comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

Two public comments were received opposing designation for Middle Fork Beaver Creek during the public comment period for the Draft EIS. Their concerns focused on the private lands within the segment and their concern of adverse effects on private water rights, stream degradation because of increased use, trespass on private lands, and a designation that would preclude multiple use activities.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

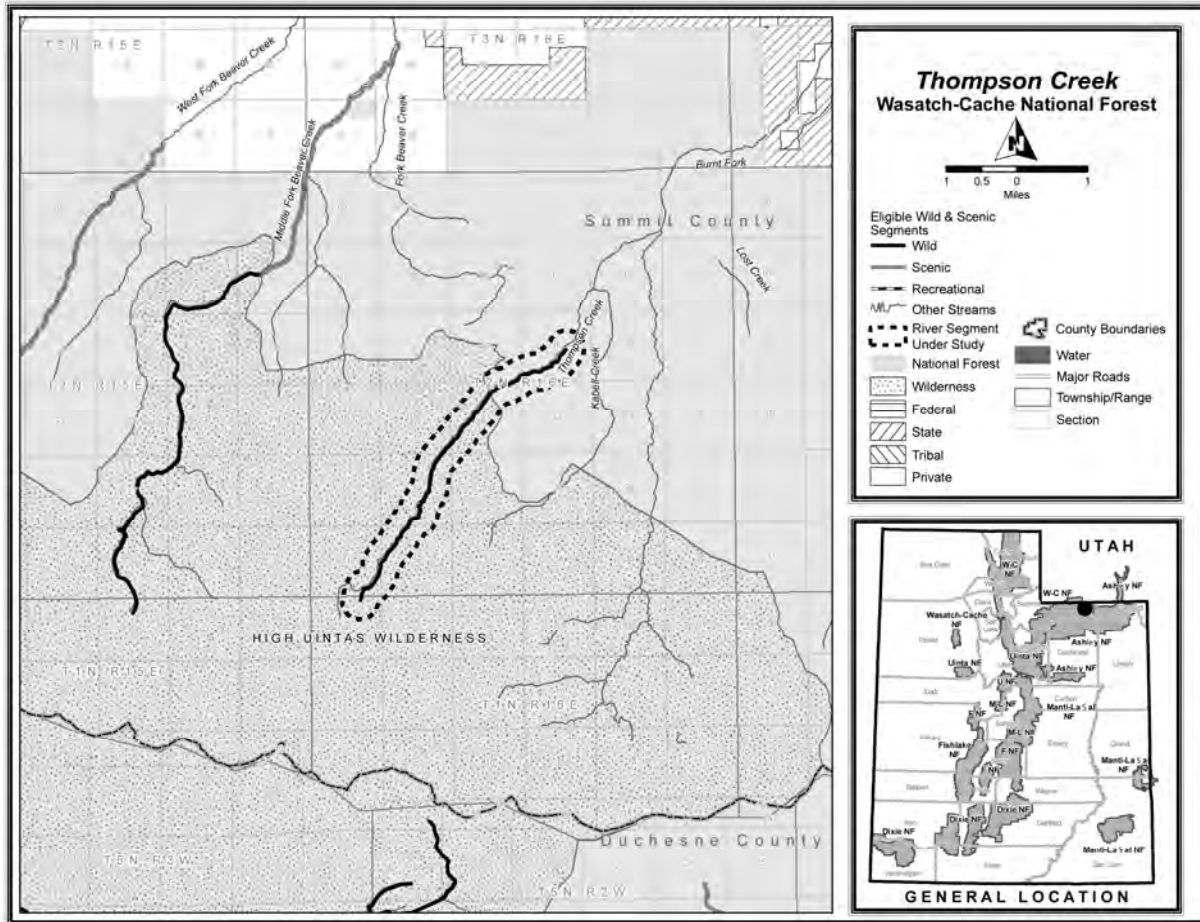
Designation of the Middle Fork Beaver Creek segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness, roadless and the RHCA within the stream corridor.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity. This segment contributes to the basin integrity as it incorporates the entire length of the Middle Fork Beaver Creek from Beaver Lake to the confluence of East Fork Beaver Creek. This segment, when combined with the West Fork Beaver Creek, provides designation for two of the three headwater streams of Beaver Creek.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

Thompson Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Thompson Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 5.1 miles, from source to Hoop Lake Diversion

Eligible: Same

Location:

Thompson Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW¼ NE ¼ Sect. 6, T 1 N, R 16 E, SLM	NW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 15, T 2 N, R 16 E, SLM	Wild	5.1

Physical Description of River Segment:

This river segment flows between elevations that range between 9,400 - 11,200 feet. This segment of Thompson Creek extends from a small glacially carved basin near North Burro Peak to the Hoop Lake diversion. Below the headwaters the segment flows through a consistently dense forested corridor and the

views from this heavily wooded corridor are limited. The corridor is heavily wooded with lodgepole pine and spruce-fir forests. A few wet meadows and willows occur along the stream. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species occur in the corridor.

No threatened, endangered, or sensitive animal species occur in the corridor. Habitat is available for wolverine, Canada lynx, boreal owl, goshawk, and great gray owl, all sensitive species. Deer, elk, moose and rocky mountain big horn sheep inhabit the area. Habitat for mountain goats is also present. Elk use in the area is heavy. Smaller species include pika and ptarmigan. Cutthroat/rainbow hybrid trout inhabit the stream.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from major channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Wildlife – Diversity of wildlife species, including four large ungulates and their habitats, are good. Unique species such as the ptarmigan and reintroduced big horn sheep are attractions people look for. Wildlife represents an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Wild

The Thompson Creek segment from the headwaters downstream to the Hoop Lake Diversion is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. This stream is classified as a wild river because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – Thompson Creek from its source to the Hoop Lake diversion is on the Mountain View Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. The segment is entirely on National Forest lands.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-4	Wasatch-Cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness	1218
4-5.1	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	481
	Total	1699 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral or oil and gas development. The portion of the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Access to this area is limited to Trail 122, which crosses the stream near Thompson Pass and the stream's headwaters. This trail connects with Trail 121 about halfway up the drainage; Trail 121 originates near Hoop Lake.

Recreation Activities – The recreation use along this corridor is lighter than other stream drainages, and does not constitute an outstandingly remarkable recreational value when compared to other corridors nearby. Recreation use is limited to moderate hunting pressure, and occasional hikers. Views from this heavily wooded corridor are limited. The fishery is rated Class III and receives light fishing pressure.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects within this stream corridor.

Grazing Activities – A small portion of this stream corridor is actively grazed. The Beaver Creek Cattle Allotment overlaps the end of the stream corridor. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Special Designations – Thompson Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 1.6 miles of this stream corridor are within a State of Utah Drinking Water Source Protection Zone (DWSPZ) for transient uses at nearby recreational sites. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Approximately 1.3 miles of this stream corridor is within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Approximately 3.7 miles are within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land in the High Uintas Wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.1 Opportunity Class I: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. RFP 4-64 2003

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land below the Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 2.6 Undeveloped Areas: Manage to protect undeveloped landscapes in a manner other than formal recommended wilderness. Although other uses and activities may occur, the primary emphasis is protection to assure the values and unique qualities associated with undeveloped areas are recognized and preserved. No new developments or activity that would alter the landscape or character are allowed, however use of motorized equipment (such as chainsaws for trail clearing) is allowed.

(S2.6) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, new recreation development, and new trail construction are not allowed.

(G2.6-1) Motorized uses, including snowmobiling are allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G2.6-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.6-3) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed to mimic conditions within the historic range of variability and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on

timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County, in a location that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledgers and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency for lands along this segment is the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river,

including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the Thompson Creek.

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses. A general comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

No public comments were received specific to Thompson Creek during the comment period for the Draft EIS.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the Thompson Creek segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness and the RHCA within the stream corridor.

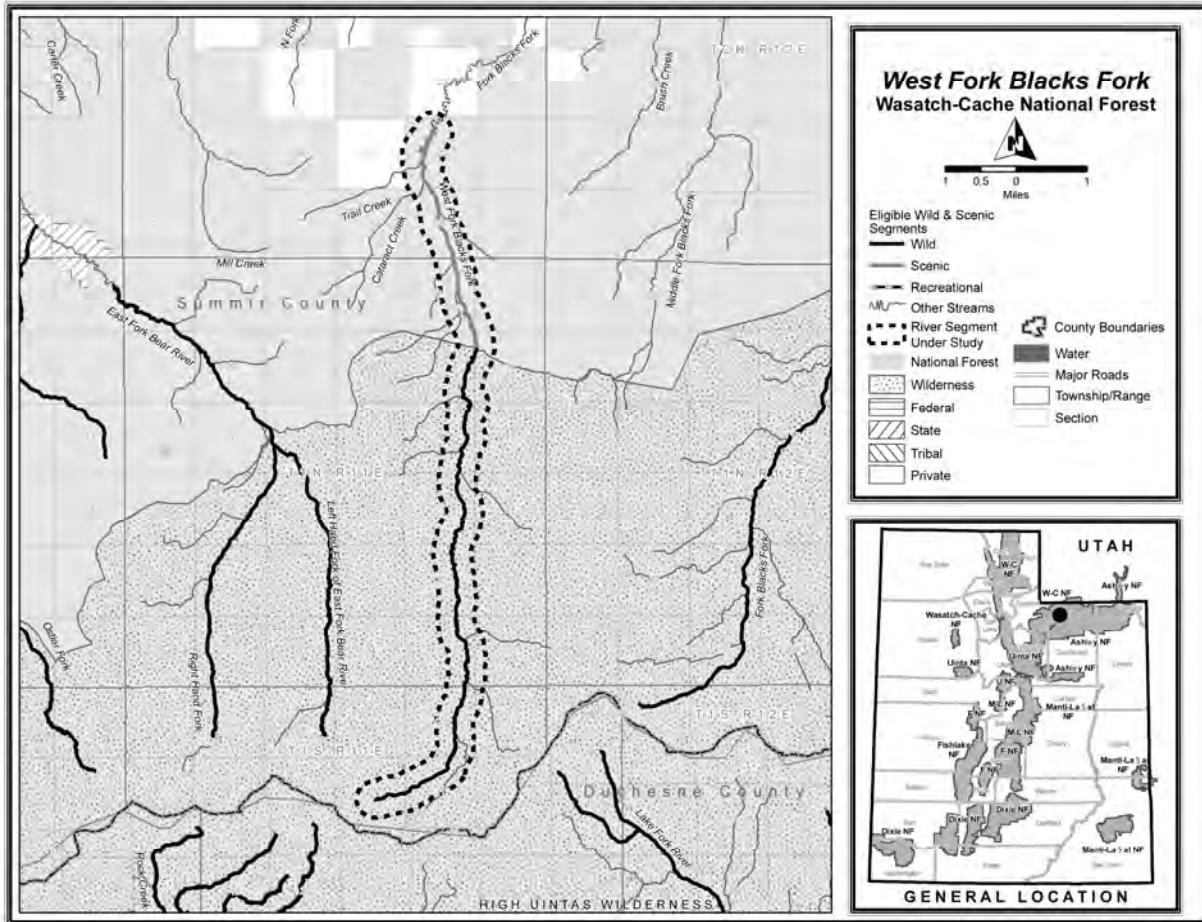
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the Henrys Fork basin integrity when combined with other eligible headwater segments of West Fork Beaver, Middle Fork Beaver, and the mainstem of the Henrys Fork. On a smaller scale, it is the only eligible stream within the Burnt Fork drainage and its flows are diverted into Hoop Lake. The majority of this stream is in the High Uintas Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

West Fork Blacks Fork Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: West Fork Blacks Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 11.9 miles, from source to trailhead

Eligible: same

Location:

West Fork Blacks Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 10, T 1 S, R 11 E, SLM	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 11, T 1 N, R 11 E, SLM	Wild	8.0
Segment 2	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 11, T 1 N, R 11 E, SLM	NE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 26, T 2 N, R 11 E, SLM	Scenic	3.9

Physical Description of River Segment:

This stream flows between elevations that range between 9,200-12,000 feet. The stream meanders through a relatively wide valley and outwash terraces. The West Fork valley bottom is fairly broad with some large meadows and willow bottoms.

The upper portion of this segment is typical of the alpine and subalpine communities of the Uinta Mountains. Krummholz spruce communities occur at higher elevations, while Engelmann spruce, subalpine fir, and lodgepole pine dominate at mid to lower elevations along this segment. Aspen communities and aspen/conifer communities also occur at lower elevations. Riparian communities typically occur as broad meadows dominated by tall and low growing willows with herbaceous undergrowth. Narrow riparian corridors with scattered tall willows growing beneath conifer overstories generally separate these meadows. This segment is more or less natural in appearance, with local dispersed recreation and livestock grazing impacts. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species occur along this segment.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from major channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenery – Wide meadows in a broad alpine valley mark the beginning of the segment. The segment offers a variety of scenes along its length with meadows, conifer forests and aspen communities. The pleasing setting is enjoyed by hikers of the West Fork Blacks Fork Trail. Outside of the corridor there are stunning views of the High Uintas enjoyed by photographers, hikers, and artists alike. The scenic values of the stream are outstandingly remarkable.

Ecology – Diversity of riparian communities, including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities with a variety of associated understory species in relatively stable condition constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segments: Segment 1—Wild; Segment 2—Scenic

The West Fork of Blacks Fork is eligible for the Wild and Scenic River System. It is classified as wild above the wilderness boundary and scenic below the wilderness. The wild segment is classified as wild because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

The scenic segment is classified as scenic because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.

- Presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.
- The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable.
- Evidence of past logging or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable provided the forest appears natural from the river bank.
- Accessible in places by road.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses –

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-8.0	Wasatch-Cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness	2548
8.0-11.9	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1190
	Private land within stream corridor	27
	Total:	3765 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

This area is zoned Agricultural Grazing (AG-160) by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. The Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral or oil and gas development. The small portion of the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Road 063 parallels the stream for most of the portion below the wilderness boundary. Trail 101 follows the stream, and provides access to the High Uintas Wilderness via Dead Horse Pass.

Recreation Activities – Hiking into the High Uintas Wilderness along an established trail is a good recreation opportunity, as is other dispersed use, but the area is not heavily utilized, and there is no developed opportunity available. Most users are local and Wasatch Front residents.

Some photography opportunities are spectacular. The wide meadows and valley afford spectacular views of the High Uintas, which offer artists, hikers and photographers a distinctive setting. Vegetation diversity shows a high degree of patterning when looking at larger vistas. Fishing and hunting opportunities are similar to those in other local drainages. The State of Utah ranking for fishing is Class III, important. Boating is not possible.

Grazing Activities – This segment is within the West Fork Blacks Fork and the Larson Sheep Allotments. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. Ranchers must comply with grazing permits administered by the Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There is one hunting outfitter guide whose area covers the Evanston District. Recreation related economic opportunities are limited.

Special Designations – The West Fork Blacks Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 7.4 miles of the West Fork Blacks Fork are within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the majority of the stream segment corridor:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest for the stream corridor south of the

Bear River Smiths Fork Trail 091:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness: These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12, 7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest for the stream corridor north of the Bear River Smiths Fork Trail 091:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County, in a location that occupies a

rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

There were public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that provided support for eligibility and designation for the West Fork Blacks Fork segment.

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses. A general supportive comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

Two public comments received during the comment period for the Draft EIS state that the West Fork Blacks Fork segment should not be designated, due to the adverse effects designation will have on timber management, grazing and access to and operation of the early warning sites for reservoir management that are located on this segment. Further, some portion of the segment is already protected by Wilderness.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the West Fork Blacks Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness, Recommended Wilderness and the RHCA within the stream corridor. Designation would also be consistent with the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources and Wyoming Fish and Games plan for improving trout fisheries.

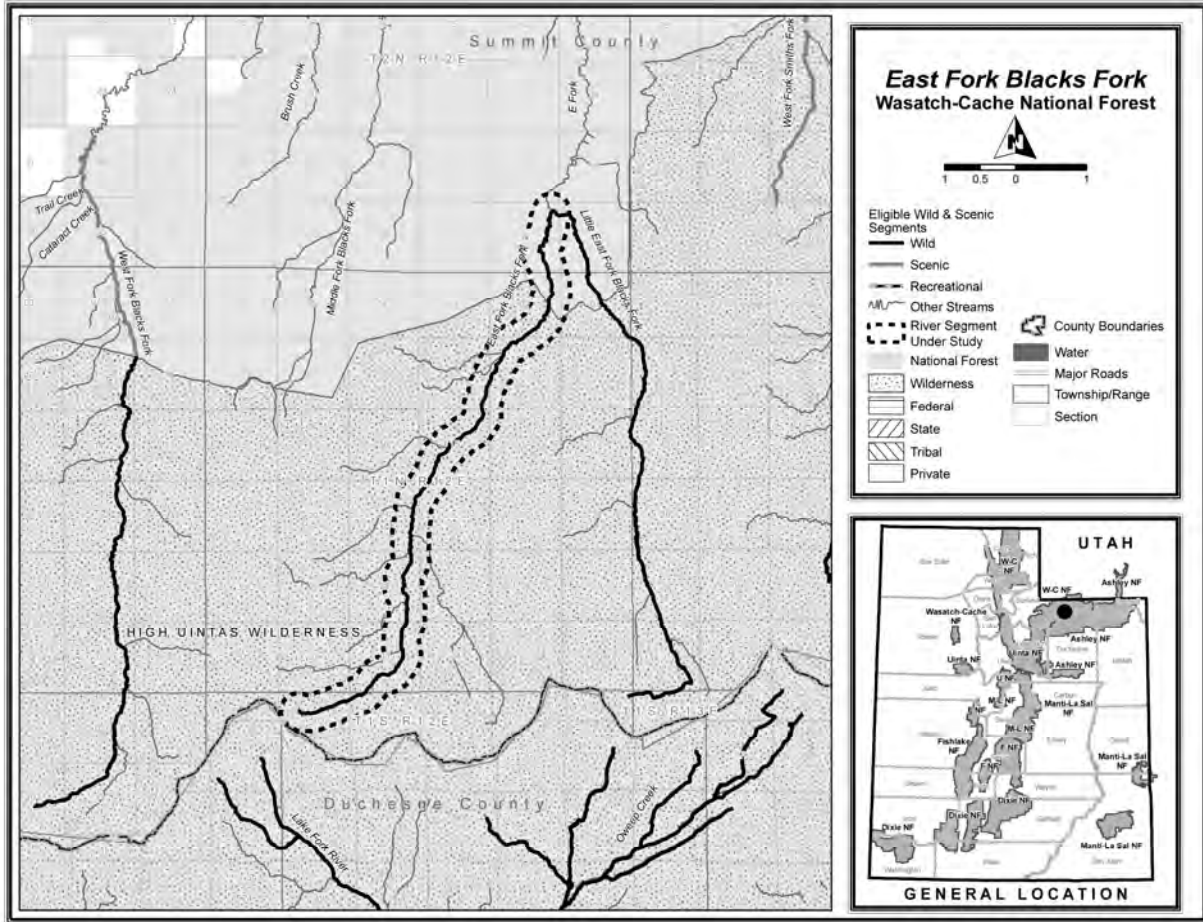
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Should this segment be found suitable, it would contribute to basin integrity especially when combined with the other eligible headwater segments of the Blacks Fork drainage; namely, the Little East Fork and East Fork Blacks Fork.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Evanston Ranger District.

East Fork Blacks Fork Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: East Fork Blacks Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 9.6 miles, from source to confluence with Little East Fork

Eligible: Same

Location:

East Fork Blacks Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 5, T 1 N, R 12 E, SLM	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 35, T 2 N, R 12 E, SLM	Wild	9.6

Physical Description of River Segment:

Elevations range from 9,400-11,000 feet. This is a fairly typical north-flowing High Uinta stream. There are not a lot of lakes in this drainage, and the drainage that the stream and canyon has cut is narrower than some adjacent to it. It is not a very steep drainage, but the stream bed is rocky. It has few meanders or falls. Soils are typical, thin rocky high elevation forest soils. It is surrounded by the high ridges of the

Uinta Mountains. The creek has its headwaters in the alpine zone, and then flows through lodgepole forests which typically grow adjacent to the stream banks. A few small meadows are present in the middle portion of the segment, while some larger meadows are present near the confluence. Wildlife is typical of that found across the north slope of the Uintas. Threatened or endangered species are not present. Sensitive species may be present. The sensitive Colorado cutthroat trout is present.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from dams, diversions or other modifications. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Ecology – Diversity of riparian communities, including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities with a variety of associated understory species in relatively stable condition constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Wild

The East Fork Blacks Fork is eligible for the Wild and Scenic Rive System. The stream is classified as a wild river because it is a primitive, unmodified environment. This wild segment is classified as wild because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This river segment is almost completely within the High Uintas Wilderness with only the last 1.6 miles being below the wilderness boundary. It is all on the National Forest on the Evanston Ranger District.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-8.0	Wasatch-Cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness	2538
8.0-9.6	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	520
	Total:	3058 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral entry and mineral leasing. The small portion of the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are

no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – This segment is accessed from Forest Trail 102 which parallels the stream and begins at the East Fork Blacks Fork Guard Station. Visitors can also come into the drainage by trail from the Ashley National Forest side through Red Knob pass. The area is accessed from the East Fork Blacks Fork Trailhead which is well-developed and has eight campsites present.

Recreation Activities – Scenery and views from the river corridor vary some along its length, but are often restricted by conifers and the narrowness of the canyon. Outdoor recreation provides a primitive, wilderness experience. Winter uses in the area are minimal, due to its remote location, but some snowmobiling use is present. Visitor numbers here are lower than in some adjacent drainages, as the drainage lacks the larger lakes that attract visitors (fishing pressure) to some other areas. The State of Utah rates the fishery as a Class III (important).

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in this stream corridor.

Grazing Activities – The area is an active sheep grazing allotment. Sheep graze in the upper part of the drainage as part of the East Fork Blacks Fork Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Special Designations – The East Fork Blacks Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness Area and is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. Activities specifically prohibited in the Wilderness Act are: commercial enterprises; roads and structures; the landing of aircraft; the use of motorized equipment; and motor or mechanical transport.

Approximately 1.6 miles of this stream corridor are within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor within the

High Uintas Wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor below the High Uintas Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness: These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12, 7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use, and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County, Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah.

In 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There are a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uinta Mountains come from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the East Fork Blacks Fork.

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses, including grazing. A general supportive comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

Several public comments were received during the comment period for the Draft EIS reflecting support and opposition for the East Fork Blacks Fork River segment. Reasons for supporting this segment include wildlife and scenic values. Opposition to any tributary of the Blacks Fork being designated was grounded in a concern of adverse effects on timber management, grazing and access to and operation of the early warning sites for reservoir management. Further, some portion of the segment is already protected by Wilderness.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the East Fork Blacks Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness, RHCA, and Recommended Wilderness within the stream corridor.

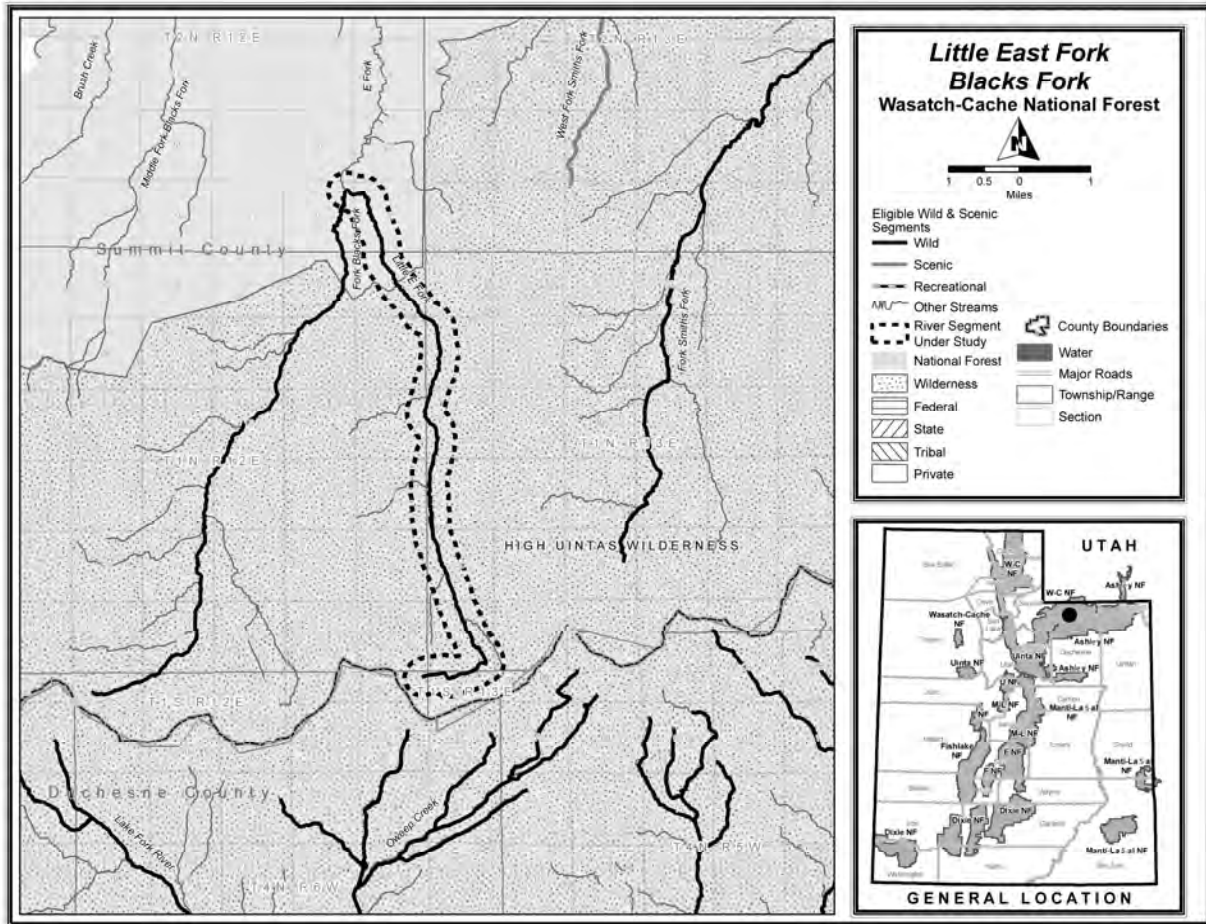
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Should this segment be found suitable it would contribute to basin integrity especially when combined with the other eligible segments of the Blacks Fork drainage; namely, the Little East Fork, West Fork Blacks Fork, and the mainstem of the Blacks Fork. The majority of this stream is in the High Uintas Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

Little East Fork Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Little East Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 9.2 miles, from source to confluence with East Fork Blacks Fork

Eligible: same

Location:

Little East Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 32, T 1 N, R 13 E, SLM	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 35, T 2 N, R 12 E, SLM	Wild	9.2

Physical Description of River Segment:

This segment of the Little East Fork flows between elevations ranging from 9,400-11,400 feet from its source near Squaw Pass, downstream to its confluence with Little East Fork. This is a fairly typical north-flowing High Uintas stream. There are not a lot of lakes in the drainage, and the drainage that the stream and canyon has cut is narrower than some adjacent to it. It is not a very steep drainage, but the stream bed is rocky. It has few meanders or falls. Soils are typical, thin rocky high elevation forest soils. It is surrounded by the high ridges of the Uintas. The creek has its headwaters in the alpine zone, then

flows through lodgepole forests which typically grow adjacent to the stream banks. A few small meadows are present in the middle portion of the segment, while some larger meadows are present near the confluence. It is a primitive, unmodified environment. Upland vegetation consists of lodgepole pine and aspen at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forest at higher elevations. Krummholz spruce-fir parklands and true alpine vegetation grow near the upper cirque basin. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive species have been identified in the corridor, although habitat is available for wolverine, Canada lynx, boreal owl, goshawk, and great gray owl, all sensitive species. Deer, elk, and moose inhabit the area. Habitat for mountain goats is also present. Smaller species include pika and ptarmigan. Fish species include Colorado cutthroat trout (a sensitive species), brook trout and rainbow trout.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from dams, diversions or other modifications. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Ecology – Diversity of riparian communities including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities, with a variety of willows and associated understory species are in relatively stable condition constitutes and outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Wild

The Little East Fork is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The classification is wild because: the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The Little East Fork, from its source near Squaw Pass downstream to its confluence with Little East Fork, is located on the Evanston Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. The segment lies entirely within National Forest system lands.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-7.4	Wasatch-cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness	2290
7.4-9.2	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	591
	Total:	2881 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral entry and mineral leasing. The small portion of

the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the Forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Trail 103 provides access to the corridor, off of Trail 102 from the East Fork Blacks Fork Guard Station. The area is accessed from the East Fork Blacks Fork Trailhead which is well-developed and also has eight campsites present.

Grazing Activities – This entire segment is within the East Fork Blacks Sheep Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Recreation Activities – Recreation use is moderately high and consists of fishing, biking and horseback riding. Fishing pressure is moderate. The State of Utah rates the fishery as a Class III (important). From some locations within the segment vistas of the High Uinta peaks are visible.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in this stream corridor.

Special Designations – The Little East Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 7.4 miles of the Little East Fork are within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the majority of the stream segment corridor:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest for the remainder of the stream

segment outside of wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness: These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12,7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment –This stream is located in Summit County, a place that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the Trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following

designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the Little East Fork.

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses. A general supportive comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

During the public comment period for the Draft EIS, one supporting comment was submitted for this segment citing its pristine ecological condition. Opposition to any tributary of the Blacks Fork being designated was grounded in a concern of adverse effects on timber management, grazing and access to and operation of the early warning sites for reservoir management. Further, some portion of the segment is already protected by Wilderness.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the Little East Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness and Recommended Wilderness within the stream corridor.

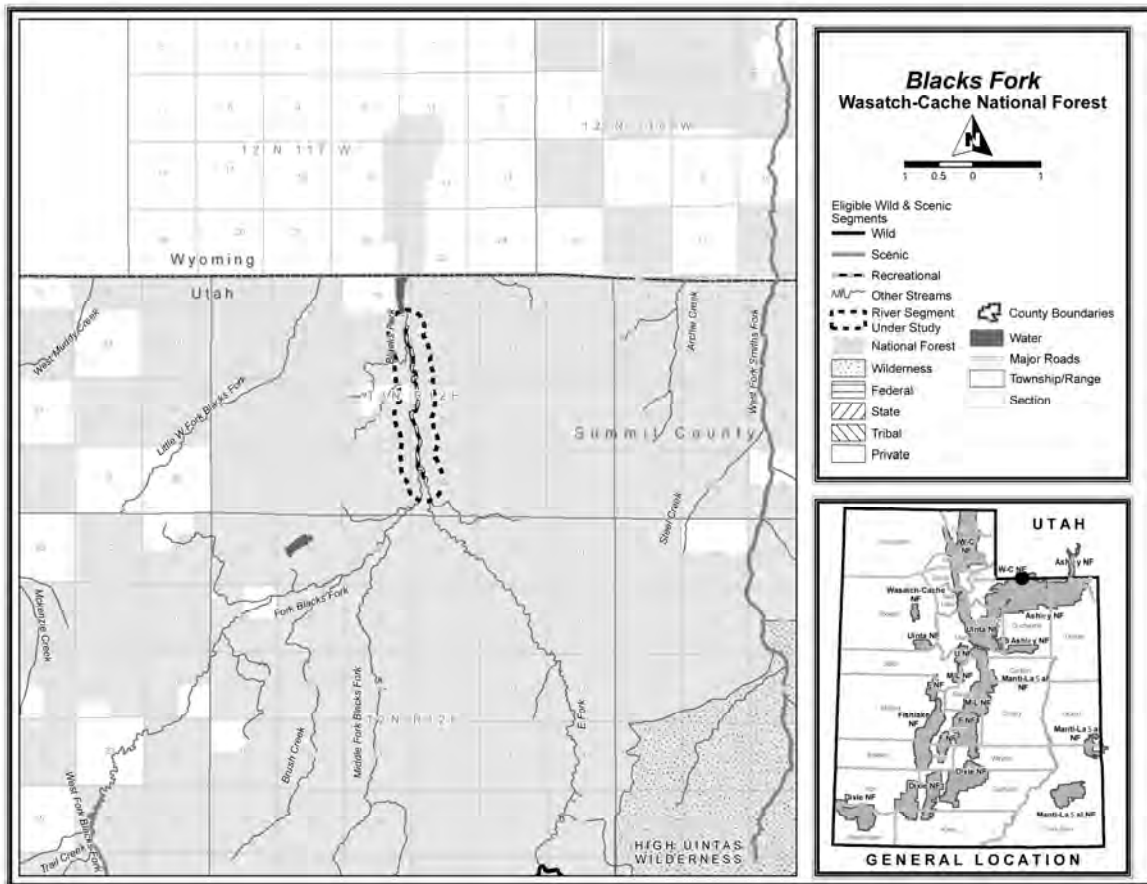
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Should this segment be found suitable it would contribute to basin integrity, especially when combined with the other eligible headwater segments in the Blacks Fork drainage; namely, the East Fork and West Fork. The majority of this stream is in the High Uintas Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

Blacks Fork River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Blacks Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 2.7 miles, from confluence with West Fork Blacks Fork and East Fork Blacks Fork to Meek's Cabin Reservoir

Eligible: Same

Location:

Blacks Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 5, T 1 N, R 12 E, SLM	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 35, T 2 N, R 12 E, SLM	Recreational	2.7

Physical Description of River Segment:

Elevations range from 8,700 to 8,800 feet within this segment from the confluence on the East Fork Blacks and the West Fork Black Fork Rivers to the inlet of the Meeks Cabin Reservoir. This segment is located in the glacial outwash valley bottom with braided sections at and below the confluence. The uplands of this section are characterized by lodgepole pine forests with some scattered openings dominated by sagebrush. Lodgepole occurs along the stream margins in narrow riparian bottoms while tall willows dominate areas with broader floodplains. Riparian communities are more or less natural in

appearance with few areas dominated by introduced species.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

History – The Old Blacks Fork Commissary is the most outstanding tie hack site in the Uintas. The historical tie hacking operations in the Uintas were river related since the rivers were the means of moving the timbers downstream. The character, size, and condition of the commissary and its eligibility for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places makes for an outstandingly remarkable value. The Old Blacks Fork Commissary is on a private inholding along the segment and not on National Forest System land

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Recreational

The Blacks Fork Segment from the confluence of West Fork Blacks Fork and the East Fork Blacks Fork to Meek's Cabin Reservoir is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream classification is recreational because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions or other modification of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains free-flowing and generally natural and riverine in appearance.
- Some developments. Substantial evidence of human activity.
- The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable.
- Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural uses.
- Lands may have been developed for the full range of forestry uses.
- Readily accessible by road or railroad.
- The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.
- Water quality sufficient to maintain outstandingly remarkable values.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is on the Evanston Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. National Forest dominates ownership patterns. A limited area of one-quarter mile along the west bank is privately owned, but this land does not include the stream channel.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-2.7	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	894
	Private Land within stream corridor	31
	Total:	925 acres

This area is zoned Agricultural Grazing (AG-160) by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. The Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities –There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic

value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. The Blacks Fork stream segment corridor is within a high oil and gas potential area.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The stream is paralleled by Forest Road 058 which is gravel and receives light to moderate use. This road has been designated a scenic backway. Recreation opportunities along this segment are for dispersed recreation, and no developed facilities are present.

Recreation Activities – Scenic values along this segment are of midground and foreground settings with no distinctive scenes of the High Uinta peaks available. The Old Blacks Fork Commissary is the outstanding tie hack site in the Uintas. It is on a private inholding and not on National Forest System land, and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Hunting, fishing, and photography opportunities are all average for the area. The State of Utah ranks fishing here Class III (important).

Other Resource Activities – Economic values that might be derived from recreation are not outstanding, unless some significant capital investment in the Old Commissary site could attract visitors. There is one hunting outfitter guide whose area covers the Evanston District.

Grazing Activities – This stream segment corridor occurs within the Blacks Fork-Smiths Fork Cattle Allotment, the Little West Fork Sheep Allotment, and the Lyman Lake Sheep Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Special Designations – The Blacks Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within along the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuel wood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land on the east side of the stream outside the 3.1a and 6.1 corridors:

Management Prescription 3.2 Terrestrial Habitats (3.2U Undeveloped/3.2D Developed) Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

Management Prescription 3.2d consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land at the very end of the segment:

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor north of the checkerboard ownership of private and National Forest land:

Management Prescription 6.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring non-forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives. Emphasis is on non-forested vegetation properly functioning conditions (i.e. vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability).

Management encompasses the full range of land and resource treatment activities.

(G6.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non

commodity outputs and services.

(G6.1-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G6.1-3) Road construction, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County which occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway, or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There are a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledgers and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency for lands along this segment is the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which

include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

The majority of this stream segment is on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land and will be managed to maintain the integrity of the stream corridor. The level of development allowed on the private land within the corridor is managed by the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning regulations for AG-160 for private land in Utah.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

There were public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that provided support for eligibility and designation for the Blacks Fork segment. Two comments related specifically to private landowners' rights and ownership of the historic property that could be removed (the historic building is the value for which this segment is considered outstanding).

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses. A general supportive comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

This segment received both supportive and opposing comments during the comment period for the Draft EIS. The State of Wyoming opposed designation to preserve the potential for expansion of the Meeks Cabin Reservoir. Two comments were opposed to designating any river segment in the Blacks Fork watershed because of a concern that designation will restrict multiple use potential, constrain economic benefit to Uinta County, Wyoming and that many miles were already protected by wilderness designation. Supportive comments included protecting the historical importance and beauty of the area.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

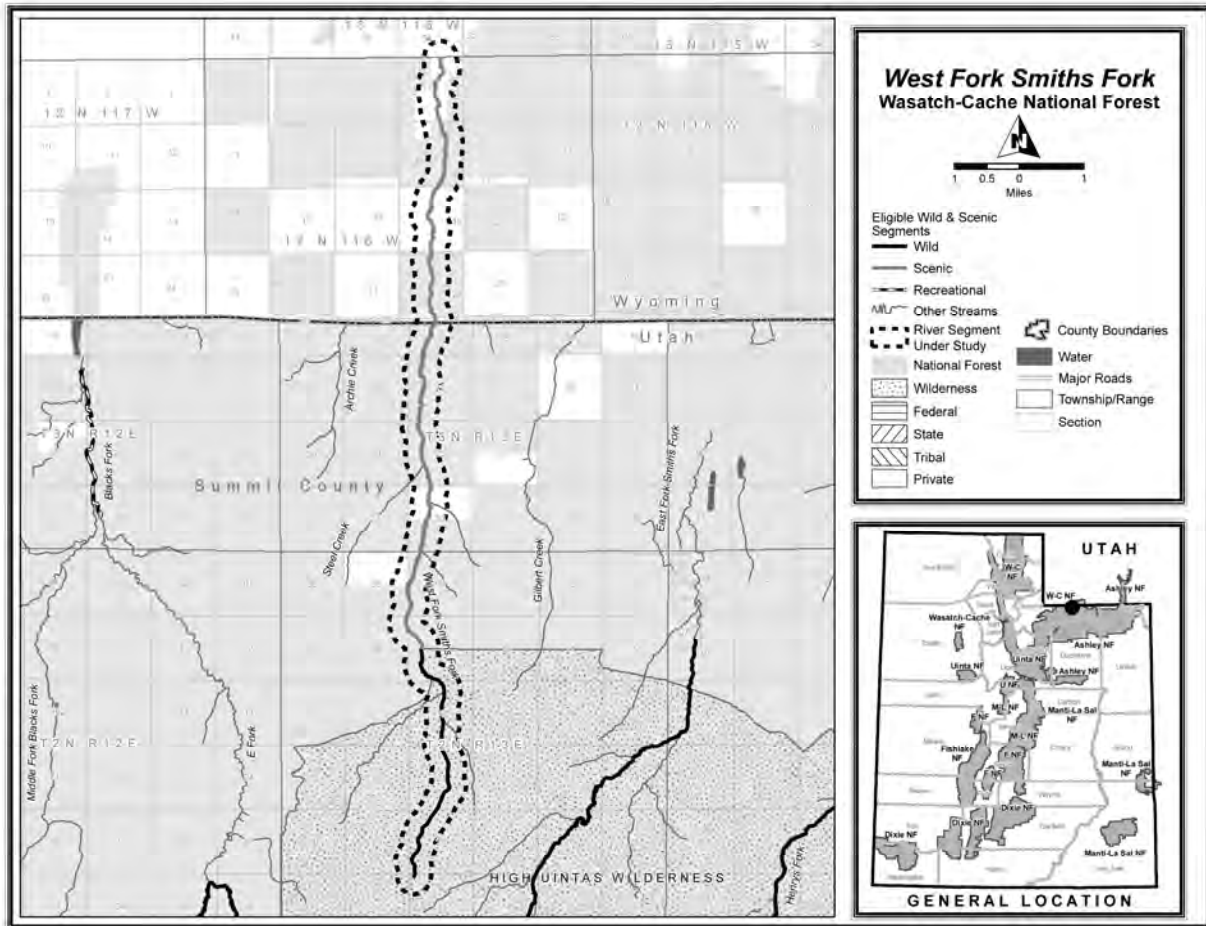
Designation of the Blacks Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the RHCA and the developed terrestrial environments within the stream corridor. Designation may add further restrictions to areas within the stream corridor managed for vegetation treatment projects.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes little to the basin integrity as it is a very short segment of the main stem of the Blacks Fork and is far removed from the three eligible segments located in the headwaters of the Blacks Forks drainage.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment. There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

West Fork Smiths Fork Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: West Fork Smiths Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 14.48 miles, source to Forest boundary

Eligible: Same

Location:

West Fork Smiths Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District, Summit County, Utah, and Uinta County, Wyoming		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 33, T 2 N, R 13 E, SLM	Wilderness Boundary	Wild	4.09
Segment 2	Wilderness Boundary	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 3, T 12 N, R 116 W, 6 th Principal Meridian (WY)	Scenic	10.39

Physical Description of River Segment:

Elevations range from 8,460-10,800 feet within this segment from encompassing glacially carved headwater basin to the lower end of the corridor, where upland vegetation consists of sagebrush and mountain brush, with aspen thickets. Riparian vegetation consists of broad willow communities and wet

meadows. In the upper part of the corridor, upland vegetation consists of lodgepole pine, aspen, mixed conifer and sagebrush. Extensive, but narrow, willow communities and some wet meadows dominate the riparian areas. There are alpine meadows in the upper part of the corridor.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

History – The Hewinta Guard Station is a historically significant log ranger station dating from the late 1920's. The historic Suicide Park Grave site is also in the corridor. The remains of several tie hack cabins are upstream from the guard station. There are some groups of up to five cabins. A relatively well-preserved splash dam is related to the cabins. This complex of structures is a significant remnant of the tie hack era and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The presence and number of tie hack cabins, the graves in Suicide Park, the historic ranger cabin, and the eligibility for at least some of these for the National Register of Historic Places, makes the historic values of this stream outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Segment 1—Wild; Segment 2—Scenic

The West Fork Smiths Fork is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The portion of the stream and stream corridor that is in the High Uintas is classified as wild because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

The portion of the stream below the Wilderness boundary is classified as scenic because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.
- Presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.
- The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable.
- Evidence of past logging or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable provided the forest appears natural from the river bank.
- Accessible in places by road.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment of West Fork Smiths Fork extends from its source to the Forest boundary. The segment is located on the Mountain View Ranger District. The southern 4 miles lie in Summit County, Utah; the remainder is in Uintah County, Wyoming. Within the Forest boundary, about 3.0 miles lie on privately owned lands.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-6.0	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	3184
	Private Land in stream corridor	48
6.0-6.6	Private Land	170
6.6-9.5	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	856
9.5-9.6	Private Land	36
9.6-10.7	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	340
10.7-11.9	Private Land	350
11.9-13.3	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	396
13.3-14.5	Private Land	256
	Total:	5636 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within 1/4 mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

This area is zoned Agricultural Grazing (AG-160) by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. For private land in Utah, the Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas. For private land in Wyoming, development is directed by the 2004 Uinta County, Wyoming Comprehensive Plan and Zoning for ARD (Agricultural Resource Development).

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The eligible segment of the West Fork Smiths Fork segment that is within the High Uintas Wilderness has been withdrawn from mineral entry. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. This stream corridor within the scenic segment is in a high oil and gas potential area and there is an active lease that shares approximately 1.2 miles of the West Fork

Smiths Fork stream corridor.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Road 074 provides access to the entire segment. Outside of the wilderness, Forest Road 074 crosses this segment once. The crossing alters the stream flow but not to the degree to impede its free-flowing character.

Grazing Activities – There is no grazing along this segment.

Recreation Activities – Recreation use is light and recreationists are predominantly local and Wasatch Front residents. Hunting, fishing, hiking, dispersed camping and driving for pleasure are the most common pursuits. The fishery is rated Class III, important.

Other Resource Activities – Portions of this reach have been logged in the past. There are active timber harvest activities on the private lands within this stream segment.

Special Designations – The West Fork Smiths Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 1.4 miles of this stream corridor is within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Approximately 3.7 miles of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for a small portion of Wasatch-Cache National Forest land below the Wilderness boundary on the west side of the stream:

Management Prescription 2.6 Undeveloped Areas: Manage to protect undeveloped landscapes in a manner other than formal recommended wilderness. Although other uses and activities may occur, the primary emphasis is protection to assure the values and unique qualities associated with undeveloped areas are recognized and preserved. No new developments or activity that would alter the landscape or character are allowed, however use of motorized equipment (such as chainsaws for trail clearing) is allowed.

(S2.6) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, new recreation development, and new trail construction are not allowed.

(G2.6-1) Motorized uses, including snowmobiling, are allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G2.6-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.6-3) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed to mimic conditions within the historic range of variability and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within along the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land below the Wilderness boundary outside of the 3.1a corridor near the private land adjacent to the Hewinta Guard Station:

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Management Prescription 5.2 Emphasis on managing timber for growth and yield while maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity. Emphasis is on timber growth and yield. Forested landscapes range in appearance from near natural to altered where management activities are evident. Goods and services

are provided within the productive capacity of the land, and ecological functions are maintained. The quantity of goods and services produced may or may not fully meet demand. Amenity values are provided for by management area direction.

(G5.2-1) Timber harvest, road construction and vegetation/fuel treatment are allowed for the purpose of timber growth and yield while maintaining productive capacity.

(G5.2-) Prior to use of prescribed fire and wildland fire use, investments made for timber production, such as road systems and silvicultural improvements, and the value of the timber for wood production receive consideration.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions that consider need for timber regeneration.

(G5.2-4) New recreation development and trail construction are allowed when compatible with commercial timber production.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor north of the checkerboard ownership of private and National Forest land:

Management Prescription 6.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring non-forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives. Emphasis is on non-forested vegetation properly functioning conditions (i.e. vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability).

Management encompasses the full range of land and resource treatment activities.

(G6.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G6.1-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G6.1-3) Road construction, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County, Utah and Uinta County, Wyoming. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. The county has a wide range of industries that influence its economy. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the Trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away. People from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local recreational use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledgers and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Summit County, Utah and Uinta County, Wyoming. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the 2003 WCNF Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in having the river deemed wild and scenic, or in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

The majority of this stream segment is on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land and will be managed to maintain the integrity of the stream corridor. The level of development allowed on the private land within the corridor is managed by the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning regulations for AG-160 for private land in Utah and the 2004 Uinta County, Wyoming Comprehensive Plan and Zoning for ARD (Agricultural Resource Development).

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the West Fork Smiths Fork.

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses. A general supportive comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

One comment received during the comment period for the Draft EIS was opposed to designating any river segment in the Smiths Fork watershed because of a concern that designation will restrict grazing, timber harvest and maintenance of the forest health. Further many miles were already protected by wilderness designation and local management has been sufficient in the past

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the West Fork Smiths Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness, RHCA, and roadless within the stream corridor.

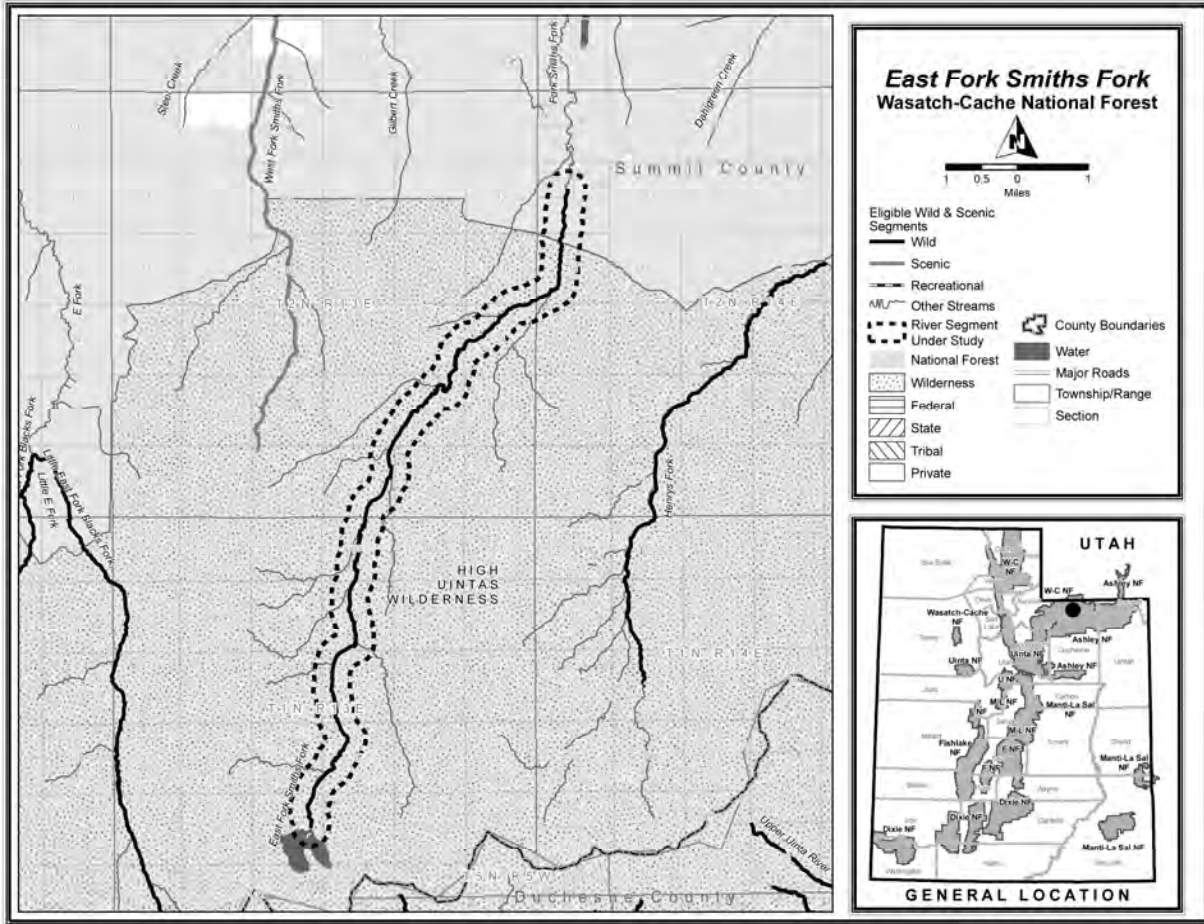
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the basin integrity as it incorporates the headwaters to the Forest boundary. The majority of this stream is in the High Uintas Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

East Fork Smiths Fork River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: East Fork Smiths Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 11.8 miles, Red Castle Lake to trailhead

Eligible: same

Location:

East Fork Smiths Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 33, T 1 N, R 13 E, SLM	NE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 7, T 2 N, R 13 E, SLM	Wild	11.8

Physical Description of River Segment:

Elevations range from 9,400-11,300 feet along this segment, which originates from intensively glaciated headwaters and cirques and traverses extensive moraines and meadow complexes. Peak flows occur in late spring from snowmelt. Summer flows are somewhat moderated by upstream lakes and meadows. Uplands vegetation consists of lodgepole pine and aspen in the lower elevations, changing to spruce-fir

forests at higher elevations. The upper cirque basin is characterized by Krummholz spruce-fir communities, alpine meadows, and scattered low-growing upland willows. Extensive willow stands grow in the broader riparian areas, while conifers often abut the channel in narrower valley bottoms. No threatened or endangered plant species are known to occur in the area. Several populations of arctic poppies, a sensitive plant species, occur outside the quarter mile wide corridor surrounding the upper portions of this segment. Colorado cutthroat trout, a sensitive species, is present. Other fish species include rainbow trout, brook trout, mountain sucker, sculpin, and mountain whitefish.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: East Fork Smiths Fork is free from major channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The stream is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenery – This segment originates from Red Castle Lake, a visually spectacular setting in the High Uintas wilderness. As the stream traverses from this alpine environment a rich diversity is created by intermixing of vegetation types found in the broad riparian areas of extensive willow stands bordered by conifers. At lower elevations the stream channel flows through narrow valley bottoms providing a striking visual contrast to basin views. The view of the Red Castle Lakes area may be the most spectacular in the Uintas. It is often photographed for calendars and large-format books.

Ecology – Diversity of riparian communities, including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities with a variety of associated understory species in relatively stable condition constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

Wildlife – Deer, elk, moose, and Rocky Mountain big horn sheep inhabit the area. The corridor includes mountain goat habitat. Pika and ptarmigan also inhabit the corridor. No threatened or endangered animal species occur in the area. The corridor contains habitat for the following sensitive species: wolverine, Canada lynx, and boreal owl. Diversity of wildlife species, including four large ungulates, and habitats are good. Unique species such as the ptarmigan and reintroduced big horn sheep are attractions people look for. Wildlife represents an outstandingly remarkable value.

Recreation – The recreational experience is relatively diverse for a primitive setting. Both solitude and small group experiences are common. Access is easy from the trailhead. The recreation experience is an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Wild

East Fork Smiths Fork is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as wild because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads

- leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire segment flows through National Forest system lands, nearly all inside the High Uintas Wilderness.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-11.0	Wasatch-Cache NF Wilderness	3351
11.0-11.8	Wasatch-Cache NF	315
	Total:	3666 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral or oil and gas development. The small portion of the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the Forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the Forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Lower downstream the East Fork Smiths Fork flows into the Stateline Reservoir which stores water for agricultural irrigation and for municipal use in the greater Bridger Valley including the towns of Mountain View, Robertson, Urie, Fort Bridger, Millburne, Lyman, the Blacks Fork water and Sewer District and the Lower Bench water and Sewer District in Uinta County, Wyoming (Bridger Valley Water Supply Level II Study, prepared for the Wyoming Water Development Commission and the Pioneer Water and Sewer District by Forsgren Associates Inc., 1995). Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Trail 110 parallels the stream and provides access to the corridor for its full length.

Recreation Activities – The drainage offers good hiking, horseback riding, fishing, and other wilderness recreation opportunities. The State of Utah rates the fishery as Class III, important. The many lakes and pristine settings are heavily used during the summer months and into the early fall.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects within this stream segment corridor.

Grazing Activities – Domestic sheep graze in the upper part of the stream corridor within the Red Castle Allotment. Cattle graze along the lower section in the East Fork Smiths Fork Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Special Designations – The East Fork Smiths Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other

areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 11.0 miles of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness. This wilderness has unique management needs and regulations:

Approximately 0.8 miles of this stream corridor is within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor in the High Uintas Wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor outside the High Uintas Wilderness boundary on the southeast side of the stream:

Management Prescription 2.6 Undeveloped Areas: Manage to protect undeveloped landscapes in a manner other than formal recommended wilderness. Although other uses and activities may occur, the primary emphasis is protection to assure the values and unique qualities associated with undeveloped areas are recognized and preserved. No new developments or activity that would alter the landscape or character are allowed, however use of motorized equipment (such as chainsaws for trail clearing) is allowed.

(S2.6) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, new recreation development, and new trail construction are not allowed.

(G2.6-1) Motorized uses, including snowmobiling, are allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G2.6-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.6-3) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed to mimic conditions within the historic

range of variability and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor outside the High Uintas Wilderness boundary on the west side of the stream:

Management Prescription 3.2 Terrestrial Habitats (3.2U Undeveloped/3.2D Developed) Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

Management Prescription 3.2D consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor outside the High Uintas Wilderness boundary on the east side of the stream:

Management Prescription 4.2 Emphasis on Recreation Non-motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities in a semi-primitive to modified setting where visitors can obtain various degrees of solitude within a near-natural environment. Access to the perimeter of these areas may be motorized, but travel within the area is non-motorized. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable. Visitors can expect various levels of regulation. Signs and other information are found both at portals and within the prescription area. Management of recreation impacts are less limited than in backcountry and can range from semi-primitive to rural depending on management objectives at specific areas and visitors' desires for convenience. Impacts to natural resources, such as soil compaction or loss of vegetation are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations.

(S4.2) Timber harvest and road construction are not allowed.

(G4.2-1) Vegetation/fuels treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions and to restore ecosystem functioning.

(G4.2-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.2-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor outside the High Uintas Wilderness boundary on the north side of the stream:

Management Prescription 4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the ROS category at the specific area and visitor desires for

convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County, in an area that is rugged and mountainous and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through the Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledgers and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency for lands along this segment is the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) **The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its**

political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the East Fork Smiths Fork. .

During scoping Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses. A general supportive comment received thought it was important to protect Uinta Mountain segments even if they were within the Wilderness.

One comment received during the comment period for the Draft EIS was opposed to designating any river segment in the Smiths Fork watershed because of a concern that designation will restrict grazing, timber harvest and maintenance of the forest health. Further many miles were already protected by wilderness designation and local management has been sufficient in the past

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the East Fork Smiths Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness, RHCA, and roadless within the stream corridor. Designation would also be consistent with the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources and Wyoming Fish and Games plan for improving Bonneville cutthroat trout fisheries.

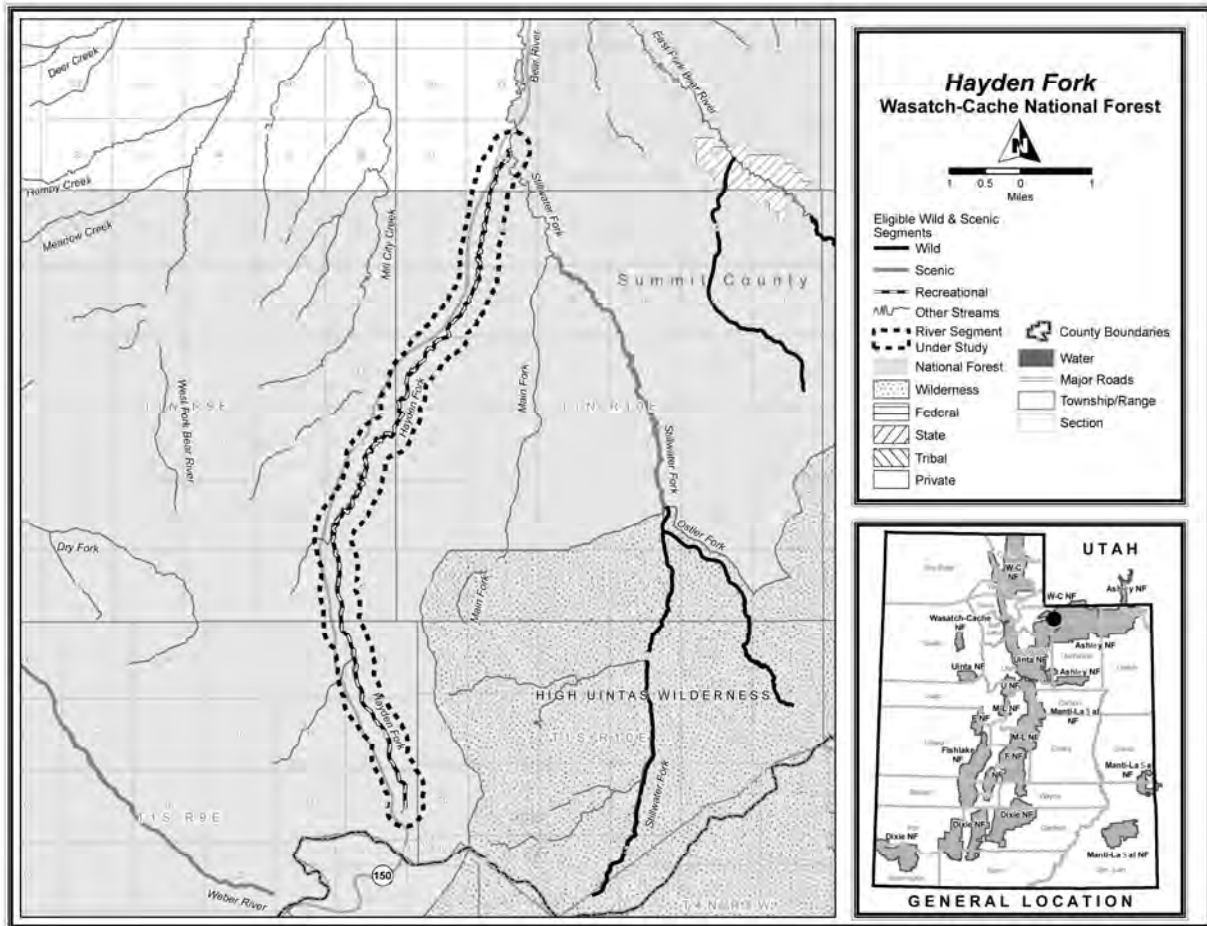
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the basin integrity as it incorporates the headwaters of the East Fork Smiths Fork to the trailhead; however, its contribution is somewhat limited because the lower segments of this stream were not found eligible. Designation of this segment, when combined with the West Fork Smiths Fork segment, would enhance basin integrity by protecting the headwaters.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

Hayden Fork River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Hayden Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 12.3 miles, from source to confluence with Stillwater Fork

Eligible: Same

Location:

Hayden Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 1, T 1 N, R 9 E, SLM	SW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 35, T 2 N, R 10 E, SLM	Recreational	12.3*

* The mileage of this segment has been changed from an ocular estimate of mileage to mileage that was calculated using GIS.

Physical Description of River Segment:

Elevations range between 8,500-10,000 feet along this river segment. Landforms in the corridor include

valley trains, expansive floodplains, and wetlands, with the river meandering over most of the segment. The hydrologic character is snowmelt-dominated, a meandering pool-riffle system, with frequent overbank flows. The segment runs through low lodgepole/aspen forest and fairly broad riparian settings adjacent to the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway. No endangered or threatened wildlife species occur. Sensitive species may occur, but have not been verified. The area is prime moose and elk habitat. There are no endangered, threatened or sensitive fish species. Species present include rainbow trout, cutthroat trout (possibly Bonneville cutthroat trout), and brook trout. The State of Utah ranks the fishing on this segment as Class III, not unique.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenery – The diversity of views in the Hayden Fork corridor is of high value, with varied riparian and alpine scenes present which are accessible to a large number of viewers. Fall colors offered by deciduous riparian vegetation and adjacent upland aspen provide high value seasonal variation. This scenic value is outstandingly remarkable.

Ecology – Because riparian communities along the lower Hayden Fork are diverse and represent near potential climax vegetation the ecological system is functioning without impairment. Species diversity is high. This ecological value is outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Recreational

The Hayden Fork is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System because of its scenic and ecological values. The stream is classified as a recreational river because the stream and stream corridor is:

- Free of impoundment
- Readily accessible by road or railroad

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – Hayden Fork of the Bear River, from its source to its confluence with Stillwater Fork, is on the Evanston Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. Ownership patterns are dominated by National Forest. Private lands account for 0.5 mile along one bank.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-7.5	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	3440
7.5-8.0	Private Land	147
	Total:	3587 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also

contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

This area is within the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning jurisdiction. This area is zoned as Agricultural Grazing 160.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The eligible recreational Hayden Fork segment is in a high oil and gas potential area and there are active leases within the stream corridor. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights. The Wyoming State Water Plan, Bear River Basin Plan Final Report has identified a previously studied (1985) reservoir site called the Gold Hill Reservoir Site (1,000 acre-ft.). This previously studied site is not located on the eligible segment, but is located at the headwaters of an unnamed tributary that flows into the Hayden Fork below the middle of this segment.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Highway 150 parallels the stream for most of its length. This is a two lane asphalt road which receives heavy use. This is a State Scenic Byway.

Recreation Activities – Fishing and hunting opportunities are average. Boating is not possible. No established heavy use trails are present. There is an historic sulfur mine with associated ruins in the SW 1/4 of Section 18 (a private inholding). The historical significance of this site is not established, but it is probably eligible for the National Register, has reasonable access, and might make an interesting visitor site. No other sites like it are present locally. The Howe Flume National Register Historic District terminates on the Hayden Fork in Section 5 and runs up the Main Fork toward Hell Hole Lake. Little material evidence is left of the flume, but the area is of local historic interest. Better examples of tie hack historic sites are preserved elsewhere on the Wasatch-Cache. There is a good interpretive exhibit of tie-hack history present at the Bear River Ranger Station, and an original tie-hack cabin from the Uintas has been moved to this location as part of the exhibit.

Other Resource Activities – There are no commercial fishing, boating or hunting operations. There is one hunting outfitter guide whose general area of operations covers the Evanston Ranger District. There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects within this stream corridor.

Grazing Activities – The area is included in the Stillwater Sheep Grazing Allotment. While some livestock grazing impacts occur, sheep tend to have a minor effect on the conditions of the riparian communities in the area. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache

National Forest.

Special Designations – Hayden Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 9.5 miles of the Hayden Fork is in an inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

The entire Hayden Fork segment flows adjacent to a Scenic Byway, the Mirror Lake Highway (Utah State Highway 150).

There are four areas along the Hayden Fork segment (approximately 1.1 miles) that are protected drinking water source protection areas for the campground and private lands within the stream corridor. These areas adjacent to the stream segment are recognized by the State of Utah as a Drinking Water Source Protection Zone. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land along Highway 150:

Management Prescription 2.5 Scenic Byways: Manage Scenic Byways to protect and maintain their outstanding scenic quality. Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans may be developed for designated Byways to further define desired conditions and tailor management direction.

(G2.5-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed when these activities are necessary to maintain or enhance the scenic setting for the long term.

(G2.5-2) Grazing is allowed and managed for compatibility with other elements of Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans.

(G2.5-3) Road building, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed for purposes of enhancing use and enjoyment of the scenic byway corridor, while maintaining or enhancing the scenic setting.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land along the stream segment:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land along the east side of the stream segment and outside of the 3.1a buffer:

Management Prescription 3.2d consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land at the end of the segment on the east side of the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the ROS category at the specific area and visitor desires for convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There are a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, through the use of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The private lands located at the end of the segment at the Forest boundary are subject to regulations proposed by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. The Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas surrounding, but not including, the towns of Henefer, Coalville, Kamas, Oakley and Francis, and Bear River.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of this Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could

occur.

This majority of this stream segment and corridor is on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. There are private lands within this stream corridor that are managed by Summit County, Utah. This area is within the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning jurisdiction. This area is zoned as Agricultural Grazing 160.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments to the January 1999 DRAFT Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System were in support of this stream designation.

During scoping comments were received that both supported and opposed designation of this segment. Summit County, conservation organizations and others thought protecting the headwaters of the Bear River was important. Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses.

During the comment period for the Draft EIS comments were received concerning Hayden Fork. The State of Utah did not support the segment because of concerns it would impact the state's ability to maintain or expand the highway. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the Hayden Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forests management of the stream corridor as directed by the Forest Plan, and this designation would add further protection for areas managed for aquatic habitat and as a Scenic Byway.

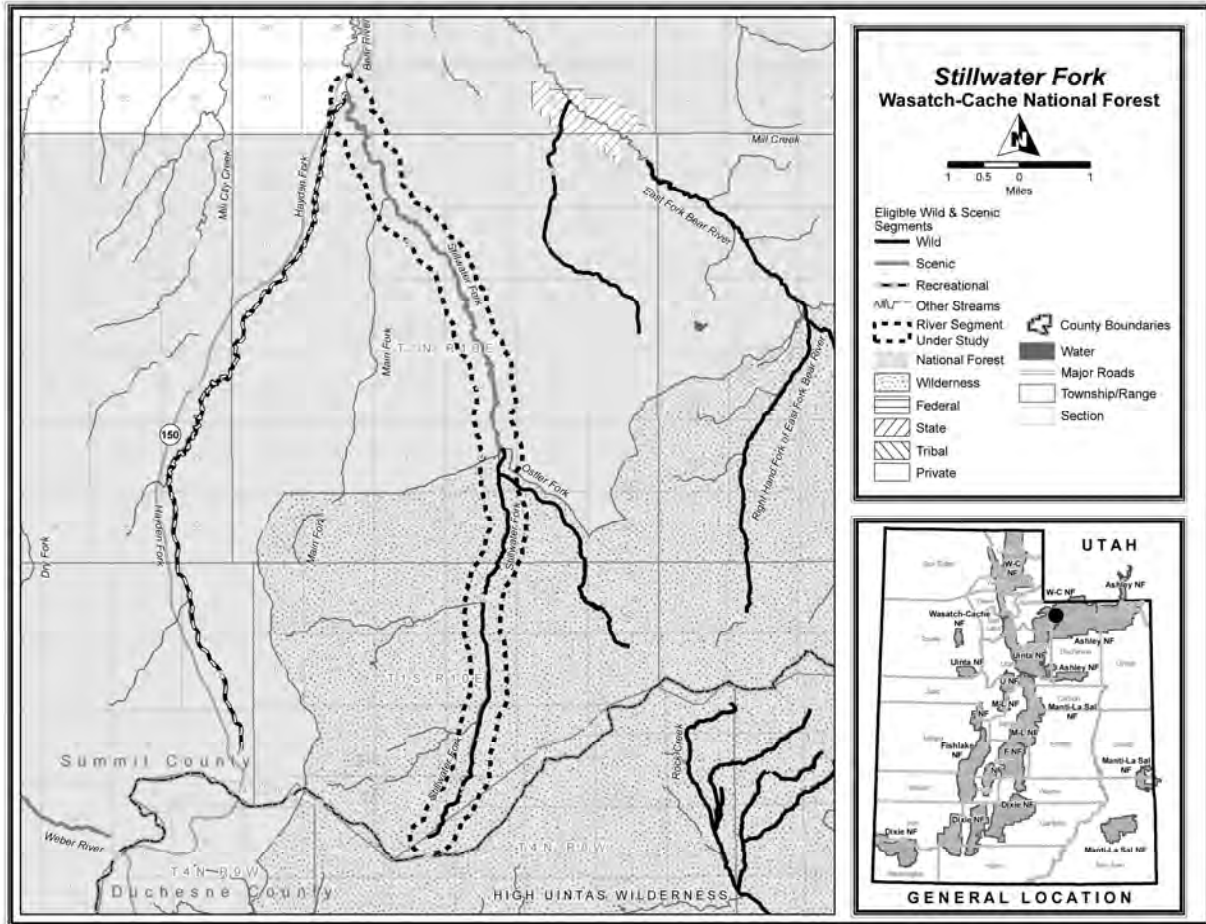
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the upper Bear River basin integrity when combined with the eligible Ostler Fork and Stillwater stream segments and other nearby headwater streams of the Bear River.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are no public volunteer commitments currently for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Evanston Ranger District. There is an Adopt a Highway trash pick up program for the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway that is adjacent to the eligible Hayden Fork segment.

Stillwater Fork River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Stillwater Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 13.9 miles, source to confluence with Hayden Fork/Bear River

Eligible: Same

Location:

Stillwater Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 29, T 4 S, R 8 E, Uintah Meridian	SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 27, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM	Wild	6.13
Segment 2	SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 27, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 35, T 2 N, R 12 E, SLM	Scenic	7.7

Physical Description of River Segment:

The stream originates from intensively glaciated headlands and alpine settings in the Uinta Mountains and

extends to broader floodplains, braided reaches, forests, and meadows at its lower elevations. The stream begins at near 11,000 feet to runs to about 8500 feet at its lowest elevation. Vegetation in the upper cirque basin is spruce-fir krummholz and alpine meadows. Directly above the wilderness boundary vegetation is characterized by aspen, lodgepole, and some sagebrush openings at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forests at upper elevations. Natural appearing riparian ecosystems at lower elevations are dominated by willows with grass and sedge openings. There are extensive wetlands in the corridor, especially at Christmas Meadows. Here the hydrologic character is classified as C3-C4, snowmelt dominated perennial stream with frequent overbank flows, and meandering.

Big game species in the area include deer, elk, moose and possibly mountain goats. Smaller species unique to the higher elevations are ptarmigan, pika, and pine marten. Habitat is present for wolverine, Canada lynx, great gray owl, and boreal owl, all sensitive species. No individuals of these species are known to inhabit the corridor. Fish species include rainbow trout, albino rainbow trout, cutthroat trout (possibly Bonneville cutthroat trout, a sensitive species), mountain whitefish, and brook trout. The fishery is rated Class II by the State of Utah, a fishery of great importance to the state.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenery – The segment originates in one of the many glacier-carved valleys at the base of the central spine of the Uinta Mountains. Spruce-fir krummholz and alpine meadows found at its headwaters in the upper cirque basin give way to lodgepole and aspen forests. The Stillwater is known for its extensive riparian and meadowland communities. Lower on the segment outside of wilderness the creek flows through Christmas Meadows, a pleasant, open grassland. The diversity of views along its entire length contributes to the scenic value. The picturesque view along the Stillwater Fork and its nearby surrounding landscape is regionally recognized as one of the best in Northern Utah. Outside of the corridor views of the high elevations of the Uintas complement the setting and are frequently painted and photographed

Ecology – This ecological system is fine example of a functioning system with a variety of components. Vegetation diversity is high along the corridor. At high elevation, alpine species are dominant, while forested areas and extensive riparian and meadowland communities are present below. These communities are tied together along the river. For an area so close to development, they are relatively unimpaired by use while still highly accessible. Intact habitats exist for a wide variety of species: avian, terrestrial, and aquatic, and the overall representation of these species are high. The ecological value of the corridor is outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Segment 1—Wild; Segment 2—Scenic
The Stillwater Fork is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The portion of the river below the Christmas Meadows Trailhead is eligible as a scenic river, while above the trailhead it is eligible as a wild river.

The wild segment is classified as wild because the stream and stream corridor are or have:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.

- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

The scenic segment is classified as scenic because the stream and stream corridor are or have:

- Free of impoundment.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.
- Presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.
- The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable.
- Evidence of past logging or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable provided the forest appears natural from the river bank.
- Accessible in places by road.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The segment is located on the Evanston Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. The entire segment flows through National Forest system lands.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-6.13	Wasatch-Cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness (Wild)	1952
6.1-13.9	Wasatch-Cache National Forest (Scenic)	1760
	Total:	2712 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The Stillwater Fork segment that is eligible for wild recommendation is entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness, and has been withdrawn from mineral entry. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. The area within the scenic segment is in a high oil and gas potential area and the scenic section of Stillwater is encompassed by an active oil and gas exploratory unit. There are three active oil and gas leases within the corridor of the scenic section of the segment.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights. The stream is tributary to the Bear River which is used and managed for agricultural uses in southwest Wyoming and southeast Idaho, municipal water in Evanston and Cokeville, Wyoming, for environmental uses to maintain wetland and wildlife habitats, recreational, and for reservoir storage (Bear River Basin Water Plan, Executive Summary 2001, Wyoming Water Development Commission). The Wyoming State Water Plan, Final Report indicates that there are two previously studied reservoir sites located at the end of this eligible segment called the Stillwater Reservoir Sites 1 and 2 (4,900 – 9,300 acre-ft.). Construction of this reservoir would impound water along this segment.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Human impacts are present in the form of dispersed recreation trails, roads, and campsites and are especially apparent near the Christmas Meadows summer home area and campground; otherwise, the area has minor human impacts.

Forest Trail 098 parallels the upper portion of the Stillwater Fork. Access below the Wilderness is provided by Forest Roads 057 and 113 which are one lane gravel roads with turnouts. These roads receive light to moderate use.

The Stillwater Campground is easily accessible by the Mirror Lake Highway. There are also dispersed campsites west of the Christmas Meadows Summer Home area. The Christmas Meadows site has 40 recreational homes within the stream corridor. A Forest trail provides access to the drainage above the Christmas Meadows Summer Home area.

Above the Wilderness boundary there are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications. Below it there are two bridges which can constrict very high flows, but most of the segment's channel is not modified or constrained.

Recreation Activities – Forest Trail 098 parallels the upper portion of the Stillwater Fork. This trail provides access to the High Uintas Wilderness for hiking, horseback riding, and fishing which are all popular recreation activities in the area. The use level is heavy. From meadows in the corridor, there are wonderful views of the steep slopes of Ostler Peak, Spread Eagle Peak, Mt. Agassiz, and Hayden Peak at the head of the cirque.

Fishing and hunting opportunities are present, and are similar to most found in the area. Boating is not possible. The trail from Christmas Meadows trailhead into the wilderness is heavily used. Recreational photography/painting opportunities are excellent. One spectacular photographic/scenic opportunity available is the view south from Christmas Meadows towards Amethyst Basin. Winter snowmobiling is popular below the wilderness.

Above the wilderness boundary there is a cabin ruin and associated stumps providing evidence of tie hacking in the corridor. These would not appear to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. There are no known prehistoric sites in the corridor.

Grazing Activities – The area is included in the Stillwater Sheep Grazing Allotment. While some livestock grazing impacts occur, sheep tend to have a minor effect on the conditions of the riparian communities in the area. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There is one hunting outfitter guide whose area covers the Evanston District. There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects that fall within this stream corridor or adjacent areas.

Special Designations – The Stillwater Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream

and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

The 6.1 mile wild segment of the Stillwater Fork is within by the High Uintas Wilderness.

A 3.5 mile section of the scenic Stillwater Fork segment is in a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

There are two areas in the scenic section of the Stillwater Fork that are protected water sources for the campground and summer homes. These areas adjacent to the stream segment are recognized by the State of Utah as a Drinking Water Source Protection Zone. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

The wild segment of the Stillwater Fork is contained within the High Uintas Wilderness and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as follows:

Management Prescription 1.1 Opportunity Class I: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. RFP 4-64 2003

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by

predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land along the lower end of the scenic segment within the stream corridor outside the 3.1a buffer:

Management Prescription 3.2d consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Land management direction for a small portion of Wasatch-Cache National Forest land along the lower end of the scenic segment within the stream corridor outside the 3.1a buffer on the north side of the stream near the developed recreation sites:

Management Prescription 4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the ROS category at the specific area and visitor desires for convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land along the upper portion of the scenic segment within the stream corridor outside the 3.1a buffer:

Management Prescription 4.1 Emphasis on Backcountry Non-motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities in remote and isolated settings where visitors can obtain a relatively high degree

of solitude and the environment is in a near natural state. Access within these areas is through the use of non-motorized trails. Sights and sounds of others are minimal. Visitors will largely be managed off-site, with signs and regulations posted at area boundaries. Management of recreation impacts may be as undeveloped or Concentrated Use Areas (CUA) limited to a semi-primitive nature with regulation of use a priority management tool over site-hardening. The need for visitor self-reliance is high. Management visibility is low with backcountry ranger patrols focusing on monitoring and maintaining natural conditions and processes.

(S4.1) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation development are not allowed.

(G4.1-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions and to restore ecosystem functioning.

(G4.1-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County, in an area that occupies a rugged and mountainous zone, and was named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledgers and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, through the use of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of this Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This entire stream segment and corridor is on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System were in support of this stream designation.

During scoping comments were received that both supported and opposed designation of this segment. Summit County, conservation organizations and others thought protecting the headwaters of the Bear River was important. Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses.

Support by Summit County and others has been voiced for the Stillwater River segment during the public comment period for the Draft EIS. Recreation and Scenic values are cited as the primary reasons and the fact a potential reservoir is impractical and unlikely. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the Stillwater Fork segment is consistent with current management of the stream corridor. This designation would add further protection for areas managed as RHCAs and Wilderness.

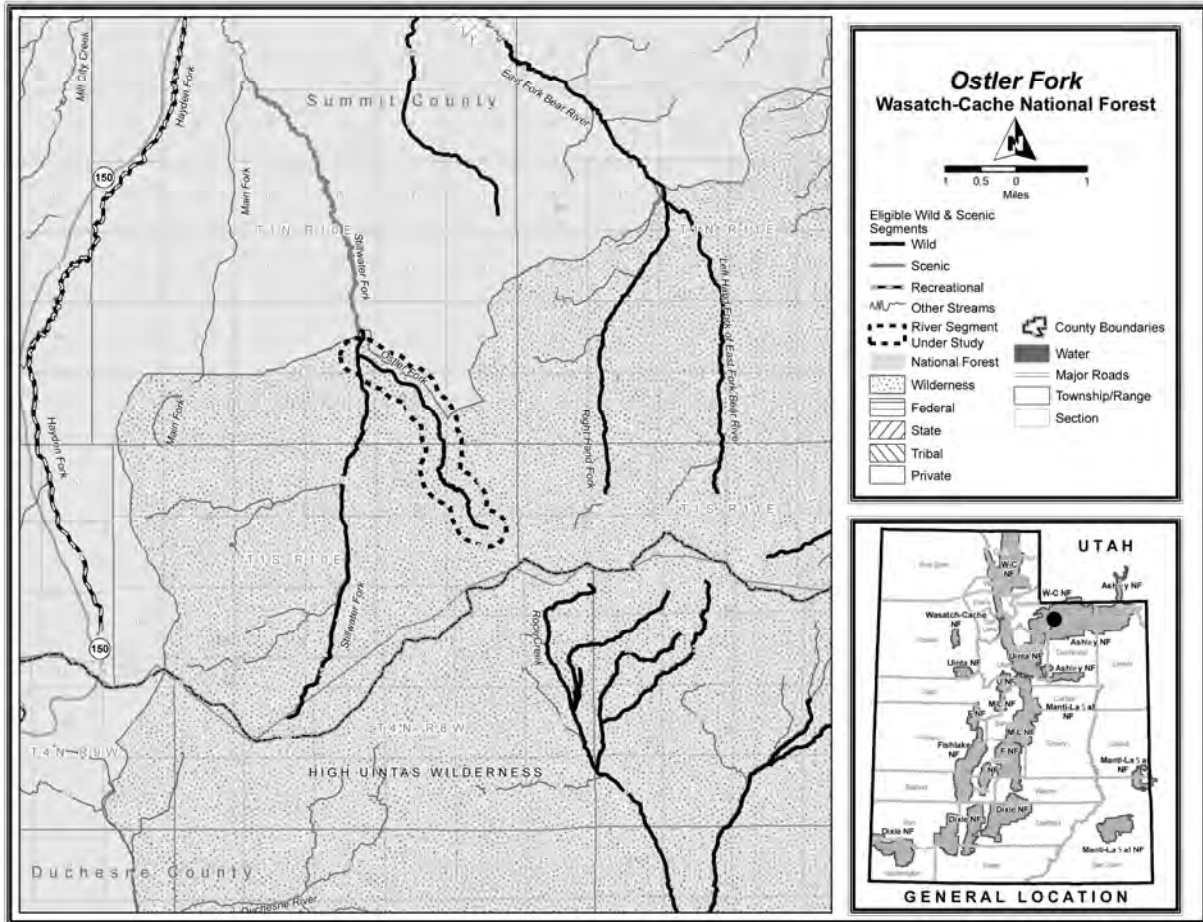
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the basin integrity when combined with other eligible stream segments that make up the headwater streams of the Bear River. Basin integrity for the upper Bear River would be enhanced when this segment is combined with the other eligible Bear River headwater streams, the Left Hand, Right Hand, and East Fork Bear River, Hayden Fork, Ostler Fork and Boundary Creek. The majority of this stream is in the High Uintas Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are no public volunteer commitments currently for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Evanston Ranger District.

Ostler Fork River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Ostler Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 3.7 miles, from source to confluence with Stillwater Fork

Eligible: Same

Location:

Ostler Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 12, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM	SE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 27, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM	Wild	3.7

Physical Description of River Segment:

Ostler Fork extends from its source at Amethyst Lake to its confluence with the Stillwater Fork and flows between the elevations of ~10,000 ft. to ~9,000 ft. The river originates from intensively glaciated headwaters and traverses through large glacial deposits, dropping rapidly through a bedrock valley. The lower end of the segment is very steep and is primarily made up of step-pools and cascades, making a rather spectacular and unusual stream for this area. Vegetation on the uplands is characterized by aspen

and lodgepole at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forests at upper elevations. The upper cirque basin is surrounded by spruce-fir krummholz with alpine meadows at the highest elevations. Riparian communities consist of willows with grass and sedge openings. Human impacts are present in the form of dispersed recreation trails and campsites; otherwise, the area has had minor human impacts. This drainage is one of the few in the Uinta Mountains where there is no grazing of domestic sheep or cattle, an important distinctive characteristic. No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur in the corridor. Deer, elk, moose, and possibly mountain goats inhabit the area. Big horn sheep habitat is present. Smaller species include ptarmigan and pika. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive animal species are known to occur in the corridor, although habitat is present for wolverine, Canada lynx, boreal owl, and great gray owl, all sensitive species. Fish species include cutthroat trout (possibly Bonneville cutthroat trout, a sensitive species). The fishery is rated Class III (important) by the State of Utah.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The Ostler Fork is free from channel modifications and structures, and the natural flow of the river is unmodified. This river is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Ecology – This ecological setting is as near to "pristine" as there is on the North Slope of the Uintas. No cattle are grazed in the drainage; a small portion of the stream corridor is grazed by sheep at the end of the segment, resulting in an ecosystem that is not affected by non-native species. The ecological value of the corridor is outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Wild

Because the Ostler Fork is free-flowing and possesses an outstandingly remarkable value, it is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The Ostler Fork can be classified as a wild river because:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The segment is located on the Evanston Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. The segment is entirely within National Forest system lands, and entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness, however some of the ¼ stream corridor extends off Wilderness and onto Forest land (approximately 127 acres of the total acres).

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-3.7	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1250
	Total:	1250 acres

This area is within the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning jurisdiction. This area is zoned as Agricultural Grazing 160.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The eligible Ostler Fork segment is entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness, and has been withdrawn from mineral entry and mineral leasing.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights. The stream is tributary to the Bear River which is used and managed for agricultural uses in southwest Wyoming and southeast Idaho, municipal water in Evanston and Cokeville, Wyoming, for environmental uses to maintain wetland and wildlife habitats, recreational, and for reservoir storage (Bear River Basin Water Plan, Executive Summary 2001, Wyoming Water Development Commission).

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Trail 149 parallels the full length of the segment to Amethyst Lake.

Recreation Activities – Recreation use is heavy. Hiking, horseback riding, and fishing are all popular. The hike to Amethyst Lake is mostly through coniferous forest and meadows. For the last mile of the river corridor there are views of Ostler Peak and its glacial cirque. Amethyst Lake is the largest and deepest of the lakes at the head of the Bear River system. There are no known historic or prehistoric sites in the corridor.

Grazing Activities – There is no grazing except for recreational stock use (horses, llamas) along the majority of this segment. The lower portion of this stream corridor is within the Stillwater Sheep Allotment, where the river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects within this stream corridor.

Special Designations – This stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Ostler Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land for the majority of the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land on the northeast side of the stream corridor near the end of the segment:

Management Prescription 4.1 Emphasis on Backcountry Non-motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities in remote and isolated settings where visitors can obtain a relatively high degree of solitude and the environment is in a near natural state. Access within these areas is through the use of non-motorized trails. Sights and sounds of others are minimal. Visitors will largely be managed off-site, with signs and regulations posted at area boundaries. Management of recreation impacts may be as undeveloped or Concentrated Use Areas (CUA) limited to a semi-primitive nature with regulation of use a priority management tool over site-hardening. The need for visitor self-reliance is high. Management visibility is low with backcountry ranger patrols focusing on monitoring and maintaining natural conditions and processes.

(S4.1) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation development are not allowed.

(G4.1-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions and to restore ecosystem functioning.

(G4.1-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County. It is a rugged and mountainous area and was named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, through the use of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of this Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This entire stream segment and corridor is on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion I the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System were in support of this stream designation.

During scoping comments were received that both supported and opposed designation of this segment. Summit County, conservation organizations and others thought protecting the headwaters of the Bear River was important. Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses.

No public comments were received during the comment period for the Draft EIS specific to just the Ostler

Fork. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the Ostler Fork supports the goals of Wilderness.

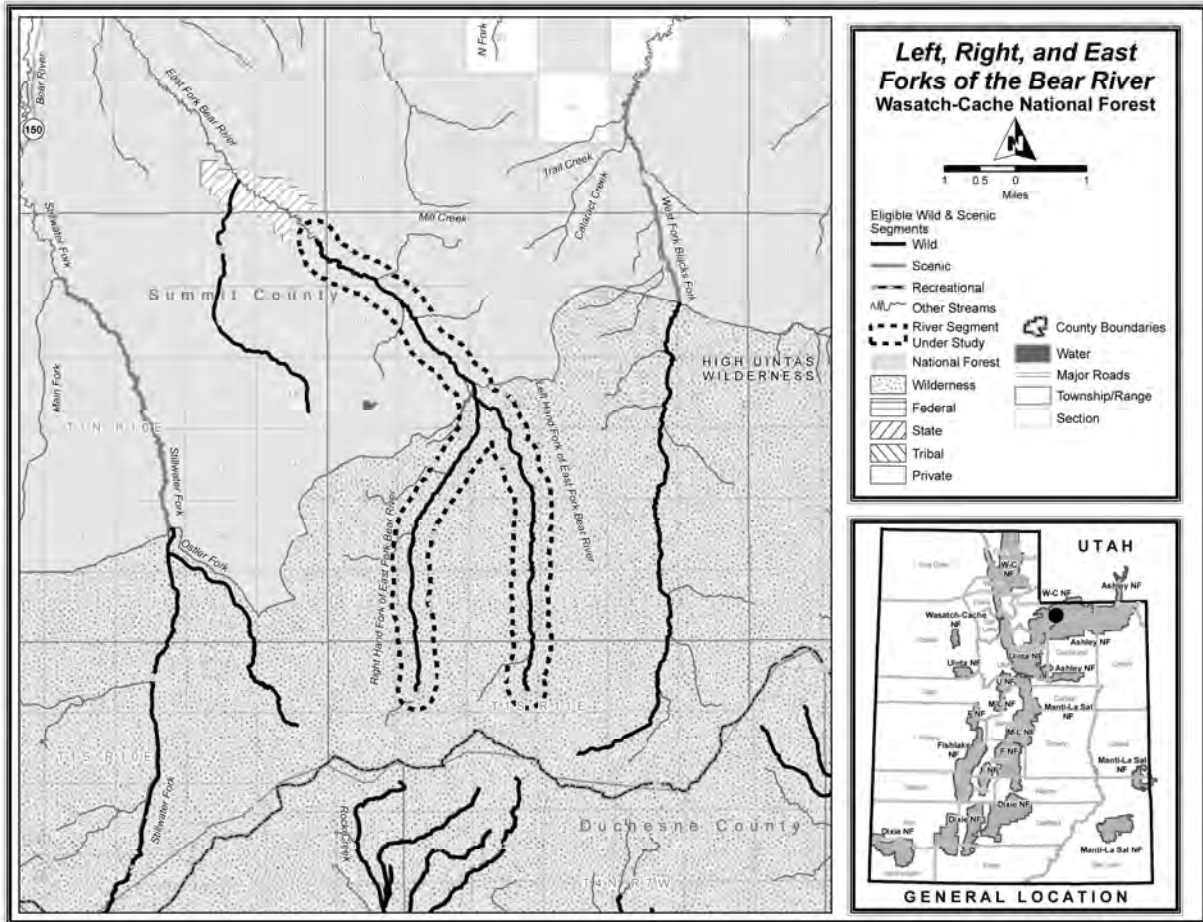
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Suitability designation of this segment contributes to the upper Bear River basin integrity when combined with the eligible headwater stream segments of Hayden Fork, Stillwater, Boundary Creek and Left and Right Hand Fork of the Bear River.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are no public volunteer commitments currently for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Evanston Ranger District.

Left Fork, Right Fork, and East Fork Bear River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Left Fork, Right Fork, and East Fork Bear River

River Mileage:

Left Fork, Right Fork, and East Fork Bear River

Studied: 13.3 miles, from Alsop Lake and Norice Lake to near Trailhead

Eligible: Same

Location:

Left, Right, and East Forks Bear River	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Source of Right Fork	NE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 4, T 1 N, R 11 E, SLM	SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 1, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM	Wild	13.3
Source of Left Fork	NW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 5, T 1 N, R 11 E, SLM			

Physical Description of River Segment:

The stream originates from intensively glaciated headlands and alpine settings in the Uinta Mountains and extends to broader floodplains, braided reaches, forests, and meadows at its lower elevations. These two forks of the Bear lie in textbook classic narrow U-shaped valleys formed by the northward movement of Pleistocene glaciers from their origins at higher elevations. The stream segment begins at near 10,500 feet to runs to about 8500 feet at its lowest elevation. The Right Hand Fork of the East Fork of the Bear River, from its source near Norice Lake to the East Fork confluence downstream is a segment about 5 miles long. The Left Hand Fork of the East Fork of the Bear River, from its source near Allsop Lake to the East Fork confluence downstream is about equal distance. The Left Hand Fork and the Right Hand Fork join together to form the East Fork of the Bear River. Just above the confluence of the two smaller streams there is a waterfall roughly 70 feet in height. Vegetation in the upper cirque basin is spruce-fir krummholz and alpine meadows. Directly above the wilderness boundary vegetation is characterized by aspen, lodgepole, and some sagebrush openings at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forests at upper elevations. Natural appearing riparian ecosystems at lower elevations are dominated by willows with grass and sedge openings. There are extensive wetlands in the corridor, and the hydrologic character is classified as C3-C4, snowmelt dominated, frequent overflow, and meandering.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The Left Hand and Right Hand and East Forks of the Bear River are not modified by human construction. These rivers are free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenery – This same glacial action combined with the anticlinal uplift of the general Uinta Range has produced a scenic display in these drainages that is remarkable. Views of the Cathedral, Mt. Beulah, and the waterfalls near the confluence of the Left and Right Hand Forks are special when compared to others in the range. The scenery value along these forks is remarkable and outstanding.

Geology/Hydrology – The geological setting in the upper basins of the Left and Right Hand Forks of the Bear provides students of glacial geomorphology a fine example of the glacial trough shaped valleys. This value can be considered outstandingly remarkable.

Ecology – The ecological value of the corridor is outstandingly remarkable. The interdependency of plant, vertebrate and invertebrate species in these narrow river valleys offer us a wonderful look at the unique ecological systems that have evolved here over long periods of time.

*In the 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System this segment's outstandingly remarkable values were correctly listed for scenery, geology/hydrology, and ecology. These values were listed incorrectly in Appendix VIII of the 2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, where this segment's outstandingly remarkable values were listed as scenery only in error. The geology/hydrology, and ecology values were inadvertently omitted.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Wild

The Left Hand Fork, Right Hand Fork and East Fork of the Bear River are free-flowing. Outstanding scenic, geological, and ecological values along these courses make them eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The rivers may be classified as Wild because they are or have:

- Free of impoundment.

- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The segment lies entirely in the High Uintas Wilderness on National Forest lands.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-9.7	Wasatch-Cache National Forest Wilderness	3104
9.7-13.3	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1152
	Total:	4256 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The eligible recreational segment of the Left Hand, Right Hand Fork and a small portion of the East Fork are in the High Uintas Wilderness and are withdrawn from mineral or energy resource activities. The majority of the East Fork Bear River portion of this segment is in a high oil and gas potential area and there is an active lease within the stream corridor. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights. The Wyoming State Water Plan, Final Report identifies three previously studied reservoir sites below the Boy Scout Camp and this eligible segment called the East Fork Reservoir Sites, No. 1, 2, and 3 (3,700 – 13,300 acre-ft.).

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Trail 151 provides access to the Right Hand Fork and Trail 100 leads up the East Fork and further up to the Left Hand Fork providing access to the High Uintas Wilderness and some high country lakes.

Recreation Activities – Scenic views from Trail 151 include the unique waterfalls, the spectacular Cathedral (a massive mountain peak) and Mt. Beulah. People make the trek to see these places, and can take home wonderful photos of their experience as memoirs. Hiking use also occurs on Trail 100, but the shape of this stream's valley and its narrowness, along with the pattern of vegetation are more limiting to scenic views than along Trail 151.

Grazing Activities – The area is included in the East Fork Bear Cattle Allotment. While some livestock grazing impacts occur, cattle tend to have a minor effect on the conditions of the riparian communities in the area. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There are some historical resources in this area such as scattered tie hack cabins, a splash dam, and a scaler’s cabin within the corridor above the trail head. Some of these sites may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The remnants of an old log flume are visible near the falls. While examination of this complex of remains by archeologists or historians might add significantly to our knowledge of the tie-hack era, these remains are not unique in or to the Uinta Mountains.

Special Designations – This eligible segment of the Left Hand, Right Hand, and East Fork Bear River are all fish bearing streams and are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 3.6 miles of the eligible segment are in a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural. Approximately 9.7 miles of this eligible segment are in the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within both the Left Hand and Right Hand Forks and a small portion of the East Fork Bear:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land on the east side of East Fork Bear River below the Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness: These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be

protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12, 7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor below the Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land for a small portion of the stream segment near the trailhead:

Management Prescription 4.1 Emphasis on Backcountry Non-motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities in remote and isolated settings where visitors can obtain a relatively high degree of solitude and the environment is in a near natural state. Access within these areas is through the use of non-motorized trails. Sights and sounds of others are minimal. Visitors will largely be managed off-site, with signs and regulations posted at area boundaries. Management of recreation impacts may be as undeveloped or Concentrated Use Areas (CUA) limited to a semi-primitive nature with regulation of use a priority management tool over site-hardening. The need for visitor self-reliance is high. Management visibility is low with backcountry ranger patrols focusing on monitoring and maintaining natural conditions and processes.

(S4.1) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation development are not allowed.

(G4.1-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions and to restore ecosystem functioning.

(G4.1-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors

can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, through the use of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of this Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values

on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This entire stream segment and corridor is on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System were in support of this stream designation and wanted the East Fork segment to continue to the confluence with the Hayden Fork. The extension of this segment was not found outstandingly remarkable and was not included.

During scoping comments were received that both supported and opposed designation of this segment. Summit County, conservation organizations and others thought protecting the headwaters of the Bear River was important. Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses.

No public comments were received during the comment period for the Draft EIS specific to just the Left Hand, Right Hand and East Fork Bear River. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

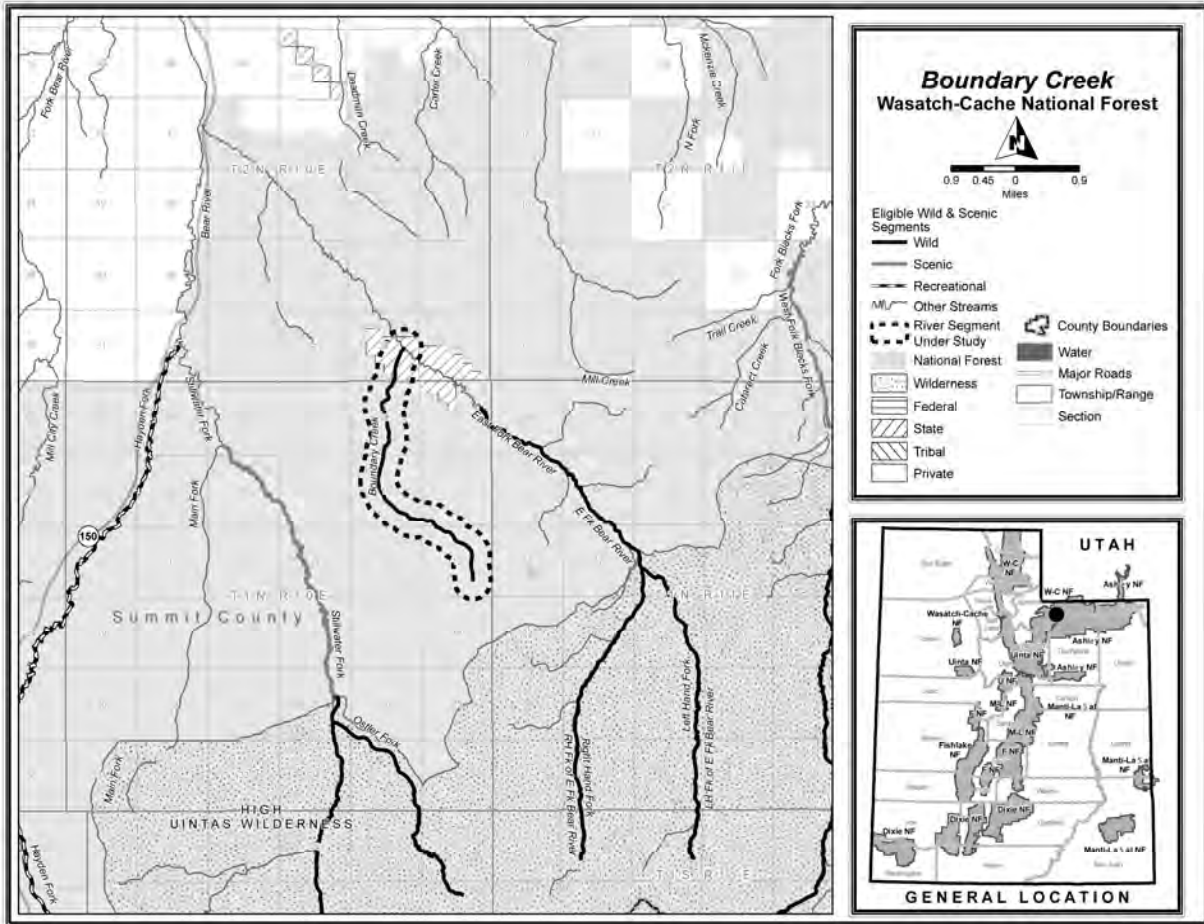
(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the Left Hand, Right Hand Fork, and East Fork Bear River segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forests management of the stream corridor as directed by the Forest Plan.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity. This segment contributes to basin integrity for the upper Bear River when combined with the other eligible Bear River headwater streams, namely Boundary Creek, Hayden Fork, Stillwater Fork, and Ostler Fork stream segments. The majority of this stream is in the High Uintas Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment. There are no public volunteer commitments currently for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Evanston Ranger District.

Boundary Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Boundary Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 4.3 miles, from source to confluence with East Fork Bear River

Eligible: same

Location:

Boundary Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 13, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM	NE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 35, T 2 N, R 10 E, SLM	Wild	4.3

Physical Description of River Segment:

This is a smaller north-flowing tributary stream that feeds the East Fork Bear River. The headwaters of the stream are at Baker Lake at an elevation of 10,500 feet, while the confluence is at 8,800 feet. Below Baker Lake there are no other lakes in the drainage. The stream bed is rocky, as with other adjacent drainages, and there are few meanders or falls. Soils are typical, thin, rocky, high-elevation forest soils.

The creek has its headwaters in the spruce-fir forest zone, and continues to flow through lodgepole forests to the confluence. Forests typically grow adjacent to the stream banks, but there are a few small meadows present in the middle portion of the segment. It is a primitive, unmodified environment.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Ecology – Boundary Creek is a river and corridor which has not been modified by man. This spruce/fir and lodgepole ecological setting is at a somewhat lower elevation than some others in the inventory of rivers in the Uinta Mountains. As such it contains qualities that are distinct from the alpine river settings. Added to this distinction, the Boundary Creek drainage has escaped heavy recreation pressure, timber harvest and grazing over recent decades, making the area nearly pristine ecologically. The ecological value of the corridor is outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Wild

Boundary Creek is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and may be classified as a wild river because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – Most of this river segment is on the National Forest. The lowest ½ mile of the stream is State of Utah land which is leased to the Boys Scouts of America for East Fork of the Bear River Scout Camp.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-3.8	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1295
3.8-4.3	State land, administered by Boy Scouts of America	180
	Total:	1475 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river

stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

This area is within the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning jurisdiction. This area is zoned as Agricultural Grazing 160.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The eligible Boundary Creek segment is entirely within an area that has a high oil and gas potential area. Approximately 3.8 miles of this segment are within an active lease area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The area is accessed by a Trail 8099 from near the Boy Scout Camp. At the base of the segment walking is easy for about a half mile, after this a steep ascent begins for the next half mile, and from thereon the hike to Baker Lake is relatively easy.

Recreation Activities – Outdoor recreation provides a primitive experience. There is little if any winter use in the area because of the steep approaches, lodgepole forest, and its remote location. While this drainage is close to the Boy Scout camp, they do not use the area to any great extent. Visitor numbers here are quite low. Some fishing is done, but, the drainage lacks more popular larger lakes that attract fishing. Scenery and views from the river corridor are very restricted by conifers for most of the stream's length. At one point, an old forest fire has removed some stands and views are more open, however, these views are not as spectacular as in some adjacent areas. There are the remains of six or more tie-hack cabins sites in the middle and upper ends of this drainage. These are not large commissary compounds and do not appear to be eligible for the National Register.

Other Resource Activities – There is no outfitter-guide service in the drainage. There is no white-water recreation opportunity available, as the stream is too small to support this. There are no current Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in this stream corridor. The East Fork Salvage project was approved for this area but has not been initiated as of yet. The East Fork Wildfire burnt in 2003.

Grazing Activities – A small portion of this stream corridor is grazed by cattle on the East Fork Bear River Allotment near the confluence of Boundary Creek and the East Fork Bear River, with the majority of the grazing occurring near the boundary of the private land, this allotment does not extend upstream into the headwaters of Boundary Creek. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee

must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Special Designations – Boundary Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA). A RHCA include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 3.8 miles of this stream corridor a within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Approximately 2.5 miles of this stream segment are within two areas that the State of Utah recognizes as a Drinking Water Source Protection Zone. This protection zone refers to the area adjacent to the stream segment is protected for the private and Forest uses in the area. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor but outside the 3.1a buffer along the entire segment on the east side until the boundary with private land:

Management Prescription 4.1 Emphasis on Backcountry Non-motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities in remote and isolated settings where visitors can obtain a relatively high degree of solitude and the environment is in a near natural state. Access within these areas is through the use of

non-motorized trails. Sights and sounds of others are minimal. Visitors will largely be managed off-site, with signs and regulations posted at area boundaries. Management of recreation impacts may be as undeveloped or CUAs limited to a semi-primitive nature with regulation of use a priority management tool over site-hardening. The need for visitor self-reliance is high. Management visibility is low with backcountry ranger patrols focusing on monitoring and maintaining natural conditions and processes.

(S4.1) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation development are not allowed.

(G4.1-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions and to restore ecosystem functioning.

(G4.1-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor but outside the 3.1a buffer along the entire segment on the west side until the boundary with private land:

Management Prescription 4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the ROS category at the specific area and visitor desires for convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the ¼ mile stream corridor for a small portion of Forest land north of the private land boundary:

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County, Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related

businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There are a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledgers and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, through the use of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The private lands located at the end of the segment at the Forest boundary are subject to regulations proposed by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. The Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas surrounding, but not including, the towns of Henefer, Coalville, Kamas, Oakley and Francis, and Bear River.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of this Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government’s ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur. The majority of this stream segment and corridor is on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. There are private lands within this stream corridor that are managed by Summit County, Utah. This area is within the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning jurisdiction. This area is zoned as Agricultural Grazing 160.

(3) Support or opposition to designation. There were no specific comments for Boundary Creek to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

During scoping comments were received that both supported and opposed designation of this segment. Summit County, conservation organizations and others thought protecting the headwaters of the Bear River was important. Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses.

No public comments were received during the comment period for the Draft EIS specific to just the Boundary Creek. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

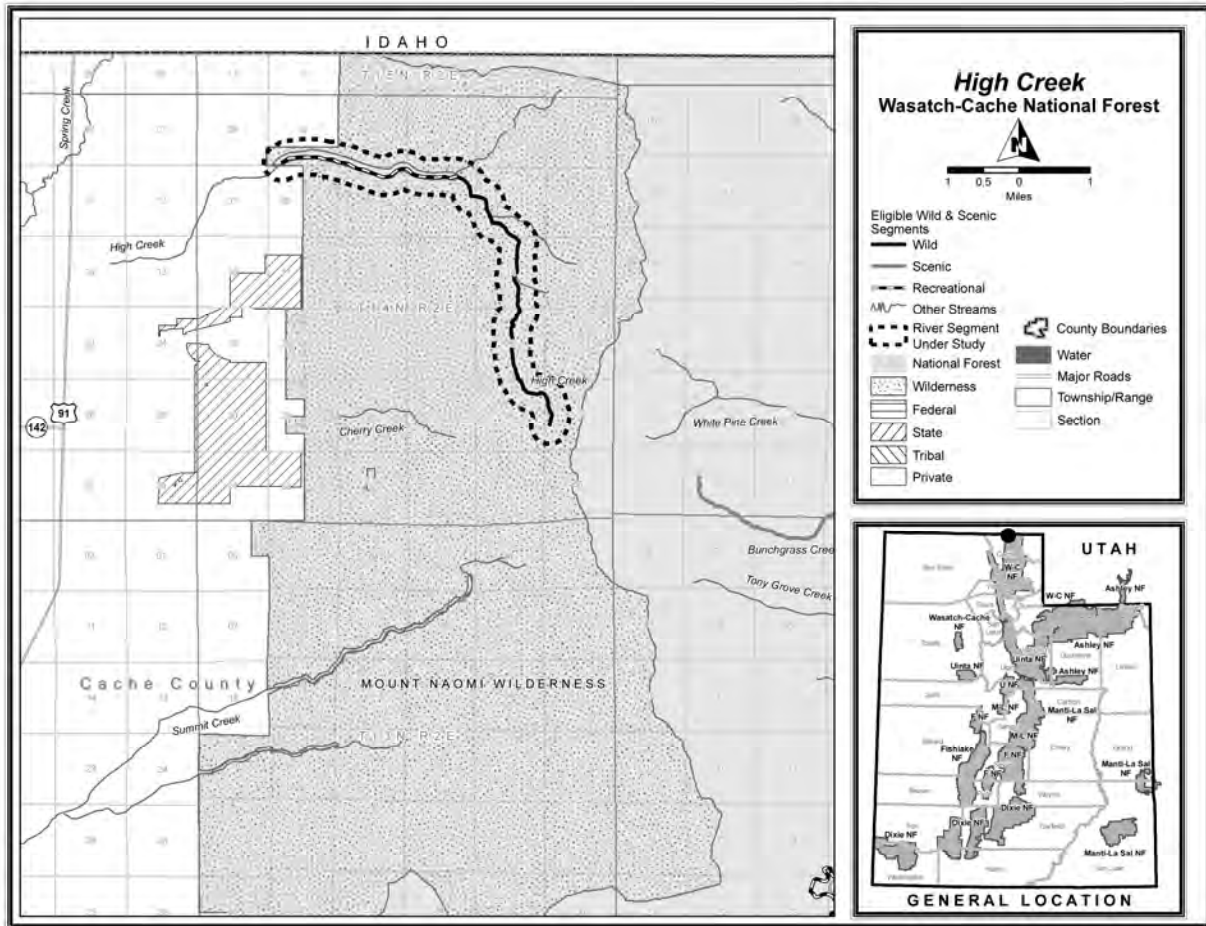
(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives. Designation of the Boundary Creek segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forests management of the stream corridor as directed by the Forest Plan, and this designation would add one more layer of protection for areas managed as RHCAs and roadless. Designation would also be consistent with the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources plan for improving fisheries. Designation may add additional regulations to private lands located at the end of the segment at the Forest boundary. These lands are subject to regulations proposed by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity. This segment contributes to the basin integrity when combined with other eligible stream segments that make up the headwater streams of the Bear River. Basin integrity for the upper Bear River would be enhanced when this segment is combined with the other eligible Bear River headwater streams, the Left Hand, Right Hand, and East Fork Bear River, Hayden Fork, Ostler Fork and Stillwater.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are no public volunteer commitments currently for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Evanston Ranger District.

High Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: High Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 7 miles, High Creek Lake to Forest boundary

Eligible: same

Location:

High Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 11, T 14 N, R 2 E, SLM	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 10, T 14 N, R 2 E, SLM	Wild	4
Segment 2	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 10, T 14 N, R 2 E, SLM	SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 5, T 14 N, R 2 E, SLM	Scenic	3

*This stream was listed as a wild river, however upon further study the level of development and road access in the lower portion of the stream disqualifies the wild classification for that portion. Therefore, the classification for this stream segment has been split where Management Prescription 1.3 ends, just upstream from where the road ends at NAD 27 441449.55 E, 4646970.12 E UTM 12.

Physical Description of River Segment:

This segment of High Creek extends from its source in the headwaters of the South Fork in Mt. Naomi Wilderness to the Forest boundary. There are several beaver ponds along the segment. The stream lies in a narrow, steep canyon. Vegetation is primarily maple/mountain brush and sagebrush on lower elevation uplands, with cottonwood in the riparian area. Douglas fir increases in dominance at higher elevations. Tall willows occur at upper elevations. Cronquist daisy, a sensitive species, occurs on limestone cliff faces within the corridor. Wildlife is typical for these habitats; the corridor provides moose, deer, and elk habitat. Fish species include rainbow and brown trout and sculpin. The State of Utah ranks the fishery as Class III (important).

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: High Creek is free-flowing, as it has no man-made structures, diversions, nor major channel modifications.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Ecology – The ecological setting at High Creek is near potential natural condition, and is functioning in a close to optimal manner. This value, when compared to nearby adjacent drainages and areas can be considered outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Segment 1—Wild; Segment 2—Scenic

High Creek is free-flowing and possesses an outstandingly remarkable ecological value; therefore the stream is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The WCNF Plan (Appendix VIII-5) classifies the entire segment of High Creek as a wild stream to the Forest Boundary. This stream has a parallel road which disqualifies that section of the stream for wild classification from the forest boundary to the wilderness boundary. To correct this error the classification is wild from the source to the trailhead parking because a wild river segment is supposed to be accessible only by trail.

The stream can be classified as a wild river because it is:

- Free of impoundment.
- It is essentially primitive.
- There is little or no evidence of human activity.
- There is some presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- There is a limited amount of domestic grazing.
- There is little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- The area is inaccessible except by trail.
- The stream meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

The lower portion of the stream from the trailhead to the forest boundary may be classified as recreational because:

- The bottom 2.65 miles of Road 48 (High Creek Road) accessing the High Creek Trailhead is parallel to the stream.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment of High Creek extends from its source in the headwaters of the South Fork in Mt. Naomi Wilderness to the forest boundary. This segment is located on the Logan Ranger District in Cache County, Utah.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-7.1	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	2342
* area within ¼ mile buffer off Forest	Private Land	113
Total:		2455 acres

The private land is zoned Forest Recreation. The purpose of the forest-recreation zone is to permit the proper use of the forest areas of the county for grazing, forestry, mining, recreation and other activities to the extent compatible with the protection of the natural and scenic resources of the forests for the benefit of present and future generations (Ord. 2004-10, 8-10-2004).

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – A portion of the High Creek segment is within the Mount Naomi Wilderness and has been reserved from mineral exploration. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. This area is not a high oil and gas potential area.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on the wild portion of this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Road 048 parallels the stream below High Creek Trailhead for approximately 2.65 miles. The road west of the trailhead parking lot restricts the creek. Above the trailhead, the Mount Naomi Peak National Recreation Trail 005 runs along the stream and beyond to High Creek Lake. Trail 005 crosses the stream 7 times. A small, primitive, developed campground is located about 1.0 mile above the Forest boundary. Trail 005 is the most heavily used trail providing access to the Mt. Naomi Wilderness.

Recreation Activities – The lower reaches of the corridor receive moderate to heavy dispersed recreation use on the Forest, primarily by local residents. Fishing use is light to moderate. There are no known historic or prehistoric sites within the corridor.

Grazing Activities – The entire stream segment runs through the High Creek Cattle Allotment. The river corridor it self is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects planned within this stream corridor.

Special Designations – High Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache

National Forest as a Category 1 Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA). Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat condition. A Category 1 RHCA (Fish Bearing Stream) is an RHCA that consists of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 1.10 miles of the stream segment, below the High Creek Trailhead parking area flows through a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural. This roadless area is a narrow band of land that is adjacent to the road and the Wilderness boundary.

Approximately 4.5 miles of this stream are within the Mt. Naomi Wilderness Area. This wilderness has unique management needs and regulations.

There are several Wasatch-Cache National Forest management prescriptions within the stream corridor that provide for watershed, wildlife, forest and recreation resource protection (Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003):

Land management direction for land within the stream corridor for the area below the High Creek Trailhead and parking area:

Management Prescription 4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the ROS category at the specific area and visitor desires for convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Land management direction for land within the stream corridor above the trailhead:

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e.,

wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for land outside the stream corridor within the surrounding watershed:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Socio-Economic Environment – The local population of Cache Valley (estimated population of 98,622 in 2006) relies primarily on the university, agriculture, some light industry, and to increasing extent tourism and the services that support it. There is a high rate of growth expected in Cache Valley. As the population grows, a change in landscape is occurring, and agricultural and open lands are being converted for urban, commercial and industrial development. Off highway vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, fishing, biking, rock climbing, whitewater boating, skiing and snowmobiling are popular recreation activities for locals and visitors in the nearby canyons.

High Creek is a tributary stream that flows into the Cache Valley north of the town of Richmond. Water from High Creek is diverted into the Upper and Lower High Creek canals for agricultural purposes. Flow then enters City Creek which then enters into the Cub River which then flows into the Bear River. Richmond had a population 2,051 at the 2000 census, with 619 households, and 526 families residing in the city.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Cache County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This entire stream segment is on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. A small portion of private land is within the corridor. The private land could be developed in the future. This development would be directed by the County Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances for the Forest Recreation (FR 40) zone which allows for one seasonal cabin per forty acres.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

There were no specific comments for High Creek to the January 1999 DRAFT Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion I the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

During scoping some comments one individual supported designation of the portion of segment within wilderness. Cache County did not support designation

There were no supportive comments received for High Creek during the comment period for the Draft EIS. Cache County did not support designation for High Creek since they already felt it was protected.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of High Creek as a Wild and Scenic River system stream supports the goals of Wilderness. The majority of this stream is in the Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

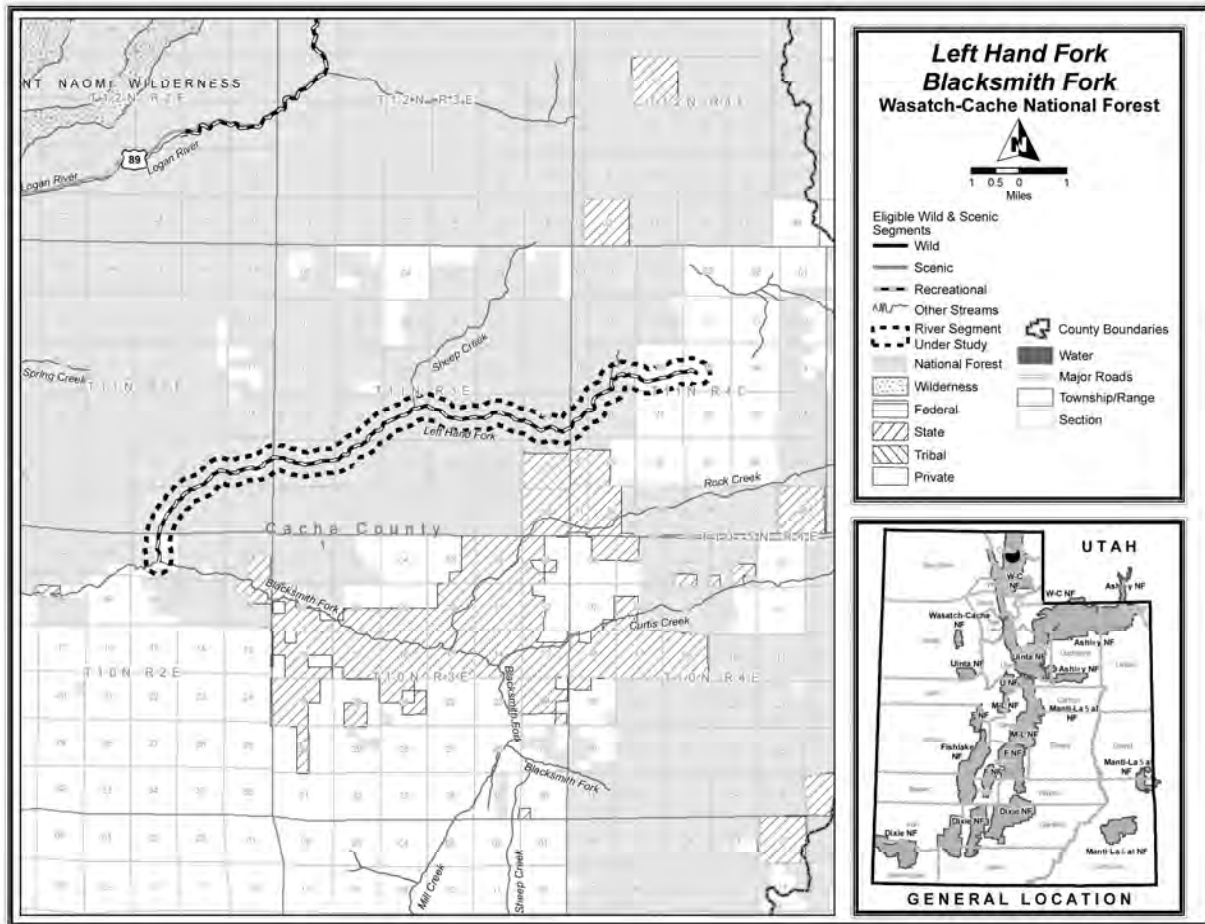
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes little to the basin integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There are no known groups who have shown interest in assisting with management of this river segment.

Left Hand Fork Blacksmiths Fork River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Left Hand Fork Blacksmiths Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 15.0 miles, from source to confluence with Blacksmiths Fork

Eligible: same

Location:

Left Hand Fork Blacksmiths Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 23, T 11 N, R 4 E, SLM	NW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 3, T 10 N, R 2 E, SLM	Recreational	15.0

Physical Description of River Segment:

This segment of Left Hand Fork of Blacksmith Fork is from its source near Bear Hollow to its confluence with Blacksmith Fork. Elevations along the segment range from 5,100 to 6,400 feet. The reach appears to follow a fault line and is bounded closely by a narrow valley. Most of the channel is cut into alluvium; but portions are controlled by bedrock. Upland vegetation communities are dominated by Douglas-fir on north-facing slopes with some maple communities at lower elevations. Mountain mahogany, sagebrush,

and other mountain brush communities occur on south-facing slopes and other drier sites. Riparian communities are dominated by cottonwood and/or box elder trees with red-osier dogwood a common undergrowth component. This narrow canyon offers moderate vegetation diversity, and is an example of common vegetation for the area. State of Utah fishing rating is Class II, of great importance. Species present include rainbow trout, cutthroat trout (possibly Bonneville cutthroat trout, a sensitive species), brown trout and whitefish.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: While the Left Hand Fork Blacksmiths Fork has some modifications, the stream appears to be free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenery – The scenery in the Left Hand Blacksmiths Fork provides a mosaic of colors and textures year-round. This value, when compared to nearby adjacent drainages and areas can be considered outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Recreational

The Left Hand Fork of Blacksmith Fork is free-flowing and possesses an outstandingly remarkable scenic value; therefore the stream is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The stream can be classified as a recreational river because the stream has:

- Some developments and substantial evidence of human activity.
- It is readily accessible by road.
- A parallel road exists along one of the stream banks, has bridge crossings, and other river access points.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is on the Logan Ranger District in Cache County, Utah. National Forest system lands are dominant along this segment. The upper 1.5 miles of this segment flow through private land, then the stream flows predominantly through Forest land; however small areas of private ownership in two areas account for less than one half mile on both banks, and then the lower part of the segment flows through private land again to the confluence with the Blacksmiths Fork.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-1.5	Private Land	515.9
1.5-11.4	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	3177.6
11.4-11.7	Private	36.4
11.7-13.9	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	705.5
13.9-14.1	Private	40.5
14.1-14.4	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	88.3
14.4-15.0	Private Land	234.9
Total:		4800 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions

of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

Private land is zoned Forest Recreation. The purpose of the forest-recreation zone is to permit the proper use of the forest areas of the county for grazing, forestry, mining, recreation and other activities to the extent compatible with the protection of the natural and scenic resources of the forests for the benefit of present and future generations (Cache County Ord. 2004-10, 8-10-2004).

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value within the area of the eligible Left Hand Fork Blacksmiths Fork segment and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest, however there is an active mining claim in the corridor that is not developed. Also, this area is not a high oil and gas potential area (Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003).

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Road 245 parallels the stream for the full length of this segment. There are four road crossings. Two developed campgrounds and dispersed camping, hiking, and sight-seeing opportunities are present. Several road encroachments limit natural meander patterns, but the stream flow is basically unimpeded and natural.

Recreation Activities – Scenic viewing is enjoyed by motorists and visitors. The stream meanders through dogwood, river birch and other water loving plants. Deep gray limestone walls and conifers found on the northern slopes of the canyon are a backdrop for fall colors of red maple and yellow/orange oak. This canyon offers an intimate look at a modified ridge and valley network between the Wasatch Front and the high Wyoming basins. Fishing is popular, and access is easy by the adjacent road. Boating is not possible. Opportunities are similar to many available on creeks that flow out of the Wasatch Range. Use comes from the Cache Valley and the Wasatch Front. There are no known National Register eligible sites along this segment.

Grazing Activities – This segment is within valley bottom portions of the South Cache Cattle, White Rock and Boulder Mountain Sheep Allotments. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned projects in this drainage. There is no commercial fishing or hunting operations.

Special Designations – The Left Hand Fork Blacksmiths Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1. Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA) include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 10.8 miles of this stream corridor are within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

There are several Wasatch-Cache National Forest management prescriptions within the stream corridor that provide for watershed, wildlife, forest and recreation resource protection (Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003):

Land management direction for land within the stream corridor on the north bank of Left Hand Blacksmiths Fork:

Management Prescription 3.1w Watershed Emphasis: This area consists of uplands identified as important watersheds.

(S3.1W) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation facility development are not allowed.

(G3.1W-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring watersheds to desired conditions, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1W-2) Livestock grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.1W-3) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities.

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives. Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Management Prescription 6.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring non-forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on non-forested vegetation properly functioning conditions (i.e. vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability). Management encompasses the full range of land and resource treatment activities.

(G6.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G6.1-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G6.1-3) Road construction, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed.

Land management direction for the land adjacent to the Left Hand Blacksmiths Fork:

Management Prescription 4.3 Backcountry Motorized Emphasis: These areas provide recreation opportunities in a more remote and isolated setting where visitors can obtain a higher degree of solitude and the environment is in a near-natural setting. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights of other visitors are low and sounds of other users are low to moderate. Visitors are largely managed off-site, with signs and regulations posted at area boundaries. Management of recreation impacts is of a semi-primitive nature with regulation of use a priority management tool over site modification. Visitor self-reliance is high. Management visibility is low with backcountry ranger patrols focusing on monitoring and maintaining natural conditions and processes.

(S4.3) New recreation development is not allowed.

(G4.3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuels treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions and to restore ecosystem functioning as compatible with the backcountry recreation opportunity and natural setting desired.

(G4.3-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.3-3) New trail construction is allowed.

Management Prescription 4.4 Dispersed Motorized Emphasis: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the ROS category at the specific area and visitor desires for convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Land management direction for the land within the stream corridor on the south bank of the Left Hand Blacksmiths Fork:

Management Prescription 3.2U: Terrestrial Habitat Emphasis-Undeveloped: These areas consist of those terrestrial habitat areas protected from development because of potential impacts to key habitat elements. Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation

composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

(S-3.2U) Timber harvest, road construction, and new recreation developments are not allowed.

(G3.2U-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2U-2) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site-specifically developed habitat objectives.

Socio-Economic Environment – The Left Hand Fork Blacksmiths Fork feeds the Blacksmiths Fork which supplies hydroelectric power, culinary, and agricultural water to the town of Hyrum, population 6,400. The local population relies primarily on agriculture, some light industry, and, to an increasing extent tourism and the services that support it.

The local population of Cache Valley (estimated population of 98,622 in 2006) relies primarily on the university, agriculture, some light industry, and to increasing extent tourism and the services that support it. There is a high rate of growth expected in Cache Valley. As the population grows, a change in landscape is occurring, and agricultural and open lands are being converted for urban, commercial and industrial development. Off highway vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, fishing, biking, rock climbing, whitewater boating, skiing and snowmobiling are popular recreation activities for locals and visitors in local canyons.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Cache County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003. The private lands within this segment are subject to Cache County Countywide Comprehensive Plan, the primary land use ordinance for private land. The Comprehensive Plan is a planning tool for making policy decisions. The Land Use Ordinance is the instrument by which these policies are implemented.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government’s ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This majority of the stream segment and corridor is on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The private land could be developed in the future. This development would be directed by the County Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances for the Forest Recreation (FR 40) zone; which allows for one seasonal cabin per forty acres. Regulations for sensitive areas, steep slopes, jurisdictional wetlands, natural waterways and areas lying within the floodplain, and areas of wildlife habitat are declared under Title 17.18.020. Title 17.18.060 specifies setbacks for development from natural waterways of 50 ft. for dwellings, 100 ft. for septic systems, and up to 100’ for dwellings if within the FEMA mapped floodplain.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

One comment to the Left Hand Fork Blacksmith Fork in the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System communicated the value of wildlife and botanical qualities along this segment.

During scoping Cache County did not support designation. One individual did not recommend it for designation unless exceptions could be included that would allow for dispersed recreation improvements such as bridges and trails.

The Left Hand Fork Blacksmith Fork received comments both in support and opposition of designation during the public comment period for the Draft EIS. Some felt because it has been damaged by over-use it should be restored. Others mentioned cultural resources, and wildlife values further support the scenic outstanding remarkable value. Those that did not support the designation including Cache County felt the values were already protected.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of this segment of Left Hand Blacksmiths Fork complements current Forest management for dispersed recreation and watershed protection. Designation may conflict with the density of subdivision development on land owned privately or by the city of Hyrum. The recreational classification allows the more extensive residential or commercial developments than are currently present in this stream corridor.

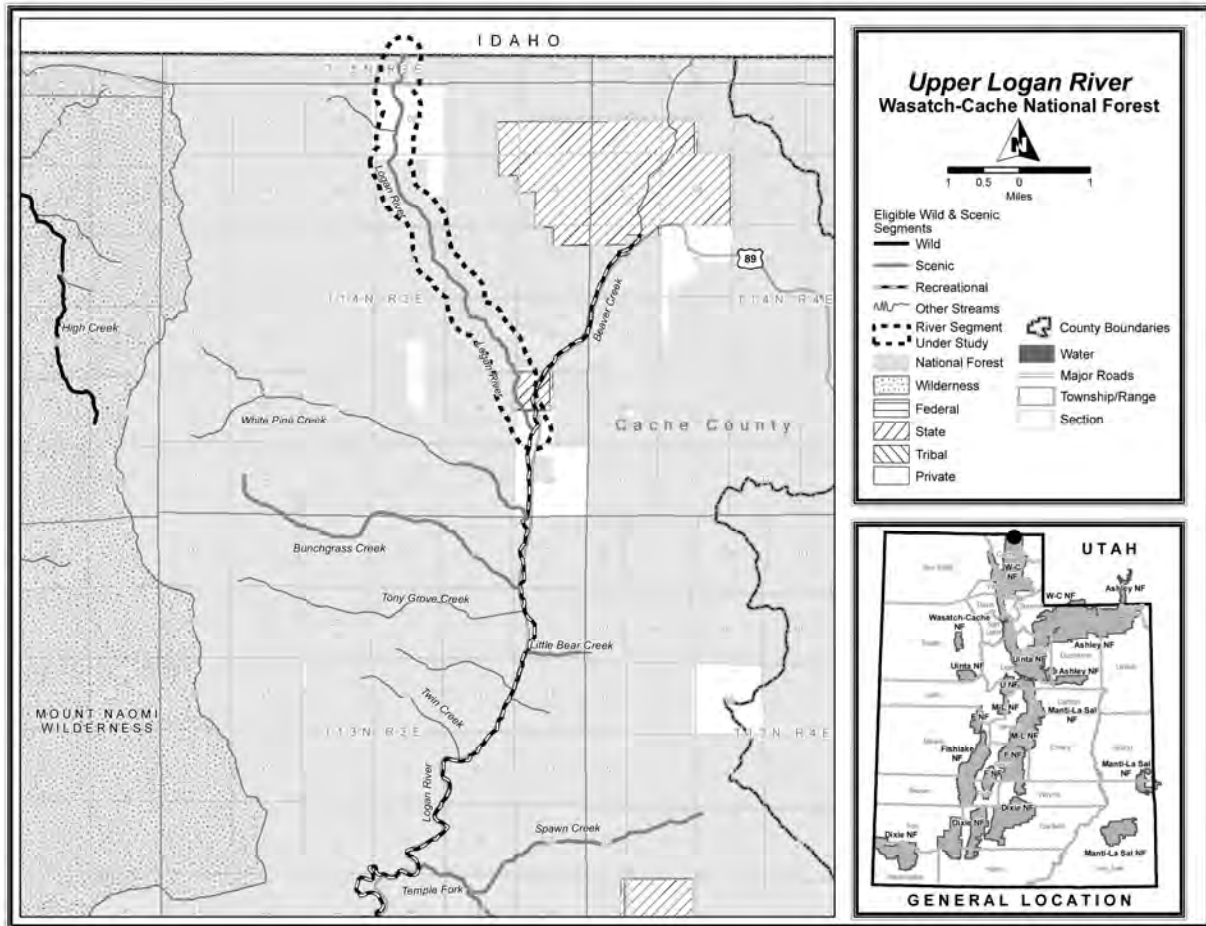
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

While this segment is long, extending from its headwaters to the Forest boundary, it does not contribute greatly to basin integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

The Cache Anglers have interest in the management of this river segment and have volunteered to assist in habitat restoration efforts.

Logan River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Logan River

River Mileage:

Studied: 6.5 miles, Idaho state line to confluence with Beaver Creek

Eligible: same

Location:

Logan River	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 34, T 15 N, R 3 E, SLM	SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 25, T 14 N, R 3 E, SLM	Scenic	6.5

Physical Description of River Segment:

Elevations range along the stream from approximately 7,500 feet at the Idaho state line to about 6,400 feet at Beaver Creek. This segment of the Logan River is a relatively small upriver portion of the stream where the river is natural in character and has few highway and road encroachments and crossings. The stream flow is perennial; however during low flow periods a portion of the stream can go underground for about 100 to 200 yards. In the upper reaches of the segment the somewhat confined channel is characterized by pool-riffle-run and it runs through a broad open valley. Adjacent uplands are primarily

dominated by aspen and sagebrush communities and some conifer communities. Subalpine fir is succeeding aspen communities in some areas. Riparian communities are characterized by thinleaf alder and various willows. Fish species present include Bonneville cutthroat trout (a sensitive species), brook trout, brown trout, and sculpin. The State of Utah rates the fishery here as a Class II (unique).

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: This segment of the Logan River has not been substantially modified by the dirt road that runs along it or by other construction or diversion. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Fish – The Bonneville cutthroat trout fishery within this tributary to the upper Logan River is a significant population, because of its size, diversity, distribution within several suitable habitats, self-sustaining natural reproduction and the size and vigor of the fish. The importance of this meta-population of Bonneville cutthroat trout is an outstandingly remarkable value. The range of Bonneville cutthroat includes most of the eastern Great Basin. This portion of the main Logan River along with several tributaries are occupied with a meta-population (that is a genetically interactive larger population of the species) that, if protected, can insure the preservation of the species, which is currently under some considerable pressure to survive due to pressures of exotic species introduction, fishing pressure, and habitat fragmentation, destruction, and/or degradation. The Logan River population of these fish is probably the largest and most diverse subpopulation with habitat connectivity that remains. Fish abundance for the Bonneville cutthroat is high, and the population is self-sustaining through natural spawning in both the main Logan River and these tributaries. This river system is of critical importance to Bonneville cutthroat because of its lack of migratory obstructions, the large number of connected populations, and the overall strength and diversity of the population.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Scenic

Since this segment of the Logan River is free-flowing and has an outstandingly remarkable fish value, the segment is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The stream can be classified as a scenic river because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- The road parallels stream through the valley bottom, but is not immediately adjacent to stream throughout entire segment.
- Access from road is not readily accessible throughout the entire segment.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment of Logan River, from the Idaho Stateline to its confluence with Beaver Creek, is located on the Logan District in Cache County, Utah. A recent land exchange with the State of Utah in the upper reaches of the river have made most of the lands through which it flows part of the National Forest system, although about 1 mile still flows through private lands. These private inholdings have water rights in Franklin Basin. The lower portion of the stream flows through Utah State land and then private land at the confluence with Beaver Creek.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-0.6	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	179.8
0.6-1.7	Private Land	362.2
1.7-5.6	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1228.8

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
5.6-5.8	Utah State Land	78.4
5.8-5.9	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	28.7
5.9-6.2	Utah State Land	85.6
6.2-6.5	Private Land	115.9
	Total:	2079.4 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

The private lands are zoned Forest Recreation. The purpose of the forest-recreation zone is to permit the proper use of the forest areas of the county for grazing, forestry, mining, recreation and other activities to the extent compatible with the protection of the natural and scenic resources of the forests for the benefit of present and future generations (Ord. 2004-10, 8-10-2004).

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value within the area of this eligible Logan River segment and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. Also, this area is not a high oil and gas potential area.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Access to segment is from US Highway 89, a National Scenic Byway. Forest Road 006 (Franklin Basin Rd.) is a dirt road that runs adjacent to the segment. There are two bridges that span the stream in this segment, one bridge is located on private land, the other is on State land. The bridges are full spanning and most do not constrict flows. All pass fish. No developed Forest Service campgrounds are present in the upper part of the segment. The Utah Division of Parks and Recreation operates a winter sports trailhead parking area at the junction of Highway 89 and the Franklin Basin Road.

Recreation Activities – Dispersed recreation is common along the upper position of the river segment. Some of these dispersed camping areas have been closed by the Forest Service to reduce the impacts to the stream.

Grazing Activities – This segment is within the valley bottom portion of the Franklin Basin Cattle

Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Forest Service projects within this stream corridor.

Special Designations – The Logan River is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

This segment of the Logan River is managed by the State of Utah as a Blue Ribbon fishery. Blue Ribbon Fishery waters are to be managed principally by protecting their watersheds, maintaining and restoring habitat, and implementing appropriate angling regulations. Waters classified as a Blue Ribbon Fishery are given protective legal status through the Division of Water Quality and the Division of Wildlife Resources. In addition, funding is available for projects associated with Blue Ribbon Fisheries. This funding is available to private organizations and groups for projects that would enhance Blue Ribbon Fisheries.

The stream segment and corridor ends at the Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway.

Approximately 3.4 miles of this stream corridor are within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

There are three areas within the stream segment's corridor that are recognized by the State of Utah as a

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor from the Idaho Stateline to the confluence with Beaver Creek:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat Emphasis: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian

management objectives.

Land management direction for land within the stream corridor along the road and to the east side of the stream:

Management Prescription 3.2U/3.2D Terrestrial Habitats Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

3.2U consists of those terrestrial habitat areas protected from development because of potential impacts to key habitat elements.

(S-3.2U) Timber harvest, road construction, and new recreation developments are not allowed.

(G3.2U-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2U-2) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site-specifically developed habitat objectives.

3.2D consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site-specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Land management direction for land within the stream corridor along the west side of the stream:

Management Prescription 4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the ROS category at the specific area and visitor desires for convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Socio-Economic Environment – The Logan River supplies agricultural water to the Cache Valley. The Logan River has multiple dams below the eligible segments. The First Dam (upstream from the town of Logan) is one of three hydroelectric dams built to generate electricity for Logan City. Unlike the other two, First Dam was not built by Logan City but by Utah State University. About two miles further up the canyon is Second Dam, site of the Logan City Power Plant and the Morgan Smith Turbine. Logan City has been using Second Dam for power since the beginning of the 20th century. The Third Dam is used for storage of spring runoff until it is needed in the drier months of summer.

The local population of Cache Valley (estimated population of 98,622 in 2006) relies primarily on the university, agriculture, some light industry, and to increasing extent tourism and the services that support it. There is a high rate of growth expected in Cache Valley. As the population grows, a change in landscape is occurring, and agricultural and open lands are being converted for urban, commercial and industrial development. Off highway vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, fishing, biking, rock climbing, whitewater boating, skiing and snowmobiling are popular recreation activities for locals and visitors in Logan Canyon.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), and Cache County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003. The State land along this segment is managed by SITLA, where the general land management objective for school and institutional trust lands is to optimize and maximize trust land uses for support of the beneficiaries over time through development of surface and mineral resources and real estate development. The private lands within this segment are subject to Cache County Countywide Comprehensive Plan, the primary land use ordinance for private land. The Comprehensive Plan is a planning tool for making policy decisions. The Land Use Ordinance is the instrument by which these policies are implemented.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in sharing the costs.

(2) The state/local government’s ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

The private and SITLA land could be developed in the future. This development would be directed by the County Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances for the Forest Recreation (FR 40) zone, which allows for one seasonal cabin per forty acres. Regulations for sensitive areas, steep slopes, jurisdictional wetlands, natural waterways and areas lying within the floodplain, and areas of wildlife habitat are declared under Title 17.18.020. Title 17.18.060 specifies setbacks for development from natural waterways of 50 ft. for dwellings, 100 ft. for septic systems, and up to 100 ft. for dwellings if within the FEMA mapped floodplain.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System. USDA Forest Service, 1999 were in support of listing of this portion of the Logan River for its fisheries and scenic values.

During scoping many comments were received concerning the Logan River. Some supported designation of all eligible segments of the Logan River system while others mentioned the unique and varied values specific only to the Logan River. Cache County and others did not support designation

A large number of comments were received during the comment period for the Draft EIS both supporting and opposing the designation of the two eligible segments of the Logan River. Those supporting the segments cite attributes such as blue ribbon fisheries, unique geologic features and high recreational values. They also supported designation to ensure protection of the river and its values. They felt designation could be of great economic value to the region. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for the Logan River system. The City of Logan supported designation as well.

There are many including Cache County however that oppose designation of the river segments due to cost, questions about management, private property concerns and impacts designation may have economically on the community. The State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA) did not support designation because of the potential impacts on the value and utility of its land. The State of Utah expressed concern that designation would impact the state’s ability to maintain or expand the highway near the segment’s terminus.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of this segment of the Logan River complements the State’s Blue Ribbon Fishery designation for this river and current Forest management. Designation may conflict with the density of subdivision development on private and SITLA land. Scenic classification allows the presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures but not more extensive residential or commercial developments. The designation also complements the Scenic Byway corridor at the bottom of the stream segment.

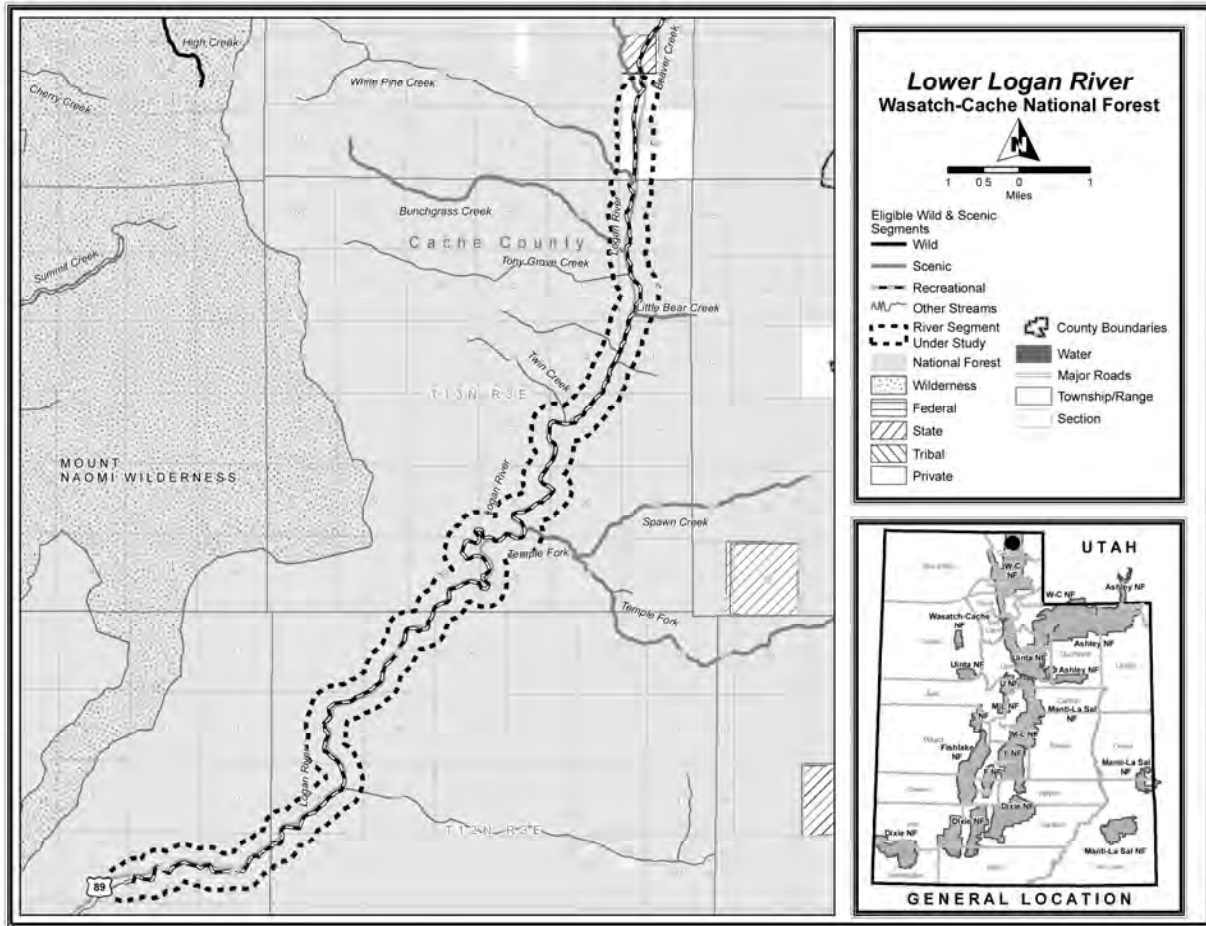
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment of the Logan River—when combined with White Pine Creek, Spawn Creek, Bunchgrass Creek, Temple Fork, Little Bear Creek, and the downstream portion of the Logan River segments—contributes to the Logan River basin’s integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Local groups such as the Cache County Anglers, Bear River Watershed Council, the Bridgerland Backcountry Horsemen, and the Bridgerland Audubon Society have demonstrated and expressed interest in continuing their projects related to habitat restoration and protection as well as trash pick up.

Logan River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Logan River

River Mileage:

Studied: 18.9 miles, from confluence with Beaver Creek to bridge at

Malibu-Guinavah Campground

Eligible: same

Location:

Logan River	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 25, T 14 N, R 3 E, SLM	NW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 23, T 12 N, R 2 E, SLM	Recreational	18.9

Physical Description of River Segment:

Elevations range from 6,400 feet at Beaver Creek to 5,100 feet at the campground. Along this segment the stream runs through an open and rolling setting in the uppermost 8 miles above the Temple Fork confluence to a classic canyon landscape in the lower section. The geological features most apparent along the course of the river are some of the karst features, notably Ricks Springs Cave, Logan Cave, and

Wind Cave. Other caves also exist, and undoubtedly many more remain to be discovered. Ordovician quartzite strata near Right Fork contain unusually well formed and preserved fucoidal structures (fossilized casts of ancient worm borrows which appear like seaweed mats frozen in the stone). At the west end of the corridor, lake terrace gravel deposits of prehistoric Lake Bonneville perch above the river bed and mark the upper level of a lake with enormous significance in the Great Basin. Well-defined faults and shear zones cut and displace the sedimentary strata in several road cuts along the corridor, some of which also show geologically interesting small-scale folding of the strata. Uplands are dominated by Douglas fir on cooler north-facing slopes with maple, sagebrush, mountain mahogany, and juniper communities on south-facing and other drier sites. Riparian vegetation is characterized by birch/dogwood, box elder, and yellow willow communities. Crack willow, an introduced species, is a common component of some of the camping and picnicking areas in the lower sections of the segment. One federally listed threatened plant, Primula maguirei (Maguire primrose), occurs along this segment in more mesic limestone cliffs. In addition, several Intermountain Region sensitive species, including Viola frank smithii (franksmith violet), Erigeron cronquistii, and Draba maguirei, occur on the dolomitic limestone outcrops.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: Although Highway 89 runs the length of this segment and has some effects on its free-flow, these are not substantial. In general the ecological functions of the river are natural along the segment. Over the last several decades construction efforts and active management have intended that natural appearance and functions might be preserved. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Fish – The Bonneville cutthroat trout fishery within this tributary to the upper Logan River is a significant population, because of its size, diversity, distribution within several suitable habitats, self-sustaining natural reproduction and the size and vigor of the fish. The importance of this meta-population of Bonneville cutthroat trout is an outstandingly remarkable value. The range of Bonneville cutthroat includes most of the eastern Great Basin. This portion of the main Logan River along with several tributaries are occupied with a meta-population (that is a genetically interactive larger population of the species) that, if protected, can insure the preservation of the species, which is currently under some considerable pressure to survive due to pressures of exotic species introduction, fishing pressure, and habitat fragmentation, destruction, and/or degradation. The Logan River population of these fish is probably the largest and most diverse subpopulation with habitat connectivity that remains. Fish abundance for the Bonneville cutthroat is high, and the population is self-sustaining through natural spawning in both the main Logan River and these tributaries. This river system is of critical importance to Bonneville cutthroat because of its lack of migratory obstructions, the large number of connected populations, and the overall strength and diversity of the population.

Scenery – Scenery along the segment has been recognized as outstanding by the creation of the National Scenic Byway for Highway 89. This scenery is diverse and variable, a scenic smorgasbord of this part of the Wasatch Range.

Geology – This segment meets the criteria for outstandingly remarkable geological value due to the diversity and abundance of features which together form an area with high educational and scientific interest. In broad scale, the entire river corridor presents an unparalleled cross section of the geologic structure and middle and lower Paleozoic carbonate stratigraphy of the west flank of the Bear River Range. A myriad of smaller geologic features fall within the confines of the corridor which contains the geologically-interesting meanders of the Logan River.

Ecology – Ecologically, this segment contains a wide variety of plant, animal, and aquatic communities that are functioning in a relatively healthy manner, especially when compared to the proximity to local urban populations. The use of the corridor as a setting for education for local schools and the university community has been appreciated for many decades. Due to the location of the river in close proximity to Utah State University, more is known and written about the local natural setting than for most areas of the western U.S. The ecological setting and its value to local and broader communities can be considered outstanding.

Recreation – The recreation opportunities in this segment are about as broad spectrum as are provided in any similar setting northern Utah. If one were to look for a typical northern Utah outdoor recreation, the Logan River area might be a good model for the type. For its variety, length of season, quality, and appropriate scale of facilities, the recreation experience along the Logan River is outstanding.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Recreational

Since this segment of the Logan River is free-flowing and has outstandingly remarkable values, the segment is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The stream can be classified as a recreational river because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- This segment is free of impoundment.
- Has some development and substantial evidence of human activity.
- Grazing is present.
- There is evidence of past logging or ongoing timber harvest in canyon, yet forest appears natural from the river bank.
- Readily accessible by road.
- Parallel road exists along stream with bridge crossing.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This river is located on the Logan Ranger District in Cache County, Utah. Private inholdings are located along the Logan River just downstream of Beaver Creek.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-.5	Private Land	178.1
0.5-.7	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	60.8
0.7-1.7	Private Land	178.1
1.7-14.7	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	4318.2
14.7-14.9	Private Land	6.3
14.9-18.9	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1268.8
	Total:	6010.3 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps

represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

Private lands are zoned Forest Recreation. The purpose of the forest-recreation zone is to permit the proper use of the forest areas of the county for grazing, forestry, mining, recreation and other activities to the extent compatible with the protection of the natural and scenic resources of the forests for the benefit of present and future generations (Ord. 2004-10, 8-10-2004).

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value within the area of this eligible Logan River segment and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. Also, this area is not a high oil and gas potential area.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Although some of the several stream-crossing structures may impede peak stream flows, there are no full-scale impoundments in this reach above the inundated area above the Third Dam, which is downstream from the end of this segment at the campground bridge. No significant diversions have been made that could have any noticeable effects on stream flows or in-stream water uses; however, there are probably several minor diversions for adjacent domestic and irrigation uses. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Parallel access is provided by State Highway 89, a designated National Scenic Byway. This highway is used by through travelers driving between the Wasatch Front and Idaho or Wyoming, or by recreation users who are interested in destinations along the river and highway. The Forest Service provides many developed campgrounds and picnic sites in the lower portion of the segment; including five developed campgrounds, two picnic areas, and three developed trailheads, Wood Camp, Temple Fork, Tony Grove Winter Trailhead. Beaver Creek and Franklin Basin trailheads in the segment corridor on SITLA land.

There are 11 Recreation Residences Areas administered by the Forest Service under special use permit along this segment of stream. Bridges across the river access each area. Some of the 84 recreational residences are within the floodplain of the Logan River. Riparian Management Objectives (RMO) have been developed to manage recreational residences within riparian corridors.

Grazing Activities – This segment is within the valley bottom portion of the Franklin Basin Cattle Allotment and the Logan Canyon Cattle Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Recreation Activities – Recreation pressure in the corridor, both dispersed and developed, can be considered moderate to heavy depending on season and day of the week. Access to the river for fishing and tubing is very easy. Two geological markers are present: one discusses ancient Lake Bonneville and the other talks about deposits of fucoidal quartzite. Other interesting viewing sites include Ricks Springs. Logan Wind Cave is also a destination for hikers. Rock climbing is very popular along the segment.

Below Ricks Springs some kayaking occurs depending on the water level.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Forest projects planned on this segment. The Utah State University Field Station is located in the upper portion of the segment. There are no commercial fishing, hunting, or recreation activities on the segment.

Special Designations – The Logan River is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

This segment of the Logan River is managed by the State of Utah as a Blue Ribbon fishery. Blue Ribbon Fishery waters are to be managed principally by protecting their watersheds, maintaining and restoring habitat, and implementing appropriate angling regulations. Waters classified as a Blue Ribbon Fishery are given protective legal status through the Division of Water Quality and the Division of Wildlife Resources. The UDWR is currently developing management strategies and regulations that would implement and support the Blue Ribbon Fishery program.

This entire stream segment flows within the Logan Canyon Scenic Byway corridor, a National Scenic Byway. This program is a collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States.

Approximately 10.4 miles of this stream corridor are within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Approximately 2.0 miles of stream fall within Drinking Water Source Protection Zones; one is a small section of the Logan River that flows through Red Banks campground and the other section flows from the confluence with Right Fork downstream to Card Picnic Area.

Land management direction for land within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat Emphasis: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the ½ mile wide stream corridor:

Management Prescription 2.5 Scenic Byways: Manage Scenic Byways to protect and maintain their outstanding scenic quality. Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans may be developed for designated Byways to further define desired conditions and tailor management direction.

(G2.5-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed when these activities are necessary to maintain or enhance the scenic setting for the long term.

(G2.5-2) Grazing is allowed and managed for compatibility with other elements of Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans.

(G2.5-3) Road building, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed for purposes of enhancing use and enjoyment of the scenic byway corridor, while maintaining or enhancing the scenic setting.

Socio-Economic Environment – The Logan River supplies hydroelectric power, culinary, and agricultural water to the Cache Valley. The Logan River has multiple dams below the eligible segments. The First Dam (upstream from the town of Logan) is one of three hydroelectric dams built to generate electricity for Logan City. Unlike the other two, First Dam was not built by Logan City but by Utah State University. About two miles further up the canyon is Second Dam, site of the Logan City Power Plant and the Morgan Smith Turbine. Logan City has been using Second Dam for power since the beginning of the 20th century. The Third Dam is used for storage of spring runoff until it is needed in the drier months of summer.

The local population of Cache Valley (estimated population of 98,622 in 2006) relies primarily on the university, agriculture, some light industry, and to increasing extent tourism and the services that support it. There is a high rate of growth expected in Cache Valley. As the population grows, a change in landscape is occurring, and agricultural and open lands are being converted for urban, commercial and industrial development. Off highway vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, fishing, biking, rock climbing, whitewater boating, skiing and snowmobiling are popular recreation activities for locals and visitors in Logan Canyon.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), and Cache County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, through the use of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003. The State land along this segment is managed by the SITLA, where the general land management objective for school and institutional trust lands is to optimize and maximize trust land uses for support of the beneficiaries over time through development of surface and mineral resources and real estate development. The private lands within this segment are subject to Cache County Countywide Comprehensive Plan, the primary land use ordinance for private land. The Comprehensive Plan is a planning tool for making policy decisions. The Land Use Ordinance is the instrument by which these policies are implemented.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be

\$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in sharing the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

The private and SITLA lands at the beginning of this segment could be developed in the future. This development would be directed by the County Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances for the Forest Recreation (FR 40) zone, which allows for one seasonal cabin per forty acres. Regulations for sensitive areas, steep slopes, jurisdictional wetlands, natural waterways and areas lying within the floodplain, and areas of wildlife habitat are declared under Title 17.18.020. Title 17.18.060 specifies setbacks for development from natural waterways of 50 ft. for dwellings, 100 ft. for septic systems, and up to 100' for dwellings if within the FEMA mapped floodplain.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

One public comment to the Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, USDA Forest Service, 1999, from the State of Utah Division of Wildlife provided clarifying information for some of the fish data used in the Draft Inventory. Many comments were in support of the Logan River for listing as eligible for inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers system. Comments from Logan City expressed concerns with implications of designation; therefore the original length of the stream segment was shortened. Many comments were received during scoping concerning the Logan River. Some supported designation of all eligible segments of the Logan River system while others mentioned the unique and varied values specific only to the Logan River. Cache County and others did not support designation

During the public comment period for the Draft EIS, a large number of comments were received both supporting and opposing the designation of the two eligible segments of the Logan River. Those supporting the segments cite attributes such as blue ribbon fisheries, unique geologic features and high recreational values. They also supported designation to ensure protection of the river and its values. They felt designation could be of great economic value to the region and complement the National Scenic Byway status. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for the Logan River system. The City of Logan supported designation as well.

There are many however that oppose designation of the river segments due to cost, questions about management, private property concerns and impacts designation may have economically on the community. Cache County felt it was important to not designate Logan River to preserve the feasibility of future water development projects. The State of Utah was concerned about highway maintenance and

future road improvements.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of this segment of the Logan River complements the State's Blue Ribbon Fishery designation for this river and current Forest management. Designation will not conflict with the density of subdivision development on private and SITLA land. Recreational classification allows the presence of extensive residential or commercial developments. The designation also complements the Scenic Byway corridor along the stream segment.

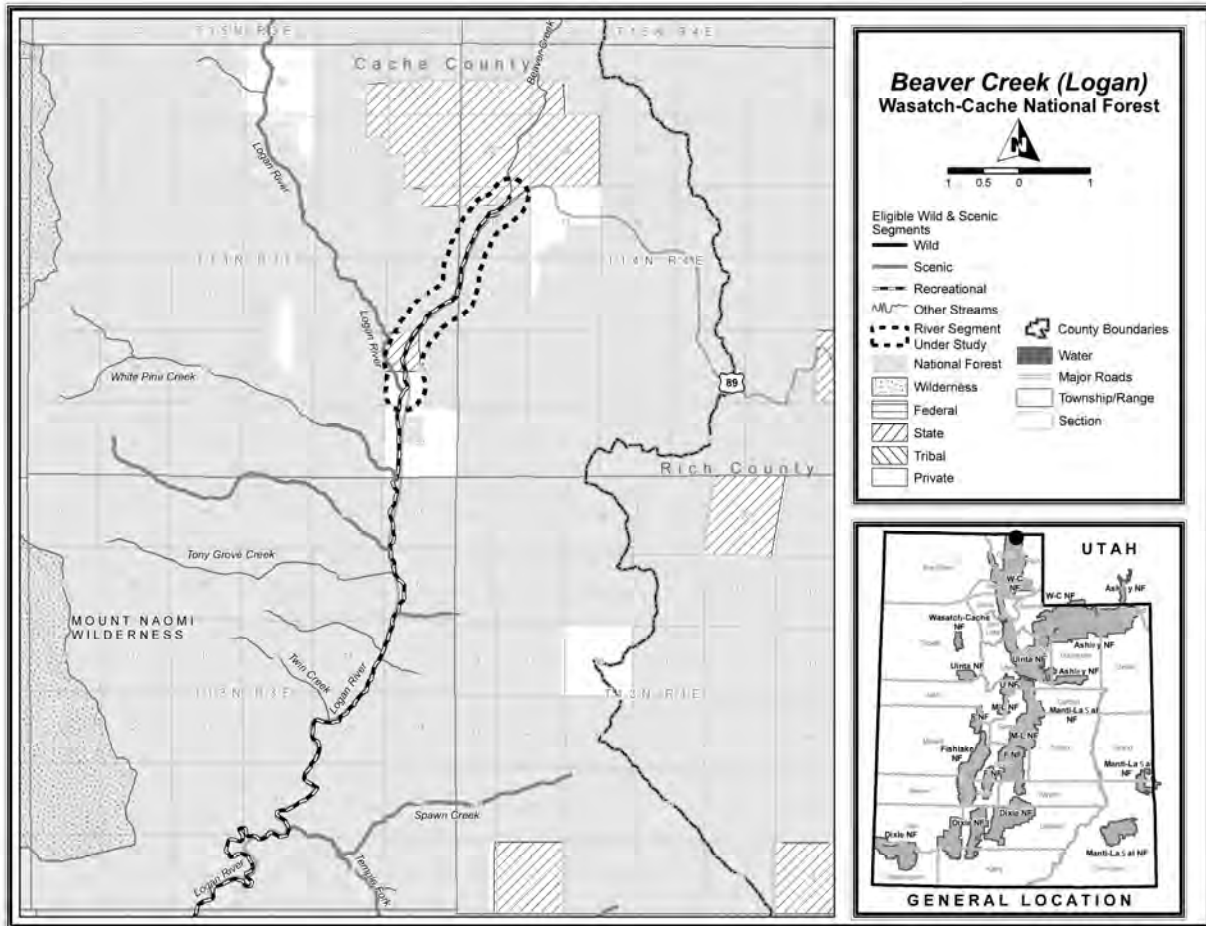
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The scenic segments of White Pine Creek, Bunchgrass Creek, Temple Fork, Spawn Creek, Little Bear Creek, the upper Logan River when combined with the lower Logan River contributes to the basins integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Local groups such as the Logan Canyon Scenic Byway Committee, Stokes Nature Center, Utah State University, Cache County Anglers, Bear River Watershed Council, Bridgerland Backcountry Horsemen, and Bridgerland Audubon Society, Scout and Church groups as well as the Utah Rivers Council have demonstrated and expressed interest in continuing their projects related to habitat restoration and protection as well as trash pick up.

Beaver Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Beaver Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 3.4 miles, south boundary of State land to confluence with Logan River

Eligible: Same

Location:

Beaver Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 18, T 1 N, R 14 E, SLM	SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 25, T 14 N, R 3 E, SLM	Recreational	3.4

Physical Description of River Segment:

This stream is a tributary to the upper Logan River. Vegetation in uplands of this drainage includes sagebrush, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, aspen, Douglas fir and some limber pine. Riparian communities are typically narrow and include willows, dogwood, aspen and conifers. Several beaver ponds lie within these corridors, and the lower reaches of some provide big game winter range (moose, elk and deer).

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan 2003, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999, USDA Forest Service.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Fish – Fish species include brook trout, sculpin and Bonneville cutthroat trout (a sensitive species). While all the fish species in these tributaries can add to visitor enjoyment or the overall wildlife diversity in the upper Logan River drainage, the Bonneville cutthroat trout population is of special interest and value. The range of Bonneville cutthroat includes most of the eastern Great Basin. These several streams in addition to the upper portions of the main Logan River are occupied with a meta-population (that is a genetically interactive larger population of the species) that, if protected, can insure the preservation of the species, which is currently under some considerable pressure to survive due to pressures of exotic species introduction, fishing pressure, and habitat fragmentation, destruction, and/or degradation. The upper Logan River population of these fish is probably the largest and most diverse subpopulation with habitat connectivity that remains. Fish abundance for the Bonneville cutthroat is high, and the population is self-sustaining through natural spawning in both the main Logan River and these tributaries. This river system is of critical importance to Bonneville cutthroat because of its lack of migratory obstructions, the large number of connected populations, and the overall strength and diversity of the population. The importance of this meta-population of Bonneville cutthroat trout is an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Recreational

This stream is listed is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and are free-flowing and for its remarkable fish value. This segment is classified as a recreational stream because:

- This stream is free of impoundment.
- Some developments exist. Substantial evidence of human activity.
- Small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures.
- The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvests.
- Readily accessible by road or railroad.
- The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located on the Logan Ranger District, and is a tributary stream to the upper Logan River. This stream segment begins at the southern State land/Forest boundary and flows through mostly National Forest land, until the stream flows through State and private land near the end of the segment.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-2.5	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	793
2.5-3.1	Utah State Land	251
3.1-3.4	Private Land	167
	Total:	1211 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river

stretches (¼ to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate ¼ mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

These areas are zoned Forest Recreation for the purpose of the forest-recreation zone is to permit the proper use of the forest areas of the county for grazing, forestry, mining, recreation and other activities to the extent compatible with the protection of the natural and scenic resources of the forests for the benefit of present and future generations (Ord. 2004-10, 8-10-2004).

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value within the area of the eligible Beaver Creek segment and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. Also, this area is not a high oil and gas potential area.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams or diversions on these segments. In some places U.S. Highway 89, Forest Roads, and other old roads affect the stream channels, flood plains, and water quality by crossing the segments or running parallel to them.

Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – This segment is adjacent to the Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway, U.S. Highway 89. There is one bridge across the stream (Highway 89) and one culvert, which does not constrict flows and passes fish.

Recreation Activities – This stream sees some light fishing activity. Most of the recreational visits are from viewing the area from the Scenic Byway.

Grazing Activities – Sheep and cattle graze most of the areas within which these rivers flow on the Beaver Mountain Sheep Allotment and the Franklin Basin Cattle Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in this stream corridor.

Special Designations – Beaver Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the

stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

The area adjacent to the stream segment on the west side is recognized by the State of Utah as a Transient Drinking Water Source Protection Zone for the Beaver Mountain Ski Area. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

This segment is adjacent to the Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway, U.S. Highway 89. The National Scenic Byways Program is a collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States.

Approximately 1.8 miles of this stream corridor are within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat Emphasis consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Management Prescription 3.1W consists of uplands identified as important watersheds.

(S3.1W) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation facility development are not allowed.

(G3.1W-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring watersheds to desired conditions, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1W-2) Livestock grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.1W-3) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the ½ mile wide stream corridor:

Management Prescription 2.5 Scenic Byways: Manage Scenic Byways to protect and maintain their outstanding scenic quality. Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans may be developed for designated Byways to further define desired conditions and or management direction.

(G2.5-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed when these activities are necessary to maintain or enhance the scenic setting for the long term.

(G2.5-2) Grazing is allowed and managed for compatibility with other elements of Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans.

(G2.5-3) Road building, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed for purposes of enhancing use and enjoyment of the scenic byway corridor, while maintaining or enhancing the scenic setting.

Socio-Economic Environment – The Logan River and its tributaries supply agricultural water to the Cache Valley. The Logan River has multiple dams below the eligible segments. The First Dam (upstream from the town of Logan) is one of three hydroelectric dams built to generate electricity for Logan City. Unlike the other two, First Dam was not built by Logan City but by Utah State University. About two miles further up the canyon is Second Dam, site of the Logan City Power Plant and the Morgan Smith Turbine. Logan City has been using Second Dam for power since the beginning of the 20th century. The Third Dam is used for storage of spring runoff until it is needed in the drier months of summer.

The local population of Cache Valley (estimated population of 98,622 in 2006) relies primarily on the university, agriculture, some light industry, and to an increasing extent, tourism and the services that support it. There is a high rate of growth expected in Cache Valley. As the population grows, a change in landscape is occurring, and agricultural and open lands are being converted for urban, commercial and industrial development. Off highway vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, fishing, biking, rock climbing, whitewater boating, skiing and snowmobiling are also popular recreation activities for locals and visitors in Logan Canyon.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Cache County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003. The private lands within this segment are subject to Cache County Countywide Comprehensive Plan, the primary land use ordinance for private land. The Comprehensive Plan is a planning tool for making policy decisions. The Land Use Ordinance is the instrument by which these policies are implemented.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement

Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands.

The private and SITLA land could be developed in the future. This development would be directed by the County Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances for the Forest Recreation (FR 40) zone; which allows for one seasonal cabin per forty acres. Regulations for sensitive areas: steep slopes, jurisdictional wetlands, natural waterways and areas lying within the floodplain, and areas of wildlife habitat are declared under Title 17.18.020. Title 17.18.060 specifies setbacks for development from natural waterways of 50 ft. for dwellings, 100 ft. for septic systems, and up to 100' for dwellings if within the FEMA mapped floodplain.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, USDA Forest Service, 1999 were in favor and in opposition to listing of Beaver Creek as a recreational river for its fisheries values. One public comment from the State of Utah Division of Wildlife provided clarifying information for some of the fish data used in the Draft inventory.

During scoping some comments supported designation of all eligible segments of the Logan River system which includes Beaver Creek. Cache County and others did not support designation

Public comments received during review of the Draft EIS for the Beaver Creek segment both oppose and support the designation of the river segment. Several individuals would like to see the segment designated; one thought it would help protect the river from grazing impacts. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for the Logan River system which includes Beaver Creek.

Cache County opposed designation stating that the segment is too short to be effectively managed and that current management protects its values. The State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration (SITLA) did not support designation because of the potential impacts on the value and utility of its land. The State of Utah was concerned about highway maintenance and future road improvements.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of this segment of Beaver Creek complements current Forest management for Scenic Byways, aquatic habitat and watershed protection, and roadless areas. Designation may conflict with the density of subdivision development on private and SITLA land. The recreational classification allows for more extensive residential or commercial developments than are currently present in this stream corridor.

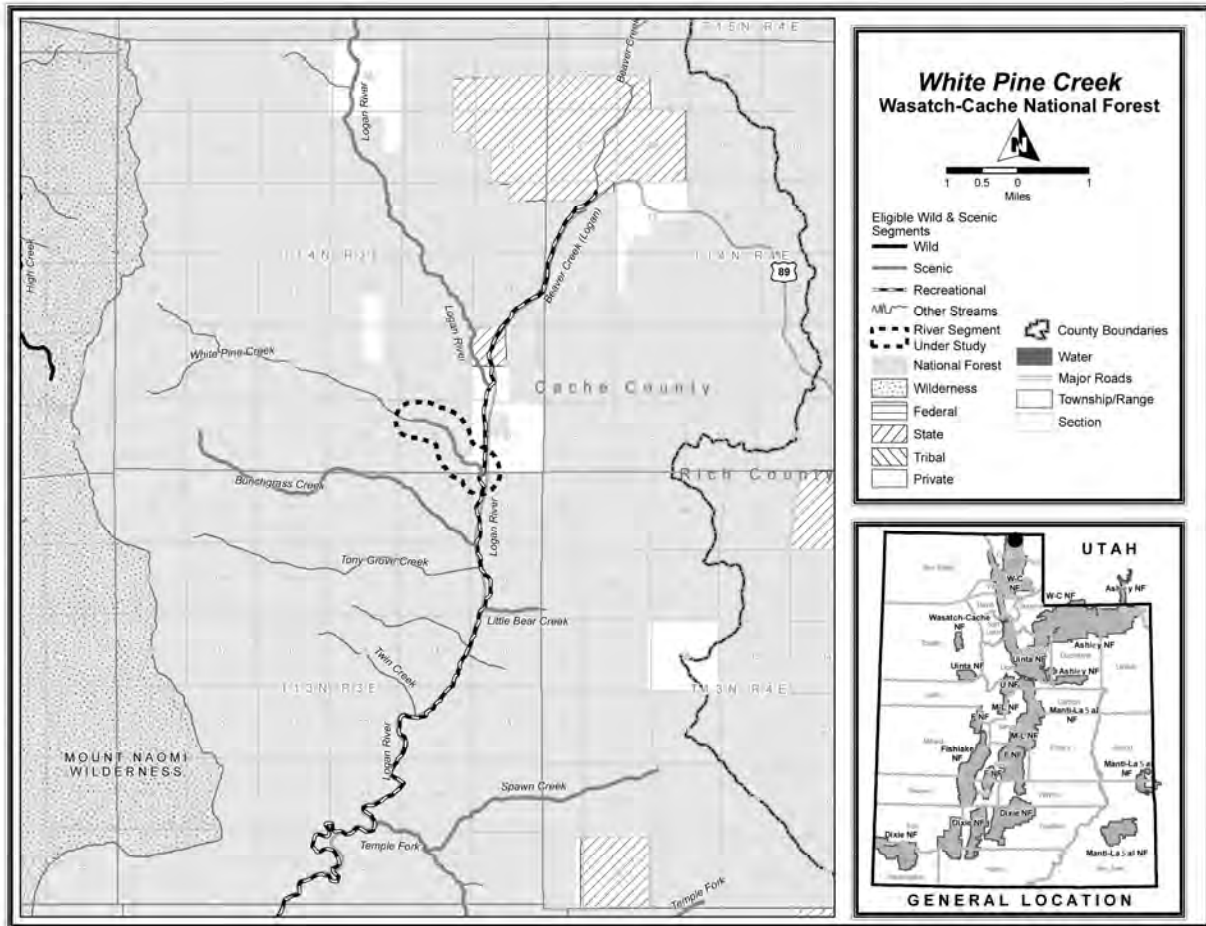
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The segments of White Pine Creek, Bunchgrass Creek, Temple Fork, Spawn Creek, Little Bear Creek, the Logan River combined contributes to the Logan River basin integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment. Local groups such as the local Trout Unlimited chapter, the Cache County Anglers and the Bridgerland Backcountry Horsemen, Bear River Watershed Coalition and the Bridgerland Audubon Society have demonstrated and expressed interest in continuing their projects related to habitat restoration and protection and trash pick up.

The Beaver Creek Project, in cooperation with UDWR, Cache Anglers Chapter, and Wasatch-Cache National Forest and sponsored by Trout Unlimited emphasizes recreational fisheries and Bonneville cutthroat trout restoration through the Embrace-A-Stream Program.

White Pine Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: White Pine Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 1.48 mile, from 1.5 mile below White Pine Lake to confluence with the Logan River

Eligible: Same

Location:

White Pine Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 35, T 14 N, R 3 E, SLM	NW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 1, T 13 N, R 3 E, SLM	Scenic	1

*The starting point has been changed to reflect the fish habitat. The starting point for White Pine Creek was field verified at NAD 27 UTM 12 451738E 4640673N.

Physical Description of River Segment:

Elevations along this segment range between 8,400 and 6,400 ft. This stream is a tributary to the upper Logan River and has upland vegetation which includes sagebrush, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, aspen,

Douglas fir and some limber pine. Riparian communities are typically narrow and include willows, dogwood, aspen and conifers. About 1.5 miles downstream from its source at White Pine Lake, the creek emerges from a subsurface flow, marking the beginning of the segment. White Pine Creek supports Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT). Gradients are fairly steep and step pools and plunge pools are common. Past surveys indicate White Pine Creek is used primarily as spawning and rearing habitat for BCT. The flammulated owl, a sensitive species, has been located within the area. The corridors include habitat suitable for boreal owl, goshawk, wolverine and three-toed woodpeckers; none of these sensitive species are known to occur within the corridor. Several beaver ponds lie within these corridors, and the lower reaches provide big game winter range (moose, elk and deer).

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: White Pine Creek is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This stream has not been modified to any significant extent by human uses and is considered free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Fish – The Bonneville cutthroat trout fishery within this tributary to the upper Logan River is a significant population, because of its size, diversity, distribution within several suitable habitats, self-sustaining natural reproduction and the size and vigor of the fish. The importance of this meta-population of Bonneville cutthroat trout is an outstandingly remarkable value. Fish species include rainbow, brown and brook trout, sculpin and Bonneville cutthroat trout (a sensitive species). While all the fish species in these tributaries can add to visitor enjoyment or the overall wildlife diversity in the upper Logan River drainage, the Bonneville cutthroat trout population is of special interest and value. The range of Bonneville cutthroat includes most of the eastern Great Basin. This stream, in addition to the upper portions of the main Logan River, is occupied with a meta-population (that is, a genetically interactive larger population of the species) that, if protected, can insure the preservation of the species, which is currently under some considerable pressure to survive due to pressures of exotic species introduction, fishing pressure, and habitat fragmentation, destruction, and/or degradation. The upper Logan River population of these fish is probably the largest and most diverse subpopulation with habitat connectivity that remains. Fish abundance for the Bonneville cutthroat is high, and the population is self-sustaining through natural spawning in both the main Logan River and these tributaries. This river system is of critical importance to Bonneville cutthroat because of its lack of migratory obstructions, the large number of connected populations, and the overall strength and diversity of the population.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Scenic

White Pine Creek is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a scenic river as it is free-flowing and for its remarkable Bonneville cutthroat fishery. The stream can be classified as a scenic river because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value is acceptable
- The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable
- Generally inaccessible except by trail
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable
- Meets or exceeds Federal criteria of federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for

propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – Private land areas are zoned Forest Recreation. The purpose of the forest-recreation zone is to permit the proper use of the forest areas of the county for grazing, forestry, mining, recreation and other activities to the extent compatible with the protection of the natural and scenic resources of the forests for the benefit of present and future generations (Ord. 2004-10, 8-10-2004).

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-1.48	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1853
	Total:	1853 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value within the area of the eligible segment and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the Forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. Also, this area is not a high oil and gas potential area.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Access to the stream is from U.S. Highway 89, the Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway. A network of trails stem from the highway and the upper part of the drainage can be accessed from several areas. The most direct access is the White Pine Lake Trail 2025, providing access to the stream and lake, the White Pine-Bunchgrass Canyon Trail 2051, Highline N.R.T. 2005, and the Doubletop Trail 2137.

There are no dams or diversions on these segments. In some places U.S. Highway 89, Forest Roads, and other old roads affect the stream channels, flood plains, and water quality by crossing the segments or running along side them.

Recreation Activities – Dispersed camping and hiking use can be light to heavy depending on the season or day of the week. Fishing use along these streams is variable, dependent on access and seasons.

Grazing Activities – The majority of this segment is within the valley bottom portion of the Franklin Basin Cattle Allotment; a small section near the bottom of this segment is within the Logan Canyon Cattle Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Forest Service projects within this stream corridor.

Special Designations – White Pine Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

The lower part of this drainage is within two State of Utah Transient Drinking Water Source Protection Zones for the water supply for nearby recreational sites. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor from the source of White Pine Creek to the private land near the confluence with the Logan River:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land approximately ½ mile upstream from the confluence and outside the 3.1A stream corridor buffer:

Management Prescription 4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the ROS category at the specific area and visitor desires for convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land for the remaining area along the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 2.6 Undeveloped Areas: Manage to protect undeveloped landscapes in a manner other than formal recommended wilderness. Although other uses and activities may occur, the primary emphasis is protection to assure the values and unique qualities associated with undeveloped areas are recognized and preserved. No new developments or activity that would alter the landscape or character are allowed, however use of motorized equipment (such as chainsaws for trail clearing) is allowed.

(S2.6) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, new recreation development, and new trail construction are not allowed.

(G2.6-1) Motorized uses, including snowmobiling, are allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G2.6-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.6-3) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed to mimic conditions within the historic range of variability and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

Socio-Economic Environment – The Logan River and its tributaries supply agricultural water to the Cache Valley. The Logan River has multiple dams below the eligible segment. The First Dam (upstream from the town of Logan) is one of three hydroelectric dams built to generate electricity for Logan City. Unlike the other two, First Dam was not built by Logan City but by Utah State University. About two miles further up the canyon is Second Dam, site of the Logan City Power Plant and the Morgan Smith Turbine. Logan City has been using Second Dam for power since the beginning of the 20th century. The Third Dam is used for storage of spring runoff until it is needed in the drier months of summer.

The local population of Cache Valley (estimated population of 98,622 in 2006) relies primarily on the university, agriculture, some light industry, and to increasing extent tourism and the services that support it. There is a high rate of growth expected in Cache Valley. As the population grows, a change in landscape is occurring, and agricultural and open lands are being converted for urban, commercial and industrial development. Off highway vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, fishing, biking, rock climbing, whitewater boating, skiing and snowmobiling are popular recreation activities for locals and visitors in

Logan Canyon.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Cache County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003. The private lands within this segment are subject to Cache County Countywide Comprehensive Plan, the primary land use ordinance for private land. The Comprehensive Plan is a planning tool for making policy decisions. The Land Use Ordinance is the instrument by which these policies are implemented.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in sharing the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

The private land could be developed in the future. This development would be directed by the County Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances for the Forest Recreation (FR 40) zone, which allows for one seasonal cabin per forty acres. Regulations for sensitive areas, steep slopes, jurisdictional wetlands, natural waterways and areas lying within the floodplain, and areas of wildlife habitat are declared under Title 17.18.020. Title 17.18.060 specifies setbacks for development from natural waterways of 50 ft. for dwellings, 100 ft. for septic systems, and up to 100 ft. for dwellings if within the FEMA mapped floodplain.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

One public comment to the Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, USDA Forest Service, 1999, from the State of Utah Division of Wildlife, provided clarifying information for some of the fish data used in the Draft Inventory.

During scoping some comments supported designation of all eligible segments of the Logan River system which includes White Pine Creek. One organization also thought White Pine's scenic value was

outstandingly remarkable. Cache County and others did not support designation

Several comments from individuals and Cache County received during the public comment period for the Draft EIS opposed designation for White Pine Creek. They thought designation may affect private property rights and mineral rights retained by the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration. Others commented the creek is dry part of the year and likely does not contain Bonneville cutthroat trout. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for the Logan River system which includes White Pine Creek.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of this segment of the White Pine Creek, a tributary to the Logan River, complements the State's Blue Ribbon Fishery designation for this river and current Forest management. Designation may conflict with the density of subdivision development on private land. Scenic classification allows the presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures but not more extensive residential or commercial developments. The designation also complements the Scenic Byway corridor at the bottom of the stream segment.

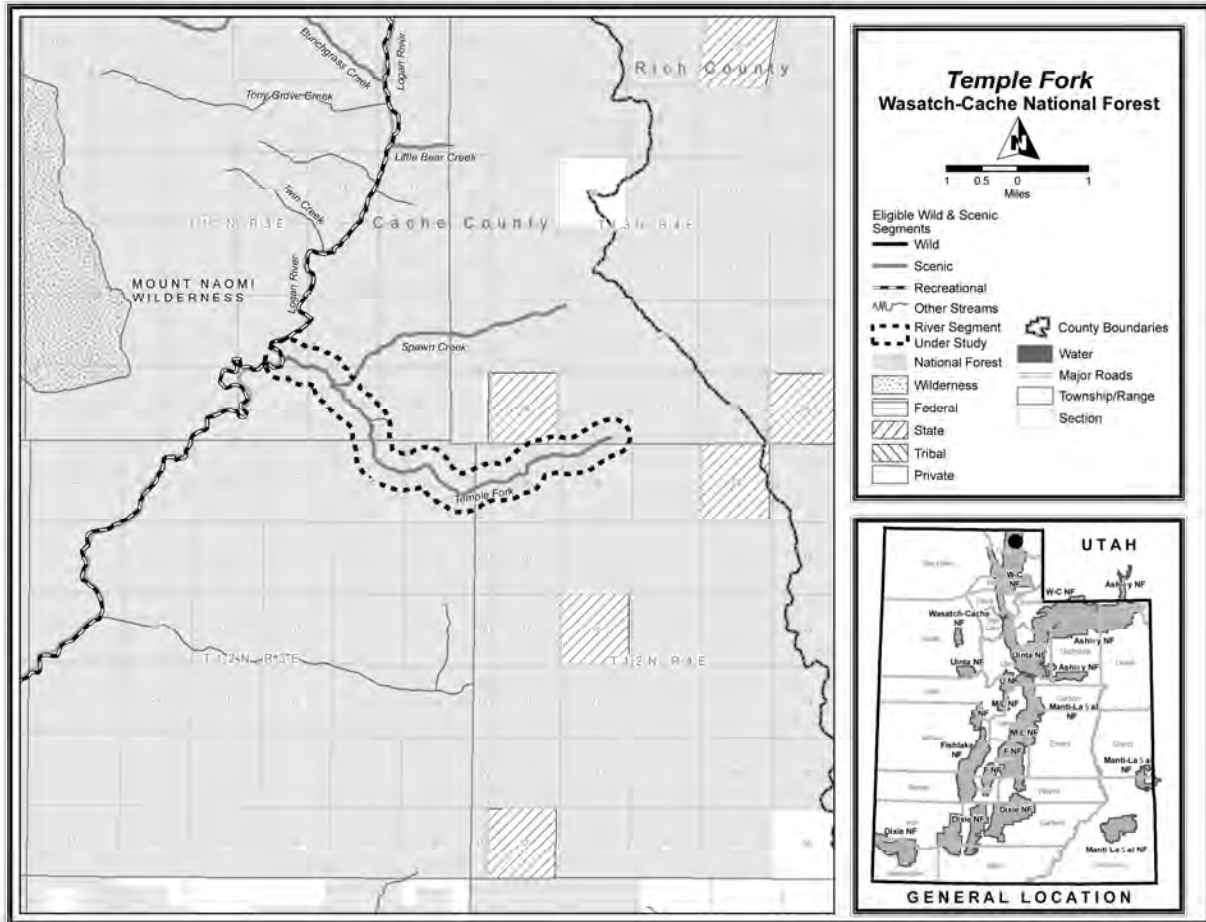
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The segments of Beaver Creek, Bunchgrass Creek, Temple Fork, Spawn Creek, Little Bear Creek, and the Logan River—when combined with White Pine Creek—contribute to the Logan River basin's integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Local groups such as the Cache County Anglers, Bear River Watershed Council, the Bridgerland Backcountry Horsemen, and the Bridgerland Audubon Society have demonstrated and expressed interest in continuing their projects related to habitat restoration and protection as well as trash pick up.

Temple Fork Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Temple Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 6.3 miles, source to confluence with Logan River

Eligible: same

Location:

Temple Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 33, T 13 N, R 4 E, SLM	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 27, T 13 N, R 3 E, SLM	Scenic	6.3

Physical Description of River Segment:

This stream is a tributary to the upper Logan River. Vegetation in uplands of this drainage includes sagebrush, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, aspen, Douglas fir and some limber pine. Riparian communities are typically narrow and include willows, dogwood, aspen and conifers. Several beaver ponds lie within

these corridors, and the lower reaches provide big game winter range (moose, elk and deer).

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Fish – The Bonneville cutthroat trout fishery within this tributary to the upper Logan River is a significant population, because of its size, diversity, distribution within several suitable habitats, self-sustaining natural reproduction and the size and vigor of the fish. The importance of this meta-population of Bonneville cutthroat trout is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Fish species include brown trout, sculpin and Bonneville cutthroat trout (a sensitive species). While all the fish species in these tributaries can add to visitor enjoyment or the overall wildlife diversity in the upper Logan River drainage, the Bonneville cutthroat trout population is of special interest and value. The range of Bonneville cutthroat includes most of the eastern Great Basin. These several streams in addition to the upper portions of the main Logan River are occupied with a meta-population (that is, a genetically interactive larger population of the species) that, if protected, can insure the preservation of the species, which is currently under some considerable pressure to survive due to pressures of exotic species introduction, fishing pressure, and habitat fragmentation, destruction, and/or degradation. The upper Logan River population of these fish is probably the largest and most diverse subpopulation with habitat connectivity that remains. Fish abundance for the Bonneville cutthroat is high, and the population is self-sustaining through natural spawning in both the main Logan River and these tributaries. This river system is of critical importance to Bonneville cutthroat because of its lack of migratory obstructions, the large number of connected populations, and the overall strength and diversity of the population.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Scenic

This stream is listed is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and are free-flowing and for its remarkable fish value. This segment is a scenic stream because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.
- The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable.
- Accessible in places by road.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches on inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located on the Logan Ranger District in Cache County, Utah, and is a tributary stream to the Logan River.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-6.3	Forest Service	2057
*within 1/4 mile buffer	Utah State Land	10
	Total:	2067acres

State land would be managed for the purpose of grazing, forestry, mining, recreation and other activities to the extent compatible with the protection of the natural and scenic resources of the forests for the benefit of present and future generations (Ord. 2004-10, 8-10-2004).

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value within the area of the eligible Temple Fork segment and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. Also, this area is not a high oil and gas potential area.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Service Road 2007a provides access to the stream and also the Temple Fork Sawmill Trail 2062. Trail 2062 has two full span bridges across the stream. A portion of FS Road 2007a has been relocated and reconstructed to reduce impacts to the stream. There is one full spanning bridge across the road and a culvert that constricts the flow of Temple Fork and creates a large scout pool below. A motorized vehicle trailhead is located at the bottom of this canyon. A portion of the Great Western Trail runs through the upper part of Temple Fork.

Recreation Activities – There is high use of the dispersed camping in the lower part of the stream corridor along the road. Fishing is popular and the use is moderate. There are few known prehistoric sites within these corridors, although occasional scatters of chipped stone materials attest to Native American use of the streambanks for seasonal hunting and fishing camps, as well as access ways to upland areas. The Temple Fork Sawmill historic site is within the corridor of consideration.

Grazing Activities – Sheep and cattle graze most of the areas within which this river flows. The upper north part of corridor falls within the Little Bear Sheep Allotment. The middle southern 2/3 of the stream corridor is within the Long Hollow Sheep Allotment. The lower portion of this stream is within the Logan Canyon Cattle Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Forest Service projects within this stream corridor.

Special Designations – Temple Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor from the source of Temple Fork to the confluence with the Logan River:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat Emphasis: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing

facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land for the remaining area along the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.2 Terrestrial Habitats Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.

Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

Management Prescription 3.2U consists of those terrestrial habitat areas protected from development because of potential impacts to key habitat elements.

(S-3.2U) Timber harvest, road construction, and new recreation developments are not allowed.

(G3.2U-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2U-2) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site-specifically developed habitat objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land near the confluence with the Logan River:

Management Prescription 2.7 Special Interest Areas and Special Areas: Manage to protect particular values or unique qualities of special interest. Objectives for Special Interest Areas is “to protect and, where appropriate, foster public use and enjoyment of areas with scenic, historical, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, or other special characteristics. To classify areas that possess unusual recreation and scientific values so that these special values are available for public study, use, or enjoyment” (FSM 2360.2). Objectives for Special Areas are: “To protect and manage for public use and enjoyment, special recreation areas with scenic, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, archaeological, or other special characteristics or unique values.” (FSM2372.02) Special Interest and Special Areas may have management plans developed to address specific needs and opportunities for the individual area.

(S2.7) Timber harvest, road construction, and new recreation development are not allowed.

(G2.7-1) Vegetation/fuels treatment such as prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed in circumstances where these activities help perpetuate the unique ecosystem, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G2.7-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.7-3) New trail construction is allowed if associated with resource interpretation and public study, use, or enjoyment.

(G2.7-4) Allow manipulative restoration where needed for scientific study and increased public understanding of the unique values of the area.

Socio-Economic Environment – The Logan River and its tributaries supply agricultural water to the Cache Valley. The Logan River has multiple dams below the eligible segments. The First Dam (upstream from the town of Logan) is one of three hydroelectric dams built to generate electricity for Logan City. Unlike the other two, First Dam was not built by Logan City but by Utah State University. About two miles further up the canyon is Second Dam, site of the Logan City Power Plant and the Morgan Smith Turbine. Logan City has been using Second Dam for power since the beginning of the 20th century. The Third Dam is used for storage of spring runoff until it is needed in the drier months of summer.

The local population of Cache Valley (estimated population of 98,622 in 2006) relies primarily on the university, agriculture, some light industry, and to increasing extent tourism and the services that support it. There is a high rate of growth expected in Cache Valley. As the population grows, a change in landscape is occurring, and agricultural and open lands are being converted for urban, commercial and industrial development. Off highway vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, fishing, biking, rock climbing, whitewater boating, skiing and snowmobiling are popular recreation activities for locals and visitors in Logan Canyon.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). If SITLA lands are sold and developed Cache County zoning would apply. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003. The State land along this segment is managed by SITLA, where the general land management objective for school and institutional trust lands is to optimize and maximize trust land uses for support of the beneficiaries over time through development of surface and mineral resources and real estate development. Any future private land within this segment would be subject to Cache County Countywide Comprehensive Plan, the primary land use ordinance for private land. The Comprehensive Plan is a planning tool for making policy decisions. The Land Use Ordinance is the instrument by which these policies are implemented.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement

Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in sharing the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This segment is entirely on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

One public comment to the Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, USDA Forest Service, 1999, from the State of Utah Division of Wildlife, provided clarifying information for some of the fish data used in the Draft Inventory.

During scoping some comments supported designation of all eligible segments of the Logan River system which includes Temple Fork. Cache County and others did not support designation

During the public comment period for the Draft EIS comments were received both supporting and opposing the designation of the Temple Fork segment. Temple Fork gains support from the public because of wildlife and fishery values. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for the Logan River system which includes Temple Fork.

Others including Cache County voiced opposition to designation stating the segment was too short and already protected

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of this segment of the Temple Fork, a tributary to the Logan River, complements the State's Blue Ribbon Fishery designation for this river and current Forest management. Designation may conflict with the density of subdivision development if SITLA land is sold to private parties. Scenic classification allows the presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures but not more extensive residential or commercial developments. The designation also complements the Scenic Byway corridor at the bottom of the stream segment.

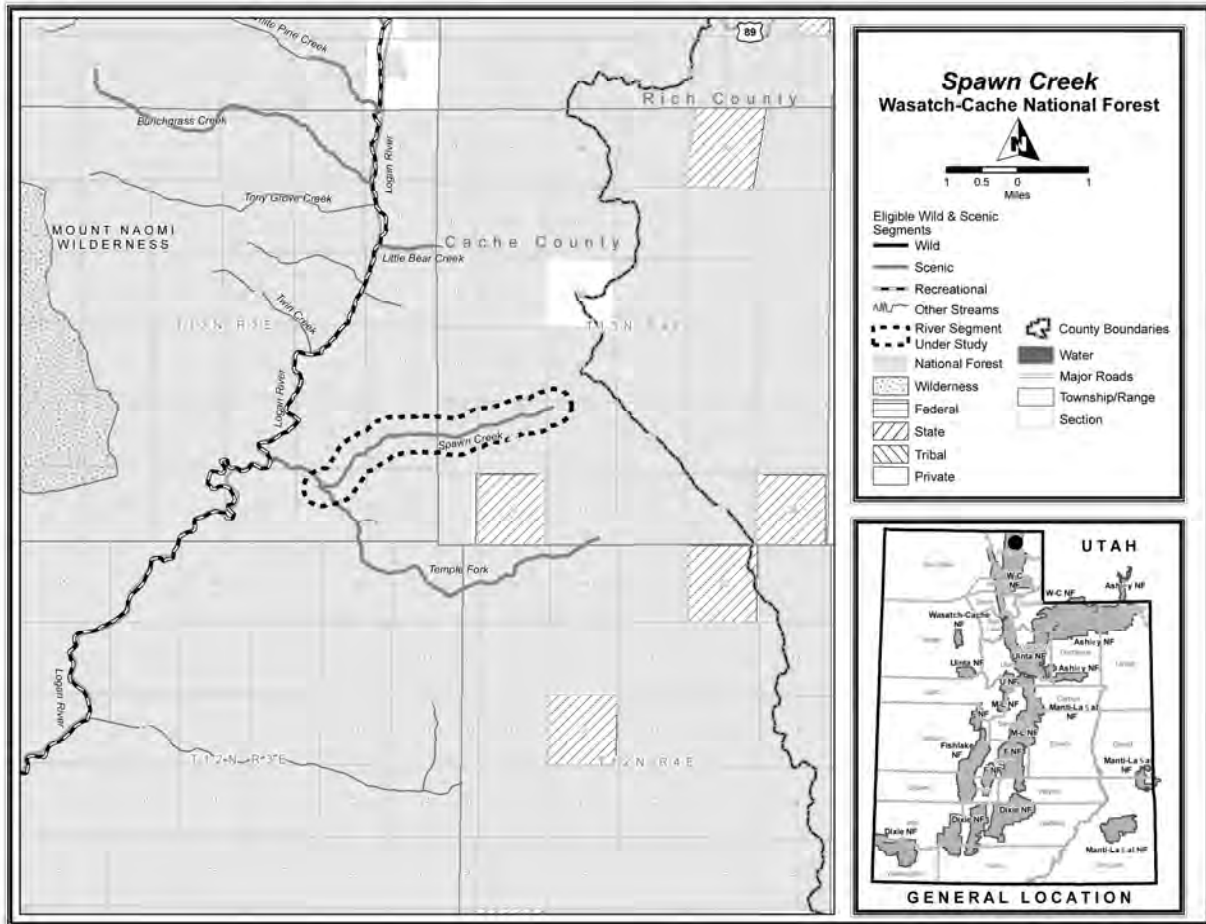
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The scenic segments of White Pine Creek, Bunchgrass Creek, Beaver Creek, Spawn Creek, Little Bear Creek, and the Logan River—when combined with Temple Fork—contribute to the Logan River basin's integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Local groups such as the Cache County Anglers, Bear River Watershed Council, the Bridgerland Backcountry Horsemen, and the Bridgerland Audubon Society as well as scout and church groups have demonstrated and expressed interest in continuing their projects related to habitat restoration and protection as well trash pick up.

Spawn Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Spawn Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 3.8 miles, source to confluence with Temple Fork
Eligible: same

Location:

Spawn Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 28, T 13 N, R 4 E, SLM	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 35, T 13 N, R 3 E, SLM	Scenic	3.8

Physical Description of River Segment:

This stream is a tributary to the upper Logan River. Vegetation in uplands of this drainage includes sagebrush, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, aspen, Douglas fir and some limber pine. Riparian communities are typically narrow and include willows, dogwood, aspen and conifers. Several beaver ponds lie within

these corridors, and the lower reaches of some provide big game winter range (moose, elk and deer).

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Fish – The Bonneville cutthroat trout fishery within this tributary to the upper Logan River is a significant population, because of its size, diversity, distribution within several suitable habitats, self-sustaining natural reproduction and the size and vigor of the fish. The importance of this meta-population of Bonneville cutthroat trout is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Fish species include brown and brook trout, sculpin and Bonneville cutthroat trout (a sensitive species). While all the fish species in these tributaries can add to visitor enjoyment or the overall wildlife diversity in the upper Logan River drainage, the Bonneville cutthroat trout population is of special interest and value. The range of Bonneville cutthroat includes most of the eastern Great Basin. These several streams, in addition to the upper portions of the main Logan River, are occupied with a meta-population (that is a genetically interactive larger population of the species) that, if protected, can insure the preservation of the species, which is currently under some considerable pressure to survive due to pressures of exotic species introduction, fishing pressure, and habitat fragmentation, destruction, and/or degradation. The upper Logan River population of these fish is probably the largest and most diverse subpopulation with habitat connectivity that remains. Fish abundance for the Bonneville cutthroat is high, and the population is self-sustaining through natural spawning in both the main Logan River and these tributaries. This river system is of critical importance to Bonneville cutthroat because of its lack of migratory obstructions, the large number of connected populations, and the overall strength and diversity of the population.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Scenic

This stream is listed is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and are free-flowing and for its remarkable Bonneville cutthroat fishery. This segment is classified as scenic because the stream and the stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable.
- Accessible in places by roads.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire segment of Spawn Creek is located on the Logan Ranger District, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and Cache County, Utah.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-3.8	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1314
	Total:	1314 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic

value within the area of the eligible Spawn Creek segment and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the Forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. Also, this area is not a high oil and gas potential area.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Service Road 20164 provides access to the mouth of the canyon and to the Spawn Creek Trail 2134. This is a non-motorized trail used by hikers, mountain bikers, and skiers.

Recreation Activities – Dispersed camping and hiking use can be light to heavy depending on the season or day of the week. Fishing use along these streams is variable, dependent on access and seasons.

Grazing Activities – Cattle graze most of the area through which this stream segment flows. The upper part of the stream segment is within the Little Bear Cattle Allotment and the lower section is within the Logan Canyon Cattle Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Forest Service projects within this stream corridor.

Special Designations – Spawn Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 3.6 miles of this stream corridor are within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor from the source of Spawn Creek to the confluence with Temple Fork:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat Emphasis: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat

to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land on the north side and the lower part of the south side of the stream segment outside of the 3.1a buffer:

Management Prescription 3.2 Terrestrial Habitats Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.

Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

3.2U consists of those terrestrial habitat areas protected from development because of potential impacts to key habitat elements.

(S-3.2U) Timber harvest, road construction, and new recreation developments are not allowed.

(G3.2U-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2U-2) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site-specifically developed habitat objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land on the upper portion of the southern side of the stream segment outside of the 3.1a buffer:

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land on a small part of the most northern portion of the stream segment outside ¼ mile corridor:

Management Prescription 2.7: Special Interest Areas and Special Areas: Manage to protect particular values or unique qualities of special interest. Objectives for Special Interest Areas is “to protect and, where appropriate, foster public use and enjoyment of areas with scenic, historical, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, or other special characteristics. To classify areas that possesses unusual recreation and scientific values so that these special values are available for public study, use, or enjoyment” (FSM 2360.2). Objectives for Special Areas are: “To protect and manage for public use and enjoyment, special recreation areas with scenic, geological, botanical, zoological,

paleontological, archaeological, or other special characteristics or unique values.” (FSM2372.02) Special Interest and Special Areas may have management plans developed to address specific needs and opportunities for the individual area.

(S2.7) Timber harvest, road construction, and new recreation development are not allowed.

(G2.7-1) Vegetation/fuels treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed in circumstances where these activities help perpetuate the unique ecosystem, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G2.7-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.7-3) New trail construction is allowed if associated with resource interpretation and public study, use, or enjoyment.

(G2.7-4) Allow manipulative restoration where needed for scientific study and increased public understanding of the unique values of the area.

Management Prescriptions

Socio-Economic Environment – The Logan River and its tributaries supply agricultural water to the Cache Valley. The Logan River has multiple dams below the eligible segments. The First Dam (upstream from the town of Logan) is one of three hydroelectric dams built to generate electricity for Logan City. Unlike the other two, First Dam was not built by Logan City but by Utah State University. About two miles further up the canyon is Second Dam, site of the Logan City Power Plant and the Morgan Smith Turbine. Logan City has been using Second Dam for power since the beginning of the 20th century. The Third Dam is used for storage of spring runoff until it is needed in the drier months of summer.

The local population of Cache Valley (estimated population of 98,622 in 2006) relies primarily on the university, agriculture, some light industry, and to increasing extent tourism and the services that support it. There is a high rate of growth expected in Cache Valley. As the population grows, a change in landscape is occurring, and agricultural and open lands are being converted for urban, commercial and industrial development. Motorized vehicle use, hiking, fishing, biking, rock climbing, whitewater boating, skiing and snowmobiling are popular recreation activities for locals and visitors in Logan Canyon.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency for lands along this segment is the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by

Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not shown interest or disinterest in sharing the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands.

The segment lies entirely on national forest lands.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

One public comment to the Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, USDA Forest Service, 1999, from the State of Utah Division of Wildlife, provided clarifying information for some of the fish data used in the Draft Inventory.

During scoping some comments supported designation of all eligible segments of the Logan River system which includes Spawn Creek. Cache County and others did not support designation

During the public comment period for the Draft EIS comments were received both supporting and opposing the designation of Spawn Creek. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for the Logan River system which includes Spawn Creek.

Cache County and others opposed designation stating the segment was too short and already protected and that Bonneville cutthroat trout, the ORV, may not be present in the stream.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of this segment of the Spawn Creek, a tributary to the Logan River complements the State's Blue Ribbon Fishery designation for the Logan River and current Forest management.

Portions of the Spawn Creek corridor fall within Management Prescription 2.7, where the Forest aims to manage to protect particular values or unique qualities of special interest. A Wild and Scenic designation for Spawn Creek would also help to protect these special areas by offering a wider protection corridor to the stream. WSR protection would also be beneficial to a stream segment in the Utah State University Whirling Disease Study area by keeping the area in a natural state and helping to impede disturbance. The upper portion of the Spawn Creek corridor falls within Management Prescription 5.1, which is managed to allow for vegetation management. The WSR designation for Spawn Creek would place some restrictions on activities in the Spawn Creek area.

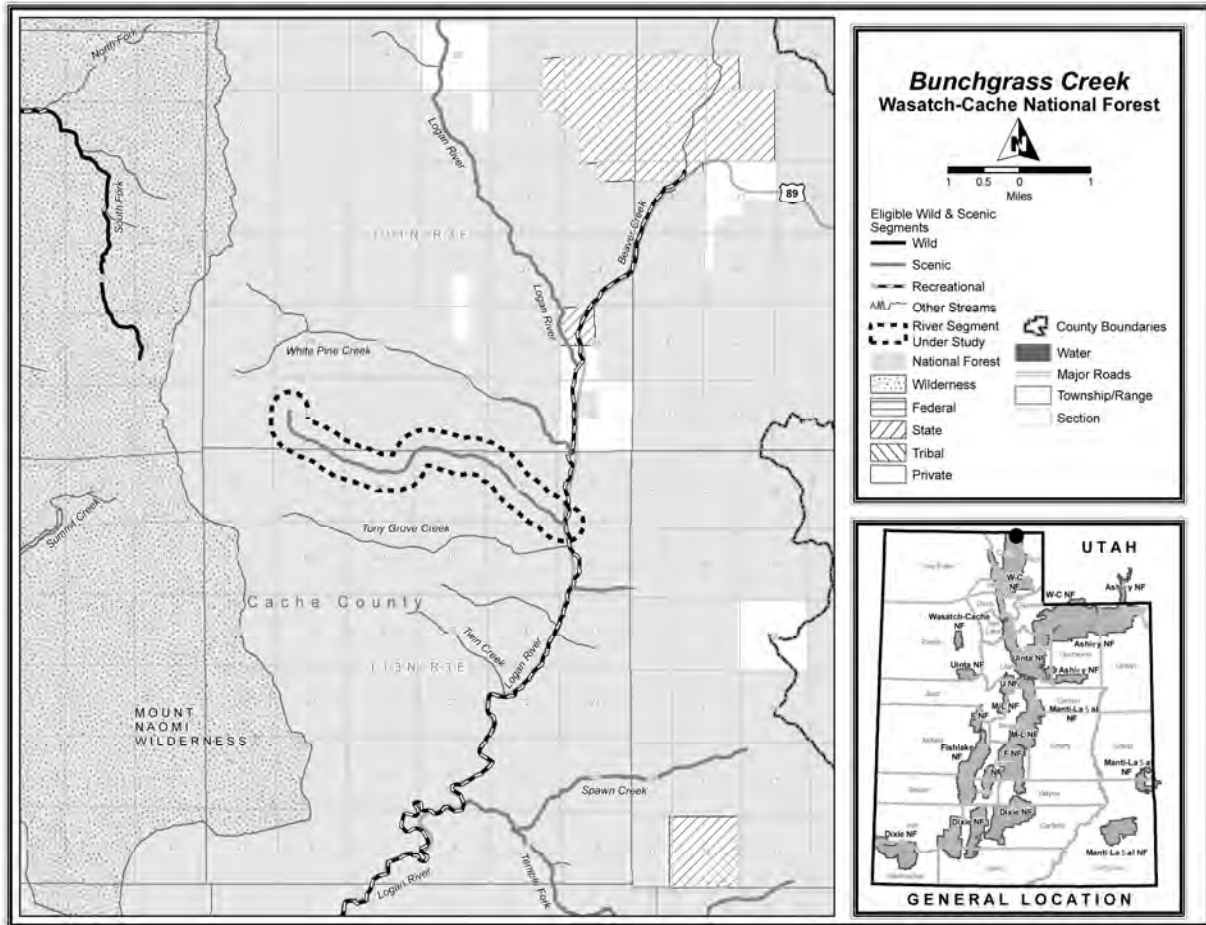
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The segments of White Pine Creek, Bunchgrass Creek, Temple Fork, Little Bear Creek, and the Logan River—when combined with Spawn Creek—contribute to the Logan River basin's integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Local groups such as the Cache County Anglers, Bear River Watershed Council, Bridgerland Backcountry Horsemen, and the Bridgerland Audubon Society have demonstrated and expressed interest in continuing their projects related to habitat restoration and protection as well as trash pick up.

Bunchgrass Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Bunchgrass Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 5.0 miles, from source to confluence with Logan River

Eligible: same

Location:

Bunchgrass Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 32, T 14 N, R 3 E, SLM	NW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 12, T 13 N, R 3 E, SLM	Scenic	5.0

Physical Description of River Segment:

This stream is a tributary to the upper Logan River. Vegetation in uplands of this drainage includes sagebrush, lodgepole pine, sub-alpine fir, aspen, Douglas fir and some limber pine. Riparian communities are typically narrow and include willows, dogwood, aspen and conifers. Several beaver ponds lie within these corridors, and the lower reaches of some provide big game winter range (moose, elk and deer).

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan 2003, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999, USDA Forest Service.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Fish – Fish species include Bonneville cutthroat trout (a sensitive species). While all the fish species in these tributaries can add to visitor enjoyment or the overall wildlife diversity in the upper Logan River drainage, the Bonneville cutthroat trout population is of special interest and value. The range of Bonneville cutthroat includes most of the eastern Great Basin. These several streams in addition to the upper portions of the main Logan River are occupied with a meta-population (that is a genetically interactive larger population of the species) that, if protected, can insure the preservation of the species, which is currently under some considerable pressure to survive due to pressures of exotic species introduction, fishing pressure, and habitat fragmentation, destruction, and/or degradation. The upper Logan River population of these fish is probably the largest and most diverse subpopulation with habitat connectivity that remains. Fish abundance for the Bonneville cutthroat is high, and the population is self-sustaining through natural spawning in both the main Logan River and these tributaries. This river system is of critical importance to Bonneville cutthroat because of its lack of migratory obstructions, the large number of connected populations, and the overall strength and diversity of the population. The Bonneville cutthroat trout fishery within this tributary to the upper Logan River is a significant population, because of its size, diversity, distribution within several suitable habitats, self-sustaining natural reproduction and the size and vigor of the fish. The importance of this meta-population of Bonneville cutthroat trout is an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Scenic

This stream is listed is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and are free-flowing and for its remarkable fish value. This segment is a scenic stream because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value is acceptable.
- The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds Federal criteria or federally approved stat standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is located on the Logan Ranger District in Cache County, Utah, and is a tributary stream to the Logan River.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-5.0	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1694
	Total:	1694 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value within the area of the eligible Bunchgrass Creek segment and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. Also, this area is not a high oil and gas potential area.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams or diversions on these segments. Within the lower part of the segment, U.S. Highway 89 affects the stream channel, flood plain, and water quality by crossing the segments.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Access to the stream segment is from U.S. Highway 89, the Logan Canyon National Scenic Byway. Trail 051 follows the stream corridor approximately halfway up the drainage and then connects to the White Pine drainage.

Recreation Activities – Dispersed camping and hiking use can be very light. Fishing use along these streams is variable dependent on access and seasons.

Grazing Activities – Sheep and cattle graze most of the areas within which these rivers flow. A portion of the Bunchgrass Creek flows through the Blind Hollow Sheep Allotment. The majority of this stream segment flows through the Franklin Basin Cattle and Logan Canyon Cattle Allotments. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Forest Service projects within this stream corridor.

Special Designations – Bunchgrass Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

The lower 0.6 miles of Bunchgrass Creek are within the Logan Canyon Scenic Byway. The National Scenic Byways Program is a collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States.

There are three areas within the stream segment’s corridor that are recognized by the State of Utah as a Transient Drinking Water Source Protection Zones; these are water sources for the Tony Grove, Lewis M. Turner, and Red Banks Campgrounds. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward

and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

This stream segment corridor is within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream near the confluence with the Logan River:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat Emphasis: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land outside 3.1a corridor and adjacent confluence with Logan River:

Management Prescription 2.5 Scenic Byways: Manage Scenic Byways to protect and maintain their outstanding scenic quality. Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans may be developed for designated Byways to further define desired conditions and tail or management direction.

(G2.5-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed when these activities are necessary to maintain or enhance the scenic setting for the long term.

(G2.5-2) Grazing is allowed and managed for compatibility with other elements of Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans.

(G2.5-3) Road building, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed for purposes of enhancing use and enjoyment of the scenic byway corridor, while maintaining or enhancing the scenic setting.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land outside 2.5 areas to the confluence with Logan River:

Management Prescription 4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the ROS category at the specific area and visitor desires for

convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

Land management direction for the rest of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the Bunchgrass Creek corridor:

Management Prescription 2.6 Undeveloped Areas: Manage to protect undeveloped landscapes in a manner other than formal recommended wilderness. Although other uses and activities may occur, the primary emphasis is protection to assure the values and unique qualities associated with undeveloped areas are recognized and preserved. No new developments or activity that would alter the landscape or character are allowed, however use of motorized equipment (such as chainsaws for trail clearing) is allowed.

(S2.6) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, new recreation development, and new trail construction are not allowed.

(G2.6-1) Motorized uses, including snowmobiling, are allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G2.6-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.6-3) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed to mimic conditions within the historic range of variability and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

Socio-Economic Environment – The Logan River and its tributaries supply agricultural water to the Cache Valley. The Logan River has multiple dams below the eligible segments. The First Dam (upstream from the town of Logan) is one of three hydroelectric dams built to generate electricity for Logan City. Unlike the other two, First Dam was not built by Logan City but by Utah State University. About two miles further up the canyon is Second Dam, site of the Logan City Power Plant and the Morgan Smith Turbine. Logan City has been using Second Dam for power since the beginning of the 20th century. The Third Dam is used for storage of spring runoff until it is needed in the drier months of summer.

The local population of Cache Valley (estimated population of 98,622 in 2006) relies primarily on the university, agriculture, some light industry, and to increasing extent tourism and the services that support it. There is a high rate of growth expected in Cache Valley. As the population grows, a change in landscape is occurring, and agricultural and open lands are being converted for urban, commercial and industrial development. Off highway vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, fishing, biking, rock climbing, whitewater boating, skiing and snowmobiling are also popular recreation activities for locals and visitors in Logan Canyon.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency for lands along this segment is the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, through the use of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

Bunchgrass Creek flows entirely within National Forest lands and is approximately one mile from private or State of Utah land.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

One public comment to the Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, USDA Forest Service, 1999, from the State of Utah Division of Wildlife provided clarifying information for some of the fish data used in the Draft inventory.

During scoping some comments supported designation of all eligible segments of the Logan River system which includes Bunchgrass Creek. Cache County and others did not support designation

Public comments received during the Draft EIS review period both supported and opposed designation for Bunchgrass Creek. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for the Logan River system which includes Bunchgrass Creek.

Cache County opposed designation stating the segment was too short and already protected. An individual was concerned that the State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Land Administration may have mineral rights and a need for access.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of this segment of the Bunchgrass Creek, a tributary to the Logan River complements the State's Blue Ribbon Fishery designation for the Logan River, the Scenic Byway, nearby drinking water sources, and current Forest management.

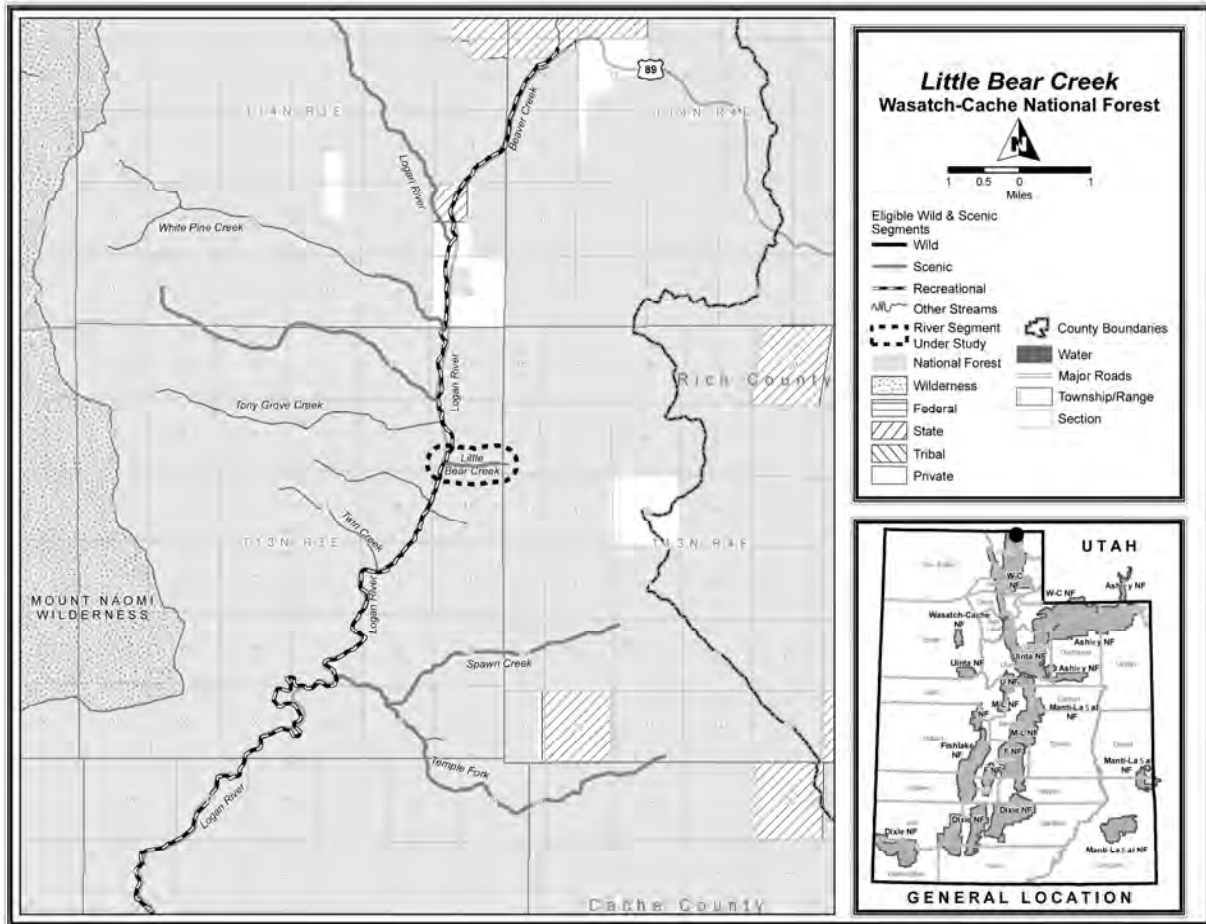
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

The segments of Logan River, White Pine Creek, Beaver Creek, Temple Fork, Spawn Creek, Little Bear Creek, combined with the segment of the Bunchgrass Creek contributes to the Logan River basin integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Local groups such as the Cache County Anglers, the Bridgerland Backcountry Horsemen, the Bear River Watershed Council, and the Bridgerland Audubon Society have demonstrated and expressed interest in continuing their projects related to habitat restoration and protection and trash pick up.

Little Bear Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Little Bear Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 0.8 miles, from Little Bear Spring to confluence with Logan River

Eligible: Same

Location:

Little Bear Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 12, T 13 N, R 3 E, SLM	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 12, T 13 N, R 3 E, SLM	Scenic	0.8

Physical Description of River Segment:

This stream is a tributary to the upper Logan River. Vegetation in uplands of this drainage includes sagebrush, lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, aspen, Douglas fir and some limber pine. Riparian communities are typically narrow and include willows, dogwood, aspen and conifers. Several beaver ponds lie within these corridors, and the lower reaches of some provide big game winter range (moose, elk and deer).

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Fish – Fish species include brown and brook trout, sculpin and Bonneville cutthroat trout (a sensitive species). The Bonneville cutthroat trout fishery within this tributary to the upper Logan River is a significant population, because of its size, diversity, distribution within several suitable habitats, self-sustaining natural reproduction and the size and vigor of the fish. The importance of this meta-population of Bonneville cutthroat trout is an outstandingly remarkable value.

While all the fish species in these tributaries can add to visitor enjoyment or the overall wildlife diversity in the upper Logan River drainage, the Bonneville cutthroat trout population is of special interest and value. The range of Bonneville cutthroat includes most of the eastern Great Basin. These several streams in addition to the upper portions of the main Logan River are occupied with a meta-population (that is a genetically interactive larger population of the species) that, if protected, can insure the preservation of the species, which is currently under some considerable pressure to survive due to pressures of exotic species introduction, fishing pressure, and habitat fragmentation, destruction, and/or degradation. The upper Logan River population of these fish is probably the largest and most diverse subpopulation with habitat connectivity that remains. Fish abundance for the Bonneville cutthroat is high, and the population is self-sustaining through natural spawning in both the main Logan River and these tributaries. This river system is of critical importance to Bonneville cutthroat because of its lack of migratory obstructions, the large number of connected populations, and the overall strength and diversity of the population.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Scenic

This stream is listed is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and are free-flowing and for its remarkable fish value. This segment is a scenic stream because it has or is:

- Free of impoundment, but one diversion exists within the corridor, but not on the segment
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing or hay production.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – Little Bear Creek is located on the Logan Ranger District in Cache County, Utah. It flows entirely through national forest lands.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-0.8	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	374
	Total:	374 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value within the area of Little Bear Creek and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. Also, this area is not a high oil and gas potential area.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Water is diverted for use at the USU Forestry Field Camp. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Service Road 20004 provides access to the Utah State University Forestry Camp. This camp has been used by the Forestry Department at USU for field camp which is operated under a Special Use Permit. There are no Forest system trails along this stream segment. The motorized Little Bear Trail is above this segment.

Recreation Activities – There are dispersed camp sites within the bottom portion of this segment.

Grazing Activities – Sheep and cattle graze all of the area within this stream corridor. The upper two thirds of the stream are within the Little Bear Sheep Allotment, and the lower portion of the stream is within the Logan Canyon Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Forest Service projects within this stream corridor. Parts of the Utah State University Forestry Camp is within the stream corridor. There have been historical timber harvests that are visible from this stream segment.

Special Designations – Little Bear Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 0.2 miles of the lower portion of this stream segment are within the Scenic Byway corridor of Logan Canyon.

Approximately 0.7 miles of this stream corridor are within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the ½ mile wide stream corridor and within the lower portion of this stream segment near the confluence with the Logan River:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat Emphasis: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already

developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site specifically defined riparian management objectives.

3.1W consists of uplands identified as important watersheds.

(S3.1W) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation facility development are not allowed.

(G3.1W-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring watersheds to desired conditions, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1W-2) Livestock grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.1W-3) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the ½ mile wide stream corridor:

Management Prescriptions 2.5 Scenic Byways: Manage Scenic Byways to protect and maintain their outstanding scenic quality. Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans may be developed for designated Byways to further define desired conditions and tailor management direction.

(G2.5-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed when these activities are necessary to maintain or enhance the scenic setting for the long term.

(G2.5-2) Grazing is allowed and managed for compatibility with other elements of Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans.

(G2.5-3) Road building, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed for purposes of enhancing use and enjoyment of the scenic byway corridor, while maintaining or enhancing the scenic setting.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the ½ mile wide stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.2 u Undeveloped Terrestrial Habitats Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

3.2U consists of those terrestrial habitat areas protected from development because of potential impacts to key habitat elements.

(S-3.2U) Timber harvest, road construction, and new recreation developments are not allowed.

(G3.2U-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2U-2) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site-specifically developed habitat objectives.

Socio-Economic Environment – The Logan River and its tributaries supply agricultural water to the Cache Valley. The Logan River has multiple dams below the eligible segments. The First Dam (upstream from the town of Logan) is one of three hydroelectric dams built to generate electricity for Logan City. Unlike the other two, First Dam was not built by Logan City but by Utah State University. About two miles further up the canyon is Second Dam, site of the Logan City Power Plant and the Morgan Smith Turbine. Logan City has been using Second Dam for power since the beginning of the 20th century. The Third Dam is used for storage of spring runoff until it is needed in the drier months of summer.

The local population of Cache Valley (estimated population of 98,622 in 2006) relies primarily on the university, agriculture, some light industry, and to increasing extent tourism and the services that support it. There is a high rate of growth expected in Cache Valley. As the population grows, a change in landscape is occurring, and agricultural and open lands are being converted for urban, commercial and industrial development. Off highway vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, fishing, biking, rock climbing, whitewater boating, skiing and snowmobiling are popular recreation activities for locals and visitors in Logan Canyon.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency for lands along this segment is the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This stream segment is entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest Land.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

One public comment to the Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, USDA Forest Service, 1999, from the State of Utah Division of Wildlife was associated with Little Bear Creek and provided clarifying information for some of the fish data used in the Draft inventory. This new fish data supplemented the Forest's conclusion that the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout meta-population is important at the local scale and is therefore and outstandingly remarkable value.

During scoping some comments supported designation of all eligible segments of the Logan River system which includes Little Bear Creek. Cache County and others did not support designation

During the public comment period for the Draft EIS comments were received from individuals supporting the designation of Little Bear Creek. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for the Logan River system which includes Little Bear Creek.

Cache County opposed designation stating the segment was too short and already protected. An individual also opposed designation because of the many uses currently nearby and the potential for precluding future opportunities.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of this segment of the Little Bear Creek, a tributary to the Logan River complements the State's Blue Ribbon Fishery designation for the Logan River and current Forest management. The designation also complements the Scenic Byway corridor at the bottom of the stream segment.

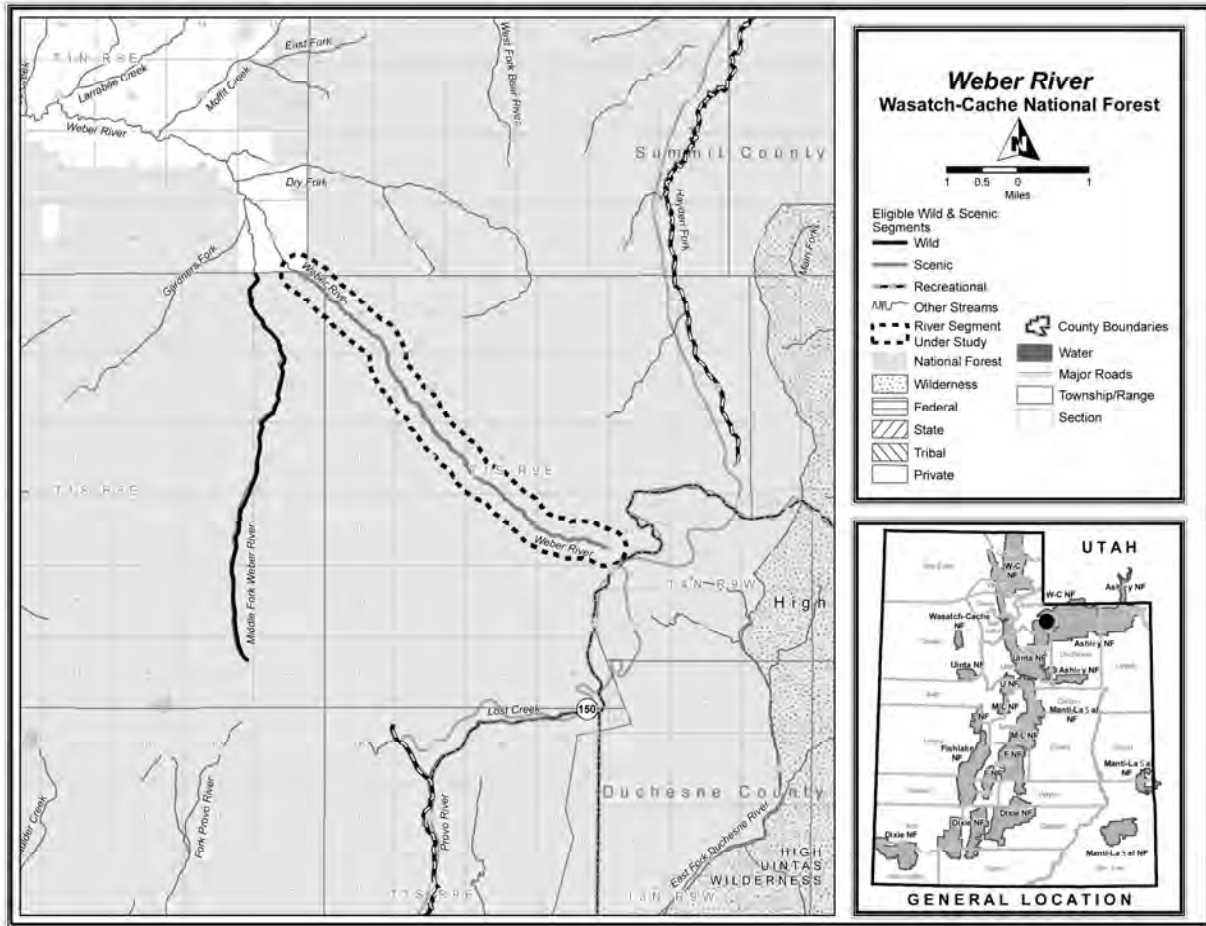
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment—when combined with White Pine Creek, Beaver Creek, Bunchgrass Creek, Temple Fork, Spawn Creek, and the Logan River—contribute to the Logan River basin integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Local groups such as the Utah State University, Cache County Anglers, Bear River Watershed Council, Bridgerland Backcountry Horsemen, and the Bridgerland Audubon Society have demonstrated and expressed interest in continuing their projects related to habitat restoration and protection as well as trash pick up.

Main Fork Weber River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Main Fork Weber River

River Mileage:

Studied: 6.3 miles, source to Holiday Park (Forest boundary)

Eligible: Same

Location:

Main Fork Weber River	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Kamas Ranger and Evanston Districts, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 22, T 1 S, R 9 E, SLM	NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 1, T 2 S, R 8 E, SLM	Scenic	6.3

Physical Description of River Segment:

This segment of the Weber River flows between 8,400 to 7,900 feet from its source in a small glaciated basin near Reid’s Meadow to the Forest boundary. The upper Weber River is a high energy confined mountain stream. Flow patterns are normal snow-dominated with pool-riffle-run structure. It is generally

confined descending through a steep walled canyon for much of its length. Uplands are characterized by Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, and spruce-fir communities with aspen stands scattered throughout lower elevations along this segment. Riparian communities are generally narrow and dominated by cottonwoods, thin leaf alder, and tall willows. A few small meadows are found along the stream. Vegetation is natural in appearance, except in the vicinity of Holiday Park. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species occur on this river segment. Goshawk, black bear and small numbers of moose can be found. There are no threatened, endangered or sensitive fish or wildlife species present.

ELIGIBILITY

This section includes determination of river’s free-flow and whether or not it possesses one or more outstandingly remarkable value.

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from major channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenery – Visitors to the river corridor enjoy varied scenery that range from its source in a glacial basin to a densely timbered forest with steep and rugged canyon walls to lower elevations riparian communities of cottonwoods and alders dotted by creek-side meadows. The variety of vegetation and steep cliffs capturing a high energy mountain stream offers memorable views. While outside the corridor, from the upper reaches of the stream, vistas of Bald Mountain and Reids Peak can be seen that complement the scenic values present in the stream corridor.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Scenic

The segment of Weber River on National Forest is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a scenic river because the stream and the stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This stream segment is located entirely within the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Kamas Ranger and Evanston Districts, Summit County, Utah.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-6.3	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	2016
	Total:	2016 acres

This segment is entirely on National Forest System land, but ends at the boundary to private land. This private land is zoned for Agriculture-Grazing 160 (AG-160) by Summit County.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The eligible Weber River segment is within a high potential oil and gas area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities in this vicinity on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are four small reservoirs with dams that are located on headwater lakes above this segment. Their operation has an insignificant effect on stream flows. There are no other stream channel modifications present. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – There is no developed recreation available within this segment. Parallel access is provided by Forest trail 079. The hiking is generally through lodgepole pine forest, connecting the Mirror Lake Highway with the recreational properties at Holiday Park. Access to the segment is somewhat limited by the private land at the segment terminus as hikers must use the Gardner Fork trailhead then walk down a short stretch of road to access the forest trail. From the Mirror Lake access visitors use the Pass Lake Trailhead.

Recreation Activities – This segment of the stream is not suitable for any boating or tubing. Hunting occurs during the season. Fishing and recreation use is light.

Grazing Activities – There is no grazing within this stream corridor.

Other Resource Activities – There has been fuels treatment work conducted along the Forest boundary with the private land that include thinning to provide more defensible space to the Alpine Acres subdivision. There are no other current or planned projects by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest within this stream corridor. There is no commercial fishing or hunting operations on this section of the Weber River.

Special Designations – The Main Fork Weber River is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 6.3 miles of this stream corridor are within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

The area adjacent to the stream segment is recognized by the State of Utah as a Drinking Water Source Protection Zone. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

The headwaters of this segment are easily accessed by the Pass Lake Trail located on the Mirror Lake Highway.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the majority of the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness-- These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12, 7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use, and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor near the Forest boundary:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Management Prescription 3.1w Watershed Emphasis: consists of uplands identified as important watersheds.

(S3.1W) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation facility development are not allowed.

(G3.1W-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring watersheds to desired conditions, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1W-2) Livestock grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.1W-3) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor near headwaters and the Scenic Byway:

Management Prescription 2.5 Scenic Byways: Manage Scenic Byways to protect and maintain their outstanding scenic quality. Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans may be developed for designated Byways to further define desired conditions and tail or management direction.

(G2.5-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed when these activities are necessary to maintain or enhance the scenic setting for the long term.

(G2.5-2) Grazing is allowed and managed for compatibility with other elements of Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans.

(G2.5-3) Road building, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed for purposes of enhancing use and enjoyment of the scenic byway corridor, while maintaining or enhancing the scenic setting.

Management Prescription 2.6 Undeveloped Areas: Manage to protect undeveloped landscapes in a manner other than formal recommended wilderness. Although other uses and activities may occur, the primary emphasis is protection to assure the values and unique qualities associated with undeveloped areas are recognized and preserved. No new developments or activity that would alter the landscape or character are allowed, however use of motorized equipment (such as chainsaws for trail clearing) is allowed.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County, an area that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. As of 2000 the population was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, through the use of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003. The private lands located at the end of the segment at the Forest boundary are subject to regulations proposed by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. The Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas surrounding, but not including, the towns of Henefer, Coalville, Kamas, Oakley and Francis.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of this Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This entire stream segment and corridor is on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Many letters expressed support for eligibility for the Main Fork Weber River during the Draft Inventory study. It was added as an eligible stream based on its scenic qualities as a scenic river in the Final Inventory Study.

Public comments received during the comment period for the Draft EIS supported designation for the Main Fork Weber River segment because designation would complement the recommended wilderness status. Other reasons cited were the river's incomparable beauty and wildness. Summit County confirmed with Weber Basin Water Conservancy that there were no future planned developments that could conflict with designation.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the Main Fork Weber River supports current management of the stream corridor by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and the State of Utah's management for drinking water source protection.

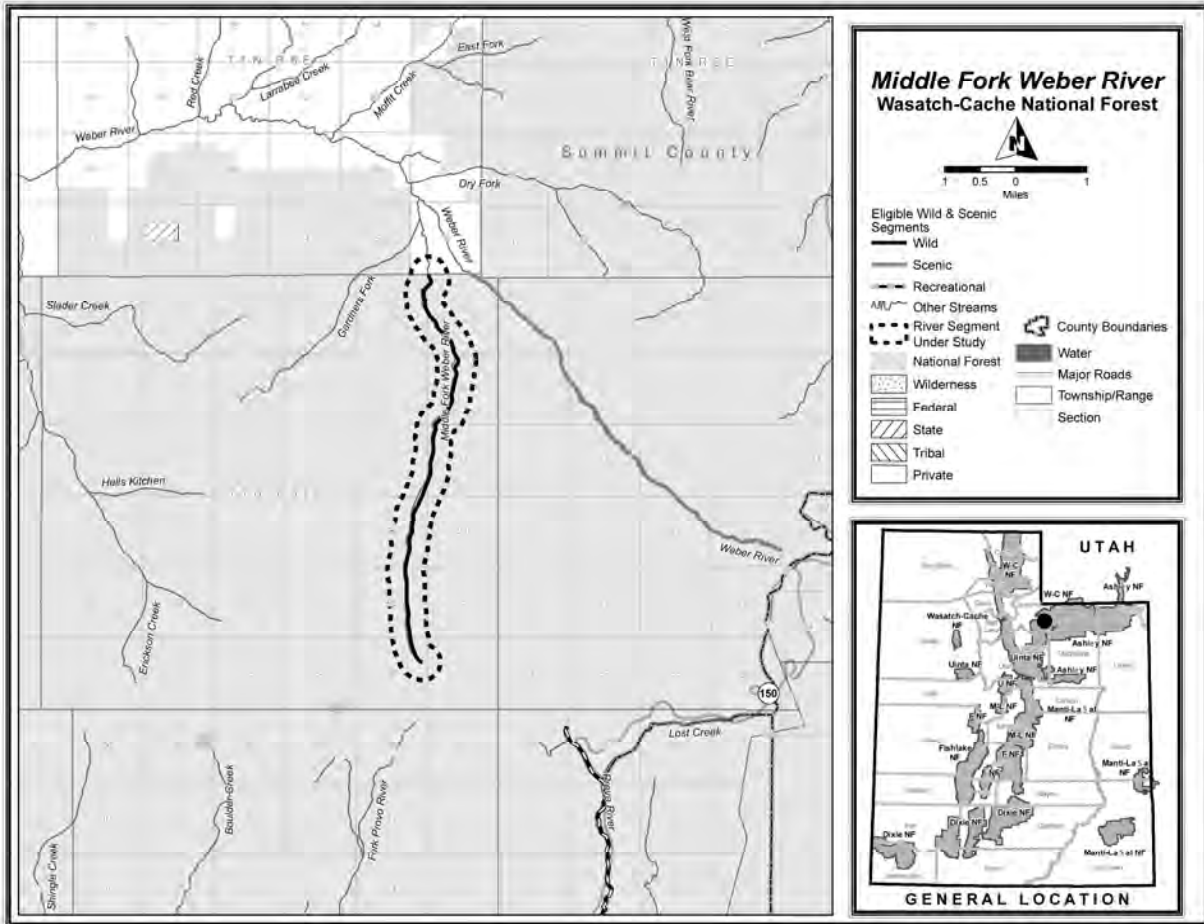
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Designation of the Main Fork Weber River in combination with the Middle Fork Weber River provides for basin integrity because the main stem and a major tributary of the Weber River would be protected at their headwaters.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

The local Kamas Valley Backcountry Horsemen have worked to improve trail conditions in this area. A hiking club from Park City has conducted a trail condition survey to help with the trail maintenance program for the Kamas Ranger District.

Middle Fork Weber River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Middle Fork Weber River
River Mileage:
 Studied: 6.0 miles, source to Forest boundary
 Eligible: Same

Location:

Middle Fork Weber River	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Kamas Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 35, T 1 S, R 8 E, SLM	NW¼ NW ¼ Sect. 1, T 1 S, R 8 E, SLM	Wild	6.0

Physical Description of River Segment:

The stream follows a relatively gentle gradient. Vegetation is dominated by spruce, fir, and lodgepole pine. There are some aspen groves, a few small meadows and a narrow willow community along the stream. Wildlife includes deer, moose and elk plus numerous small and non-game species. The corridor contains goshawk, three-toed woodpecker, lynx and wolverine habitat, but no confirmed sightings of these sensitive species have been made. Tributaries within the Middle Fork drainage contain brook trout

and cutthroat trout (possibly Bonneville cutthroat trout, a sensitive species). The fishery is rated class 3. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants or animals are known to occur.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenery – The river corridor offers a pristine visual appeal with a variety of views throughout the corridor. Seasonal variations enhance the scenic quality in the corridor. Along the route lush meadows and open woodlands enhance the attractiveness of the corridor. A hidden waterfall cascades 15 feet to a large pool contributing to the overall scenic quality of the creek-side environment. Openings in the vegetation allow scenic views down valley. Outside of the corridor striking views of rugged country are offered from the upper reach of this stream near Mt. Watson.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Wild

The segment of Weber River on National Forest is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a wild river because the stream and the stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value is acceptable.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing or hay production.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest, no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This stream segment is entirely within the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Kamas Ranger District, Summit County, Utah.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-6.0	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1920
	Total:	1920 acres

This segment is entirely on National Forest System land, but ends at the boundary to private land. This private land is zoned for Agriculture-Grazing 160 (AG-160) by Summit County.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The eligible Middle Fork Weber River segment is within a high potential oil and gas area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as

private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities in this vicinity on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – There is no road access to the corridor. The Gardner Fork Trailhead provides access to forest trail 076 which parallels the stream. There are cabins and homes within the private land portion of the corridor. There are no known historic or prehistoric sites within the corridor.

Recreation Activities – Several trails provide access to the Lakes County: The Gardner Fork Trailhead provides access to forest trail 076 which parallels the stream. Trail 077 branches off the Middle Fork Weber River Trail to Abes Lake. Trail 076 connects with Trail 091 (the Bear River-Smith Fork Trail), Trail 066 (Lake Country Trail), and Trail 075 (the North Fork Provo Trail).

Grazing Activities – There is no grazing along this stream segment.

Other Resource Activities – There has been fuels treatment work conducted along the Forest boundary with the private land that include thinning to provide more defensible space to the Alpine Acres subdivision. There are no other current or planned projects by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest within this stream corridor.

Special Designations – The Middle Fork Weber River is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

This stream corridor is within an inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

The area adjacent to the stream segment is recognized by the State of Utah as a Drinking Water Source Protection Zone. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the majority of the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness-- These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for

designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12, 7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use, and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor near the Forest boundary:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Management Prescription 3.1w Watershed Emphasis: consists of uplands identified as important watersheds.

(S3.1W) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation facility development are not allowed.

(G3.1W-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring watersheds to desired conditions, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1W-2) Livestock grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.1W-3) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the upper portion of the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 2.6 Undeveloped Areas: Manage to protect undeveloped landscapes in a manner other than formal recommended wilderness. Although other uses and activities may occur, the primary emphasis is protection to assure the values and unique qualities associated with undeveloped areas are recognized and preserved. No new developments or activity that would alter the landscape or character are allowed, however use of motorized equipment (such as chainsaws for trail clearing) is

allowed.

(S2.6) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, new recreation development, and new trail construction are not allowed.

(G2.6-1) Motorized uses, including snowmobiling, are allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G2.6-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.6-3) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed to mimic conditions within the historic range of variability and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County, an area that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. As of 2000 the population was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The private lands located at the end of the segment at the Forest boundary are subject to regulations proposed by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. The Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas surrounding, but not including, the towns of Henefer, Coalville, Kamas, Oakley and Francis, and Bear River.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by

Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

This stream segment is entirely within the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

There were public comments in support of designation for this stream in the 1999 Draft Inventory.

Public comments received during the comment period for the Draft EIS supported designation for the Middle Fork Weber River segment because designation would complement the recommended wilderness status. Other reasons cited were the river's scenic and hydrologic values. Summit County confirmed with Weber Basin Water Conservancy that there were no future planned developments that could conflict with designation.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the Middle Fork Weber River supports current forest management of Recommended Wilderness, watershed and aquatic habitat protection and roadless areas and the State of Utah's management for drinking water source protection.

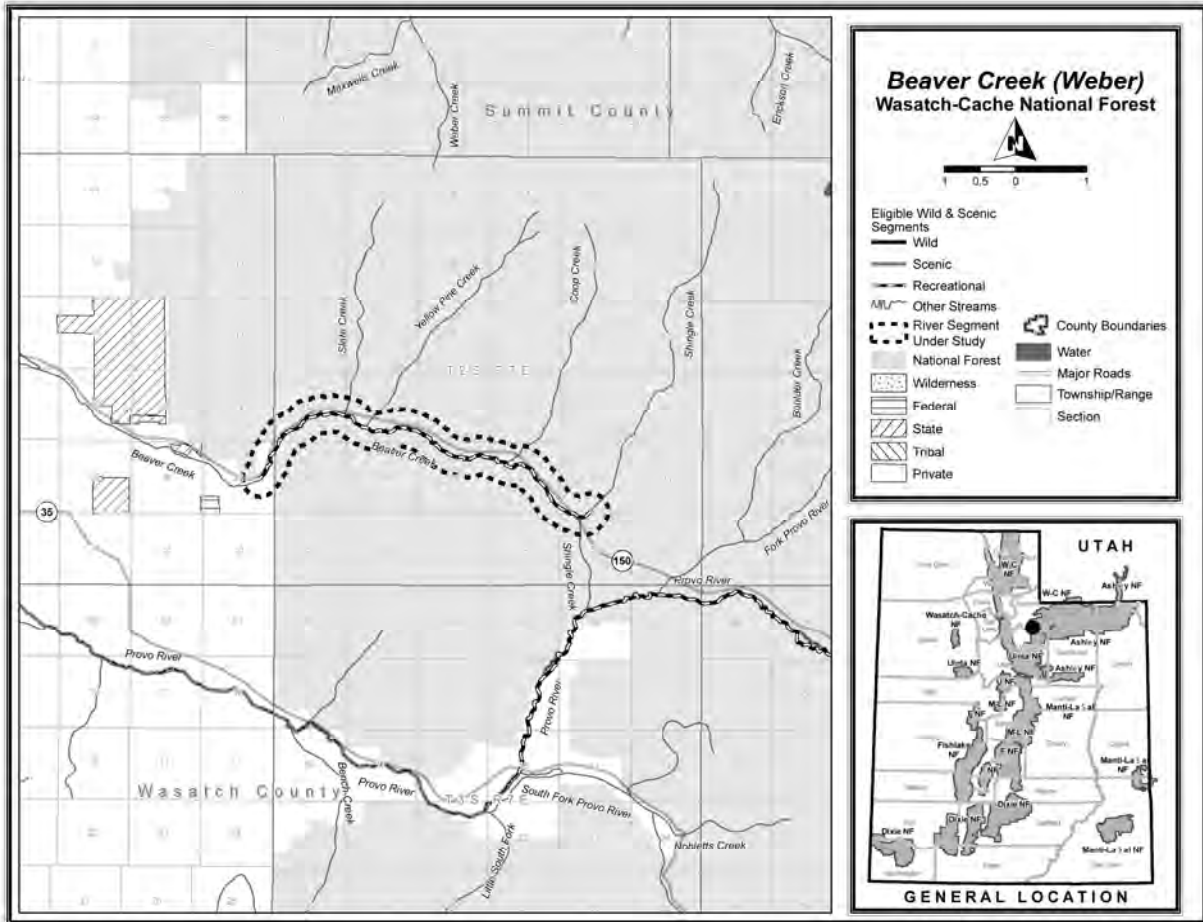
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Designation of the Middle Fork Weber River in combination with the Main Fork Weber River provides for basin integrity because the main stem and a major tributary of the Weber River would be protected at the headwaters. Designation would add further protection to this stream corridor.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

The local Kamas Valley Backcountry Horsemen have worked to improve trail conditions in this area. A hiking club from Park City has conducted a trail condition survey to help with the trail maintenance program for the Kamas Ranger District.

Beaver Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Beaver Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 6.4 miles, from source to Forest boundary

Eligible: Same

Location:

Beaver Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Kamas Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 26, T 2 N, R 7 E, SLM	NW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 30, T 2 N, R 7 E, SLM	Recreational	6.4

(Updated GIS data corrects 6.8 miles listed in the 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest.)

Physical Description of River Segment:

Beaver Creek lies within a fairly broad valley. Lodgepole pine, Ponderosa pine, juniper, oak, Manzanita, and sage/forb meadows occur along the lower reaches. The Ponderosa pine community represents the westernmost location of the species in the Uinta mountain range. Broad floodplains with willow flats

occur in some areas. Wildlife includes deer, moose and elk plus numerous small and non- game species. No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant or animal species are known to occur within the area. Fish species include cutthroat trout, sculpin, mountain sucker, long nose dace, and mountain whitefish. The stream is ranked as Class III, an important fishery.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Recreation – Visitors to the Beaver Creek river corridor enjoy an extensive variety of activities throughout all the seasons. Developed facilities are plentiful throughout the reach. Access to the river is frequent and easy. The numerous associated opportunities for non-river related activities add to its value. This recreation value is outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Recreation

This segment of the Beaver Creek is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a recreational river because the stream and the stream corridor is or has:

- Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions or other modification of the waterway remains free-flowing and generally natural and riverine in appearance.
- Some developments, substantial evidence of human activity.
- Presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings of farm structures is acceptable.
- Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural uses.
- Lands may have been developed for the full range of forestry uses.
- Readily accessible by road or railroad.
- The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.
- Water quality is sufficient to maintain outstandingly remarkable values.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The segment is located on the Kamas Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. Approximately 1.3 miles of this reach is within privately owned lands; the remainder flows through National Forest system lands.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-5.5	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1825
5.5-6.4	Private Land	120
	Total:	1945 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river

stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

The private land is zoned for Agriculture-Grazing 160 (AG-160) by Summit County.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The eligible Beaver Creek segment is within a high potential oil and gas area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities in this vicinity on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – While no major channel alterations on Beaver Creek are present, the proximity of the Mirror Lake Highway may have resulted in some minor channel alterations. Shingle Creek has been diverted into Beaver Creek, so flows in Beaver Creek are at times much heavier than natural. The stream itself is not impounded or significantly diverted in this reach. The presence of road encroachments, four bridge crossings and a few diversions have a minor affect on the natural flow of the stream.

Designation may affect the ability to control beaver that back up water next to Highway 150. Irrigators have a diversion at the confluence of Beaver Creek and Shingle Creek that regulates the water flowing down Beaver Creek. Designation may affect the ability of irrigators to determine where water will be diverted. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Mirror Lake Highway (Utah Highway 150) parallels this segment from Kamas to within about 1.5 miles of the stream source. This corridor contains five campgrounds and several trails. A groomed and very popular cross-country ski trail follows the corridor and several ungroomed trails branch off from this trail; they receive heavy use.

Recreation Activities – Recreation use in the corridor is very heavy. People use the river for fishing and some water sports play and to provide a relaxing environment. While no whitewater activity is present, the river serves as a backdrop for water play and contributes to the natural setting. In many places along the river or the adjacent highway overlooks of the river or nearby scenes are very enjoyable and offer a pleasing contrast of landforms and vegetation. There is no commercial recreation provided locally. No commercial fishing or hunting operations are present.

A variety of recreational opportunities are present, including developed campgrounds, a hiking/ATV trail (used in winter for cross country skiing), and moderate to good fishing. In the winter visitors enjoy cross-country skiing and snowmobiling along groomed trails. The area is an excellent setting for outdoor recreation. All-terrain vehicle drivers, mountain bikers, and hikers all use nearby trails in large numbers.

Fishing is moderate to heavy. There are no known historic or prehistoric sites in the corridor.

Grazing Activities – The entire stream corridor is in the Kamas Valley Cattle Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. While some livestock grazing impacts occur, sheep/cattle tend to have a minor effect on the conditions of the riparian communities in the area. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – The Ponderosa Pine Restoration project is ongoing within the upper portion of this stream corridor. The source of Beaver Creek is within the project boundary and then flows out of the southwestern edge of the project boundary. This project incorporates vegetation thinning, pile burning, and a low intensity understory burn to help restore the ponderosa pine stand located in this area. The Roadside Salvage is a project also within this stream corridor and focuses on removing dead or dying trees from the immediate roadside area of Highway 150 to reduce the threat of trees falling on the road and vehicles.

Special Designations – Beaver Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

The area adjacent to the entire Beaver Creek segment is recognized by the State of Utah as a Drinking Water Source Protection Zone. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

The Mirror Lake Highway (Highway 150) runs within the Beaver Creek stream corridor and is a State Scenic Byway.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land adjacent to the Scenic Byway:

Management Prescription 2.5 Scenic Byways: Manage Scenic Byways to protect and maintain their outstanding scenic quality. Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans may be developed for designated Byways to further define desired conditions and tailor management direction.

(G2.5-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed when these activities are necessary to maintain or enhance the scenic setting for the long term.

(G2.5-2) Grazing is allowed and managed for compatibility with other elements of Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans.

(G2.5-3) Road building, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed for purposes of enhancing use and enjoyment of the scenic byway corridor, while maintaining or enhancing the scenic setting.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land in the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1a consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Management Prescription 3.1w Watershed Emphasis: consists of uplands identified as important watersheds.

(S3.1W) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation facility development are not allowed.

(G3.1W-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring watersheds to desired conditions, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1W-2) Livestock grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.1W-3) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land on the north side of the stream near the intersection of Mirror Lake Highway with the Upper Setting Road:

Management Prescription 3.2d consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land and the upper end of this segment:

Management Prescription 4.3 Emphasis on Backcountry Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities in a more remote and isolated setting where visitors can obtain a higher degree of solitude and the environment is in a near natural setting. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights of other visitors are low and sounds of other users are low to moderate. Visitors are largely managed off-site, with signs and regulations posted at area boundaries. Management of recreation impacts is of a semi-primitive nature with regulation of use a

priority management tool over site modification. Visitor self-reliance is high. Management visibility is low with backcountry ranger patrols focusing on monitoring and maintaining natural conditions and processes.

(S4.3) New recreation development is not allowed.

(G4.3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuels treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions and to restore ecosystem functioning as compatible with the backcountry recreation opportunity and natural setting desired.

(G4.3-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.3-3) New trail construction is allowed.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County, which occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. As of 2000 the population was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003. The private lands located at the end of the segment at the Forest boundary are subject to regulations proposed by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. The Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas surrounding, but not including, the towns of Henefer, Coalville, Kamas, Oakley and Francis.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of this Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions

numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

The majority of this stream segment is on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land and will be managed to maintain the integrity of the stream corridor. The level of development allowed on the private land within the corridor is managed by the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning regulations for AG-160.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

One comment for Beaver Creek to the 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System related to eligibility describing that the amount of development in the stream corridor was too high for WSR status. The Forest found this segment eligible for recreational classification based on the level of development and road access.

During scoping a water conservancy district stated its opposition to any designation that would change the current diversion practice of Shingle Creek.

Comments received during the public comment period for the Draft EIS oppose designation of the Beaver Creek segment. Members of the Beaver and Shingle Creek Irrigation Company have expressed concerns about the designation of Beaver Creek stating that designation could impact their ability to manage diversions that they are dependent on for irrigation and stock purposes. The State of Utah expressed concerns that designation would impact the state's ability to maintain or expand the highway.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the Beaver Creek supports current management of the stream corridor by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, the Scenic Byway, and the State of Utah's management for drinking water source protection.

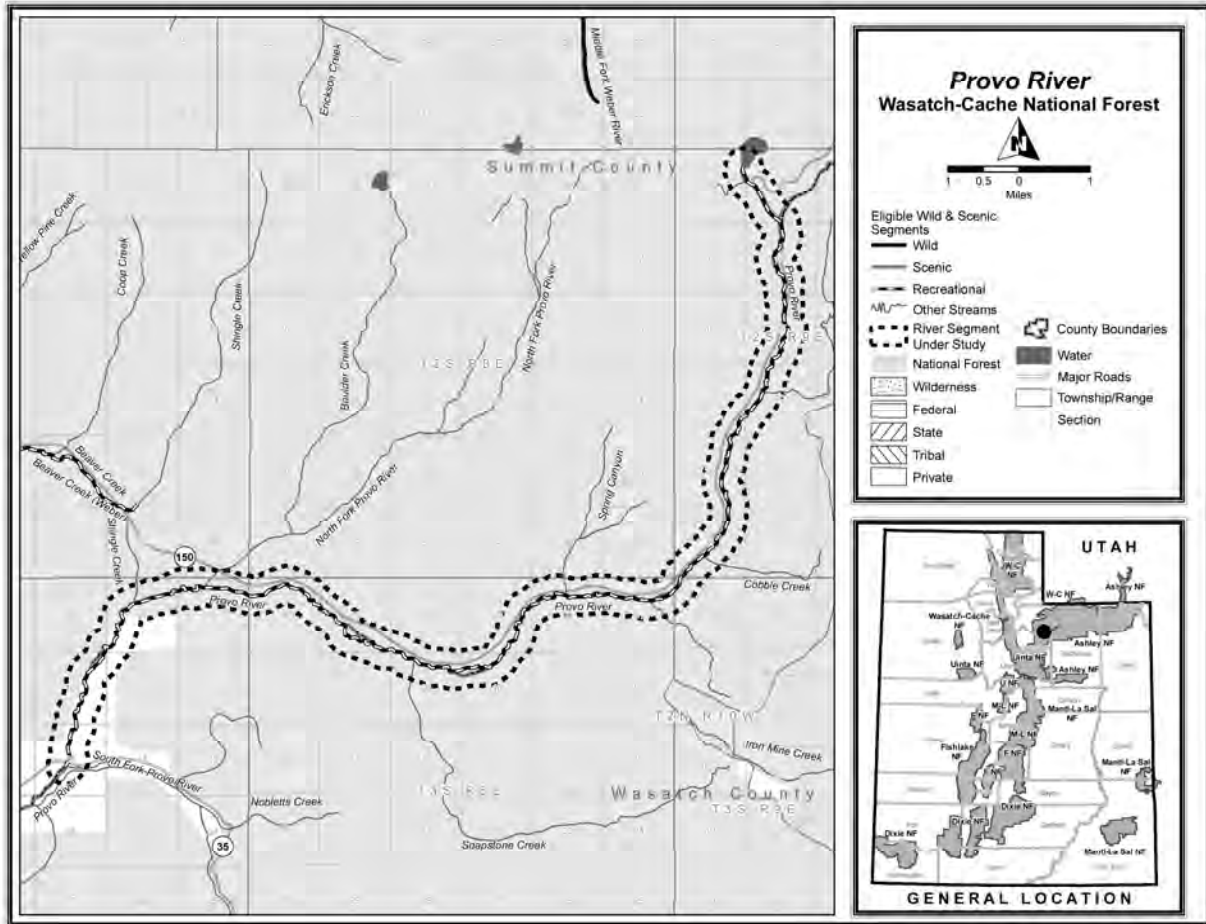
Designation of Beaver Creek may conflict with how irrigators manage and divert water. Designation may also affect the ability of road workers to control the beaver and their dams which back up water next to Highway 150.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity. Designation of this stream would contribute little to basin integrity because of the highly altered flow pattern created by past water projects within the basin.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

The local Kamas Valley Backcountry Horsemen have worked to improve trail conditions in this area. A hiking club from Park City has conducted a trail condition survey to help with the trail maintenance program for the Kamas Ranger District.

Provo River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Provo River

River Mileage:

Studied: 19.8 miles, from Trial Lake to U35 Bridge

Eligible: Same

Location:

Provo River	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Kamas Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 6, T 2 S, R 9 W, Uintah Meridian	NE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 15, T 3 S, R 7 E, SLM	Recreational	19.8

Physical Description of River Segment:

Elevations range from 8,700 to 9,500 feet. The channel is generally confined in a narrow valley. Some floodplains and low wet terraces exist. The gradient and energy are moderate. The channel is incised somewhat into glacial and alluvial outwash materials with large substrate. The channel and floodplains are severely scoured and permanent vegetation and structure are often lacking as a result of the Trial Lake dam failure in 1985. The upper portion of this segment is dominated by lodgepole pine with mixed

conifer (lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, and spruce). Further downstream upland vegetation is dominated by lodgepole pine and aspen with openings of sagebrush. Riparian communities generally occur as narrow stringers with conifers, willows, and alder dominating. The area is more or less natural in appearance with some localized dispersed recreation and grazing impacts. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant, fish or animal species occur in this area. It does contain some prime moose habitat. The State of Utah classifies the upper reach of the river as Class II, of great importance to the state fishery. The remaining portion is ranked as Class III, an important fishery.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from major channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is not significantly impaired. This segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenery – While resource damage is still evident from the Trial Lake Dam failure, views in the corridor are still very pleasing and enjoyable. Two outstanding scenic views are located within the corridor. The Provo River Falls is an unusual feature that is particularly memorable. Autumn views along the river are spectacular. The scenic value is outstandingly remarkable.

Recreation – Recreation along this segment of the Provo River is very popular. The river is the focal point for many dispersed campers. Many developed facilities provide retreats for campers and picnickers. A full spectrum of recreation opportunities is available year round. This recreation value is outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Recreational

This segment of the Provo River is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a recreational river because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains free-flowing and generally natural and riverine in appearance.
- Some developments. Substantial evidence of human activity.
- The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable.
- Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural uses.
- Lands may have been developed for the full range of forestry uses.
- Readily accessible by road or railroad.
- The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.
- Water quality sufficient to maintain outstandingly remarkable values.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment of the Provo River is from Trial Lake to the U35 Bridge. This segment is on the Kamas Ranger District and is in Summit County. The segment is primarily on National Forest. The lower portion of the stream, along both banks is privately owned.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
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0-17.1	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	5914
17.1-19.8	Private Land	320
	Total:	6234 acres

This private land is zoned for Agriculture-Grazing 160 (AG-160) by Summit County, Utah.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. This area is in a high oil and gas potential area, but there are no current active leases.

Water Resources Development – The stream itself is not impounded or significantly diverted in this reach. The presence of road encroachments, four bridge crossings and a few diversions have a minor affect on the natural flow of the stream. There is water imported into the stream at the Duchesne Tunnel west portal that adds water to the system.

The Central Utah Water Project (CUWP) has a dam on Trial Lake. CUWP operations are generally "fill and spill" where their gates are closed in the fall or winter and the lakes are allowed to fill up. Once filled, the streams below return to natural flows as the reservoirs spill freely over their spillways. Upstream reservoir operations store low flow water that is released for irrigation throughout the summer. This artificial discharge does not mimic natural snowmelt runoff. During the summer, the water users control discharge from Washington, Trial, and Lost Lake reservoirs releasing unusually high flows in the local streams until the storage capacity is emptied.

The Duchesne Tunnel diversion also has a considerable effect on natural stream flows. The tunnel delivers all of the water from the Duchesne River into the Provo River below the portal, thus artificially increasing flows in the summer where natural flows would be tapering off.

The Forest Service recognizes that the Department of Interior withdrew lands for purposes of the Provo River Project and recognizes the right of the Provo River project to operate its lands and facilities from the Duchesne Tunnel to the Forest boundary.

Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Parallel access is provided by State Highway 150, which is a two lane asphalt road, receiving heavy use. The highway carries the designation of a State Scenic Byway. Sightseeing and short hikes are popular at Upper Provo River Falls and Slate Gorge Overlook. The Soapstone Summer Home Association includes 41 summer homes located away from the Provo River frontage, and is outside the ¼ mile corridor. Access to the homes is gated, there is a shared water system, and all of the homes have pit toilets and many have upgraded to septic systems. The YMCA Camp Roger is also located within this stream corridor that has a main lodge, outbuildings, and a stable. There is also a historic Forest Service Administrative Site (Ranger Station).

Recreation Activities – A variety of recreational opportunities are present, including developed campgrounds, a hiking/ATV trail (used in winter for cross country skiing), and moderate to good fishing. In the winter visitors enjoy cross-country skiing and snowmobiling along groomed trails. The area is an excellent setting for outdoor recreation. People use the river for fishing and some water sports play and to provide a relaxing environment. In many places along the river, the adjacent highway overlooks of the river or nearby scenes are very enjoyable and offer a pleasing contrast of landforms and vegetation. There is no commercial recreation provided locally.

Grazing Activities – The area is in the Kamas Valley Cattle Allotment. The river corridor itself is used

by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Other Resource Activities – The area around the Upper Setting Road on the north side of the segment has had many past timber harvests. There are three vegetation/fuels treatments planned for this area: the Ponderosa Restoration Prescribed Burn and the Roadside Salvage that are located along the Mirror Lake Highway, and the Murdock Basin Fuels Treatment.

Special Designations – The Provo River is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

The entire stream corridor is within an area recognized by the State of Utah as a Drinking Water Source Protection Zone (DWSPZ). This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Approximately 9.4 miles of this stream corridor fall within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Approximately 15.1 miles of this stream is adjacent to a State Scenic Byway, the Mirror Lake Highway.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land adjacent to the Scenic Byway:

Management Prescription 2.5 Scenic Byways: Manage Scenic Byways to protect and maintain their outstanding scenic quality. Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans may be developed for designated Byways to further define desired conditions and tailor management direction.

(G2.5-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed when these activities are necessary to maintain or enhance the scenic setting for the long term.

(G2.5-2) Grazing is allowed and managed for compatibility with other elements of Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plans.

(G2.5-3) Road building, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed for purposes of enhancing use and enjoyment of the scenic byway corridor, while maintaining or enhancing the scenic setting.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land at the very start of the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 2.6 Undeveloped Areas: Manage to protect undeveloped landscapes in a

manner other than formal recommended wilderness. Although other uses and activities may occur, the primary emphasis is protection to assure the values and unique qualities associated with undeveloped areas are recognized and preserved. No new developments or activity that would alter the landscape or character are allowed, however use of motorized equipment (such as chainsaws for trail clearing) is allowed.

(S2.6) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, new recreation development, and new trail construction are not allowed.

(G2.6-1) Motorized uses, including snowmobiling, are allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G2.6-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.6-3) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed to mimic conditions within the historic range of variability and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land along the stream:

Management Prescription 3.1a consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land along the south bank in the lower portion of the stream:

Management Prescription 3.2 Terrestrial Habitats (3.2U Undeveloped/3.2D Developed) Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

Management Prescription 3.2u consists of those terrestrial habitat areas protected from development because of potential impacts to key habitat elements.

(S-3.2U) Timber harvest, road construction, and new recreation developments are not allowed.

(G3.2U-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2U-2) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site-specifically developed habitat objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land along the north and west bank for the lower portion of the segment:

Management Prescription 3.2d consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land at the outer edge of the corridor along the south bank in the middle portion of the segment:

Management Prescription 4.3 Emphasis on Backcountry Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities in a more remote and isolated setting where visitors can obtain a higher degree of solitude and the environment is in a near natural setting. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights of other visitors are low and sounds of other users are low to moderate. Visitors are largely managed off-site, with signs and regulations posted at area boundaries. Management of recreation impacts is of a semi-primitive nature with regulation of use a priority management tool over site modification. Visitor self-reliance is high. Management visibility is low with backcountry ranger patrols focusing on monitoring and maintaining natural conditions and processes.

(S4.3) New recreation development is not allowed.

(G4.3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuels treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions and to restore ecosystem functioning as compatible with the backcountry recreation opportunity and natural setting desired.

(G4.3-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.3-3) New trail construction is allowed.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land along the northern bank for the upper half of the segment and along the upper portion of the south bank:

Management Prescription 4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the ROS category at the specific area and visitor desires for convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Socio-Economic Environment – This stream is located in Summit County, an area that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. As of 2000 the population was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003. The private lands located at the end of the segment at the Forest boundary are subject to regulations proposed by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. The Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas surrounding, but not including, the towns of Henefer, Coalville, Kamas, Oakley and Francis.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of this Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

The majority of this stream segment is on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land and will be managed to

maintain the integrity of the stream corridor. The level of development allowed on the private land within the corridor is managed by the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning regulations for AG-160.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

One comment for the Provo River received during the 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System related to eligibility. It said that the amount of development in the stream corridor was too high for WSR status. The Forest found this segment eligible for recreational classification based on the level of development and road access.

Comments received during the scoping period reflected a concern from water users and water conservancy districts that there are agreements and water rights in place and that any designation must not conflict with operation of the Duchesne Tunnel and reservoirs at the top of the Provo segment. The Bureau of Reclamation was concerned about the effect designation could have on future water development projects. Utah Department of Transportation

The Provo River has received both support and opposition during the public comment period for the Draft EIS. General support for designation of the Provo River was expressed with a desire for more protection of the river. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for the Provo River. The Provo River Water User Association was concerned that designation would adversely affect their ability to deliver water in a timely and effective manner. The State of Utah expressed concerns that designation would impact the state's ability to maintain or expand the highway.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of the Provo River supports current management of the stream corridor by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and for the Scenic Byway, and the State of Utah's management for drinking water source protection.

Designation of the Provo River may conflict with current water rights of the Provo Water Users Association. The Provo Water Users Association has an easement along the Provo River from the Duchesne Tunnel outlet to Jordanelle Reservoir to provide water to their constituents.

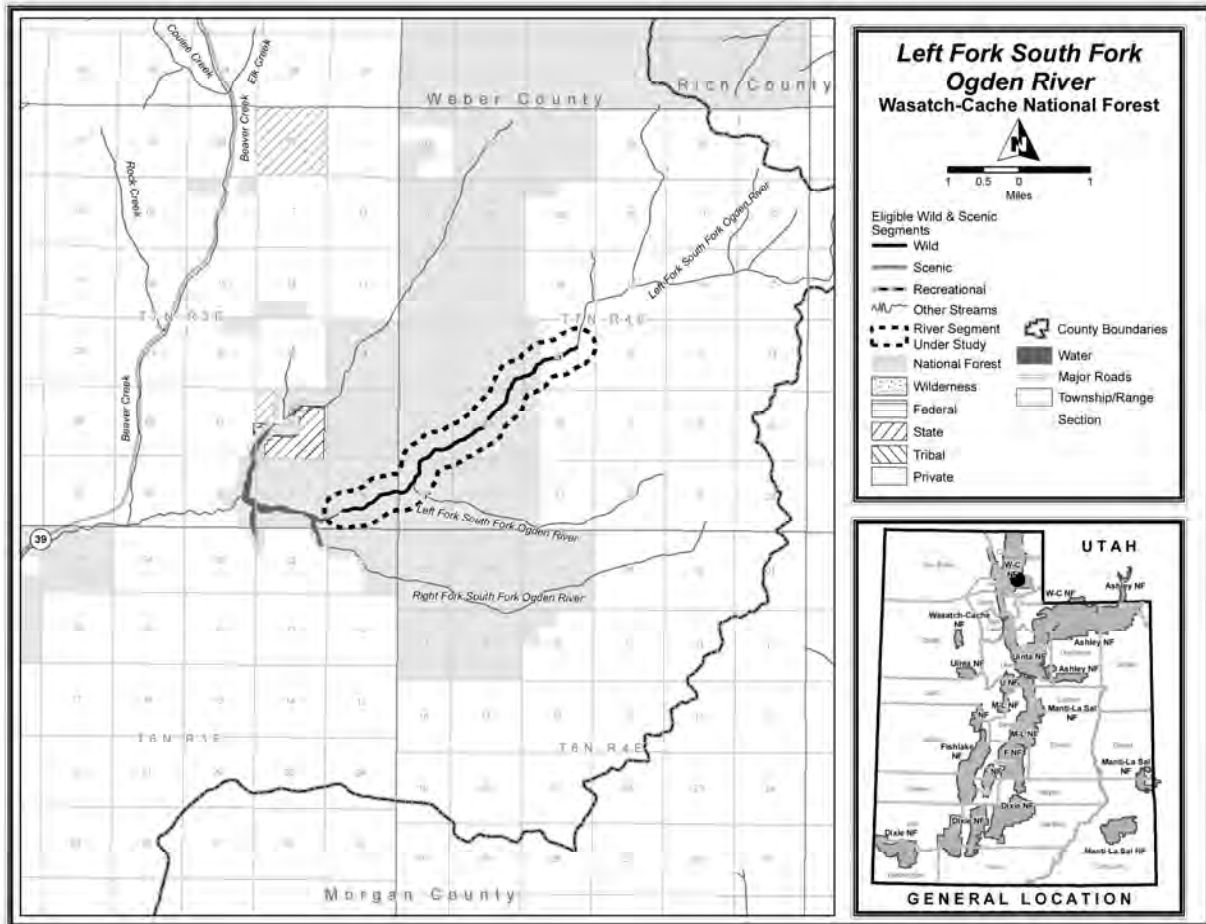
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Designation of this segment would contribute some benefit to basin integrity as it encompasses almost 20 miles of the Provo River; however, the Provo River Basin has been altered by water development projects.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There has been demonstrated volunteer involvement with managing the stream corridor, where groups routinely pick up trash in accordance with the Adopt a Highway program on Highway 150, and there have been occasional dispersed campsite clean-ups by local Boy and Girl Scout groups.

Left Fork South Fork Ogden River Suitability Evaluation Form (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Left Fork South Fork Ogden River

River Mileage:

Studied: 4.5 miles, from the Frost Canyon/Bear Canyon confluence to the confluence to Causey Reservoir

Eligible: Same

Location:

Left Fork South Fork Ogden River	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Ogden Ranger District, Weber County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 15, T 7 N, R 4 E, SLM	SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 36, T 7 N, R 3 E, SLM	Wild	4.5

Physical Description of River Segment:

The Left Fork South Fork Ogden River extends from the confluence of Frost Canyon and Bear Canyon to Causey Reservoir. The segment is located on the Ogden Ranger District in Weber County, Utah. Much of this river lies in a steep, narrow canyon, with several cascades and large limestone outcrops. Access is limited to foot access. Near the headwaters, the canyon is wider and less steep. Views out of the canyon

are very limited. Vegetation within the corridor consists of sagebrush and mountain brush pockets, scattered juniper, mountain mahogany, and aspen in the uplands. Some pockets of spruce, fir and Douglas-fir grow on north and east facing slopes. Riparian communities are limited by the narrow canyon. There are no known populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants or animals in the corridor. The privately owned lands near the headwaters of the drainage are grazed. Wildlife is typical for these habitats. The sensitive Bonneville cutthroat trout, which has been petitioned for federal listing is present and its purity confirmed. It carries a State ranking of Class III, of great importance. The population of Bonneville cutthroat trout has value because it is naturally reproducing.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenery – The canyon through which Left Fork South Fork Ogden River flows has lush vegetation with visually striking rock outcrops throughout the segment. Its undisturbed character contributes to the visual quality. Cascading water creates pleasing views. The scenic value is outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Wild

The portion of the Left Fork South Fork Ogden River on National Forest is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a wild river because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value is acceptable.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing or hay production.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No road, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The Left Fork South Fork Ogden River extends from the confluence of Frost Canyon and Bear Canyon to Causey Reservoir. The segment is located on the Ogden Ranger District in Weber County, Utah.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-0.6	Private Land (Deseret Land and Livestock)	252
0.6-4.5	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1278
	Total:	1530 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions

of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

This area is in unincorporated Weber County, local planning and zoning ordinances apply to private land. The Ogden Valley General Plan is intended to provide guidance for future land use decisions by Weber County and other entities affecting Ogden Valley.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value within the area of the eligible Left Fork South Fork Ogden River segment and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. Also, this area is not a high oil and gas potential area (Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003).

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. This stream segment does flow into Causey Reservoir that is impounded by Causey Dam. There is no power generation at this dam. This dam project is part of the larger Weber Basin Project. The reservoir provides supplemental irrigation water for mountain valley lands near Huntsville and Eden. Irrigation water released from the reservoir is diverted from the South Fork of Ogden River by the Ogden Valley Diversion Dam and conveyed through the Ogden Valley Canal to lands in the Huntsville-Eden area. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – There is limited access to the area. This area is only accessible by the general public by boat, there are no trails accessing this drainage. Roads and trails to the area exist on private property.

Recreation Activities – Fishing use is very light due to the extremely difficult, limited access. Some horseback riders and other hunters use the area during hunting season.

Grazing Activities – There is no grazing along this segment.

Other Resource Activities – There are no commercial recreation activities or opportunities in the segment nor is there any commercial fishing or hunting operations in the area. A small portion of this stream corridor crosses onto private land. Deseret Land and Livestock owns a large parcel of land adjacent to this watershed that is managed as a ranch with grazing and also offers hunting guiding for big game.

Special Designations – Left Fork South Fork Ogden River is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation

Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 4.5 miles of this stream are within Surface Water Drinking Water Source Protection Zones. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which groundwater flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Approximately 3.9 miles of this stream corridor are within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness: These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as Wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12, 7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use, and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment – The stream segment is in Weber County, Utah. The Ogden River flows from Causey Reservoir through Pineview Reservoir in Ogden Valley through Ogden Canyon into Ogden, Utah and then through surrounding valley communities on its way to the Great Salt Lake. The City of Ogden is the Weber County seat and in 2005, estimates placed its population at 78,309 and Weber County totaled 210,750. The 2000 Census reported that Weber River Basin's population was about 472,000. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget projects this population to increase to 699,000 by 2020, and nearly double to about 939,000 by 2050. Ogden is home to Weber State University. Employment in the agricultural, military, and ski industries are a large part of the economy.

Ogden Valley, Utah, is a rural, mountain valley located on the backside of the Wasatch Range,

approximately 10 miles east of Ogden. Ringed by mountains, its spectacular setting and recreational opportunities coupled with its proximity to the urban Wasatch Front has spawned unprecedented growth pressures. The Ogden Valley totals about 6,500 people in Huntsville, Eden and the surrounding communities. The Ogden Valley is home to the Snowbasin Ski Resort, which hosted the 2002 Winter Olympics. Snowbasin is a year around resort with planned expansion and development of slope side lodging and amenities.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – This stream segment is located on private and National Forest System lands. These lands are within unincorporated Weber County and administered through the Ogden Valley General Plan and the Ogden Valley Sensitive Lands Overlay, and the Wasatch-Cache National Forest by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Forest Plan, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs. Weber County also has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

The private land could be developed in the future. The Ogden Valley General Plan is intended to provide guidance for future land use decisions by Weber County and other entities affecting Ogden Valley. To protect the character of Ogden Valley, a central element of this Plan includes a set of policies to protect sensitive lands in the Valley. These policies affect a variety of resources deemed important by Valley residents: steep slopes (<30%), ridgelines, flood plains, wetlands/cultural resources, agricultural lands, view/entry corridors, historical/cultural resources, riparian areas, watershed, groundwater recharge areas, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and Pineview Reservoir. Section 4.07 adds specific regulations to development within stream corridors; where, in addition to the safety issues surrounding development along stream corridors, Ogden Valley residents desire to see these areas protected for aesthetic, wildlife habitat, and water quality reasons. The County's recommended approach includes the following implementation steps: establishing setbacks of 50 feet on both sides of year round streams for any structures (determined from center of the stream) and establishing setbacks of 75 feet on both sides of North Fork, South Fork and Middle Fork Ogden Rivers for any structures (determined from the center of

the river (Resolution 46-96)).

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

There were no comments specific to the Left Fork South Fork Ogden River from the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

No comments were received specifically for the Left Fork South Fork Ogden River during the public comments period for the Draft EIS.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of this segment of Left Fork South Fork Ogden River complements current Forest management for Recommended Wilderness and also aids in drinking water source protection of the surface water that is used by Ogden City and irrigation needs of Ogden Valley.

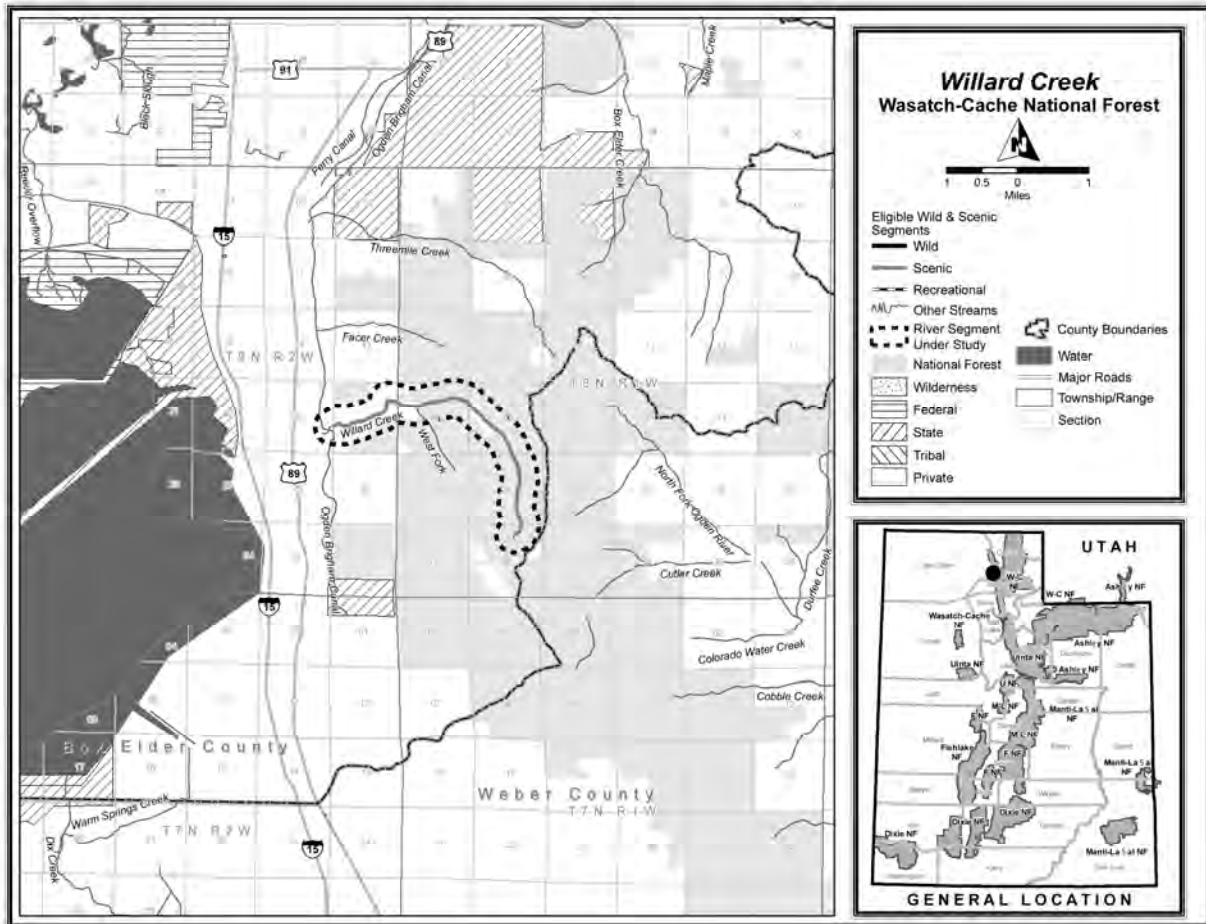
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the basin integrity because it incorporates the stream from its source to the Forest boundary. Designation would also add to the integrity of the Recommended Wilderness area. This stream enters Causey Reservoir, providing an important volume of water.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

Deseret Land and Livestock may be interested in funding conservation work for the stream corridor. There are no known user groups in Weber County that have shown an interest in this stream.

Willard Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Willard Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 4.4 miles, from source to Forest Boundary

Eligible: Same

Location:

Willard Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Ogden Ranger District, Box Elder County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 32, T 8 N, R 1 W, SLM	NW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 35, T 8 N, R 2 W, SLM	Scenic	4.4

Physical Description of River Segment:

The lower portion lies in a very steep, deep canyon. Two waterfalls flow over a cliff face, which is visible from the highway. The two waterfalls are rare features in the Bear River Basin of the Great Basin hydrologic region. Uplands are dominated primarily by sagebrush and oak-maple. Cottonwood and dogwood grow along the stream. While there are no known populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants adjacent to this segment, Maguires draba, a sensitive species, is expected to occur on some of the cliff faces within the corridor. A stand of mature cottonwood trees at the lower end of the

canyon provides roosting habitat for wintering bald eagles (up to 100 birds). Cliffs along the creek provide peregrine falcon habitat, although no peregrine falcons have been identified to date. Because of Willard Bay and other marshy areas nearby, as well as an abundance of pigeons and other prey, the habitat is high quality. In addition, other wildlife typical for the included habitat types can be found within the corridor.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenery – The canyon through which Willard Creek flows has dramatic topographic relief. It is visually striking. The two waterfalls present create a memorable focal point. The scenic value is outstandingly remarkable.

Wildlife – The cottonwoods in the river corridor offer prime habitat for wintering bald eagles, an endangered species. Because of its inaccessibility the habitat can be considered a refuge from human intrusions. The wildlife value is outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River – Scenic

The portion of Willard Creek on National Forest lands is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a scenic river because the stream segment and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value is acceptable.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing or hay production.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No road, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment of Willard Creek extends from its source near Willard Basin Campground to the diversion ditch at the Forest boundary. The segment is located on the Ogden Ranger District in Box Elder County, Utah. About 3 miles of this segment flow through National Forest system lands.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-1.7	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1060
1.7-2.0	Private Land (surrounded by NFS land)	43
2.0-3.0	Wasatch-cache National Forest (acres included above)	N/A
3.0-4.4	Private Land	337
	Total:	1440 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do

not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within 1/4 mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

Box Elder County has zoned the area around Willard Creek as MU-160. **Multiple Use Districts are zoned for the** purposes of providing a multiple use district is to establish areas in mountain, hillside, canyon mountain valley, desert and other open and generally undeveloped lands where human habitation should be limited in order to protect land and other open space resources; to reduce unreasonable requirements for public utility and service expenditures through uneconomic and unwise dispersal and scattering of population; to encourage use of the land, where appropriate, for forestry, grazing, agriculture, mining, wildlife habitat, and recreation; to avoid excessive damage to watersheds, water pollution, soil erosion, danger from brushland fires, damage to grazing and livestock raising, and to wildlife values; to avoid the premature development of lands by discouraging intensive development until the ultimate best use of the land can be recommended by the Planning Commission to the County Commission; and to promote the health, safety, convenience, order, prosperity, and general welfare of the inhabitants of the community. The minimum Lot Size: 160 acres or one quarter section.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. This area is not a high oil and gas potential area.

Water Resources Development – There are no major diversions, dams or other channel modifications on this segment. Watershed improvements from 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps work is still evident in the Willard Peak areas. Below the Forest boundary, the stream passes through the town of Willard and is heavily diverted. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Forest Road 20084 runs near the top of the ridge within the corridor in the upper half mile of this segment. A rough private road provides access to privately owned lands along the lower mile of the segment with no access by road or trail within the National Forest.

Recreation Activities – In the past there has been some panning for gold in the stream and mining for diamonds in strata exposed in the canyon sidewalls. Recreation use within most of the corridor is very light due to the steep terrain and privately controlled access. Some dispersed recreation use from Willard Basin spills over into the corridor.

Vistas from the headwaters provide sweeping views of the drainage. In the lower reaches views from the corridor are of rugged, steep canyon walls. There are no known historic or prehistoric sites in the corridor. There are several mine sites and a gravel pit on the privately owned lands closer to the Forest boundary.

Grazing Activities – There is no grazing along this segment.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in the Willard Creek corridor.

Special Designations – Approximately 0.2 miles of this stream are within Groundwater Drinking Water Source Protection Zones for three springs on private land and 3 wells below the Forest boundary. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which groundwater flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Approximately 3.0 miles of this stream corridor are within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest recognizes a Special Interest Area in Willard Basin. This area will be managed to protect and/or restore remnant tall forb communities while allowing continued motorized access on designated routes. A tall forb site near Ben Lomond Peak will be evaluated as an alternative to the Willard Basin area for establishment as a Special Interest Area or Research Natural Area.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor except for the area adjacent to Forest Road 20084:

Management Prescription 2.7 Special Interest Areas and Special Areas: Manage to protect particular values or unique qualities of special interest. Objectives for Special Interest Areas is “to protect and, where appropriate, foster public use and enjoyment of areas with scenic, historical, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, or other special characteristics. To classify areas that possess unusual recreation and scientific values so that these special values are available for public study, use, or enjoyment” (FSM 2360.2). Objectives for Special Areas are: “To protect and manage for public use and enjoyment, special recreation areas with scenic, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, archaeological, or other special characteristics or unique values.” (FSM2372.02) Special Interest and Special Areas may have management plans developed to address specific needs and opportunities for the individual area.

(S2.7) Timber harvest, road construction, and new recreation development are not allowed.

(G2.7-1) Vegetation/fuels treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed in circumstances where these activities help perpetuate the unique ecosystem, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G2.7-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.7-3) New trail construction is allowed if associated with resource interpretation and public study, use, or enjoyment.

(G2.7-4) Allow manipulative restoration where needed for scientific study and increased public understanding of the unique values of the area.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land area adjacent to Forest Road 20084:

Management Prescription 4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings. These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) category at the specific area and visitor desires for convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Socio-Economic Environment – Willard—population approximately 2,000—is the southernmost community in Box Elder County along US 89, and is nestled between majestic Willard Peak in the mountains to the east and the Great Salt Lake to the west. Seven miles north is Brigham City, and Ogden is thirteen miles to the south. The economy of Willard has been centered on agriculture, with fruit crops being the major product. Agriculture is now a secondary source of income. Some businesses are located in Willard, but most people seek employment nearby at Hill Air Force Base, the Internal Revenue Service, Thiokol Corporation and Morton International.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – This stream segment is located on private and National Forest System lands. The lands within Box Elder County are administered through the Land Use Management & Development Code for Box Elder County and zoning ordinances for the Forest Recreation (MU-160 zone) and Sensitive Lands Overlay. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest lands are managed under the direction of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Forest Plan, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions

numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.

The private land could be developed in the future. This development would be directed by the Land Use Management & Development Code for Box Elder County and zoning ordinances for the Forest Recreation (MU-160 zone); which allows for one seasonal cabin per 160 acres. The Sensitive Areas Overlay applies to this stream corridor and has regulations that only allow agricultural use.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

There were no comments specific to Willard Creek from the January 1999 DRAFT Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion I the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

No comments were received specifically for Willard Creek during the public comment period for the Draft EIS.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of this segment of Willard Creek complements current Forest management and also aids in drinking water source protection of the surface and ground water that is used by the of Willard.

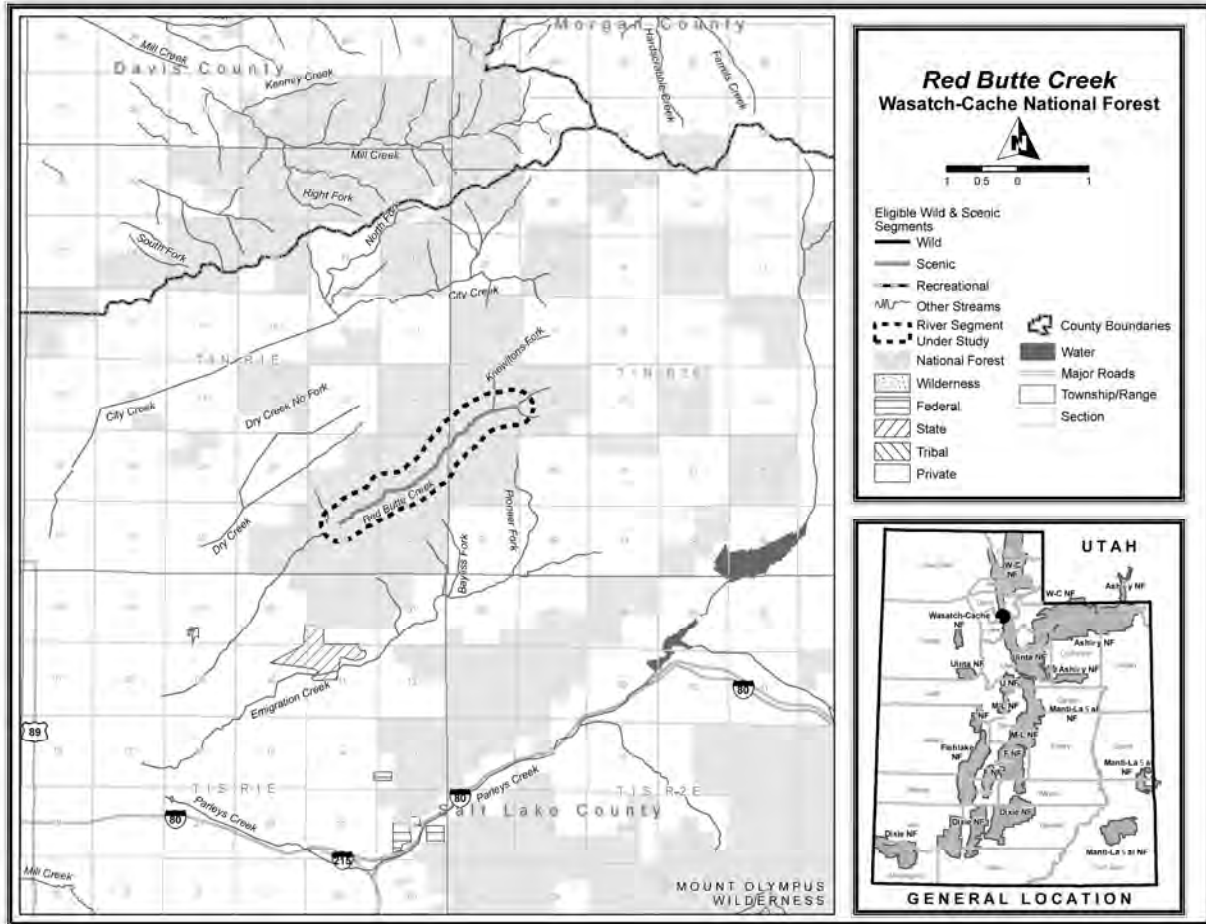
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the basin integrity because it incorporates the source to the Forest boundary and designation would also further enforce protection to the drinking water source areas.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

The unique values of Willard Basin may draw interest from groups interested in a conservation partnership.

Red Butte Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Red Butte Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 3.2 miles, from source to Red Butte Reservoir

Eligible: Same

Location:

Red Butte Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Salt Lake Ranger District, Salt Lake County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Segment 1	Start SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 17, T 1 N, R 2 E, SLM	End SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 35, T 1 N, R 1 E, SLM	Classification Miles

Physical Description of River:

The river segment flows between elevations that range from 7,600 and 5,400 feet. Red Butte Creek is a typical moderate to high energy mountain stream. It has a pool-riffle structure in a confined single channel. Stream flow is perennial and reflects a snow-dominated hydrograph. This canyon is a Research Natural Area (RNA). A USGS Hydrologic Benchmark Network station is located just upstream from Red Butte Reservoir.

Uplands are characterized by oak-maple, sagebrush, and grassland communities with some conifers on north-facing slopes at higher elevations. Box elder and cottonwood with tall willows and red-osier dogwood dominate the riparian communities throughout much of the length of the channel. Riparian ecosystems in the lower half of this segment are in the process of recovering from excessive down-cutting of the channel in the early 1980's as a result of high flows. Non-native herbaceous species occur in the undergrowth of the riparian and adjacent communities in this area. Riparian plant communities, while more or less natural in appearance, have been altered from historic conditions as a possible result of beaver removal from the canyon. Upland communities, except along the road corridor, are natural in appearance. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur along this segment. One species of interest, Cyripedium calceolus, occurs in Red Butte Canyon within the quarter mile corridor of Red Butte Creek. Only one population of this species occurs in the area and it is the only known natural population in the State of Utah. This species is quite common in the eastern United States but becomes increasingly rare in the West (Atwood 1993).

The population of Bonneville cutthroat trout has value because it is naturally reproducing and provides a potential brood source for restoration efforts. At the terminus of the segment is Red Butte Reservoir, under an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the reservoir is being used as a refuge for the "Endangered" June Sucker. Both species spawn upstream to a fish barrier about 200 yards above the reservoir. The Division of Wildlife Resources transports the fish beyond the barrier to assist in their fishery program. The stream is ranked as Class III, an important fishery for spawning and nursery purposes. No endangered, threatened or sensitive wildlife species are present.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: The segment is free from major channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. This segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Ecological – The stream through Red Butte Research Natural Area has been protected from impacts and development for over 30 years; it provides an important ecological context for university research. The river and its context in the ecosystem contribute significantly to the research value of the area. The ecological value is outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Scenic

Red Butte Creek is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a scenic river because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.
- Presence of small communities or dispersed dwelling or farm structures is acceptable.
- Road goes up stream corridor but access is very limited due to RNA status

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The segment is located on the Salt Lake Ranger District in Salt Lake County, Utah. The entire segment flows through National Forest system lands.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
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0-3.2	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1130
	Total	1130 acres

Currently there are no potential changes to land use in this area due to the RNA designation.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value within the area of the eligible Red Butte Creek segment and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. Also, this area is not a high oil and gas potential area (Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003).

Water Resources Development – The only impediment in the stream is a fish barrier combined with the USGS gauging station low in the reach. Below this segment is the Red Butte Reservoir that stores water for irrigation in the Salt Lake valley. The reservoir is operated and maintained by the CUWCD. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Access is by Forest Road 253 which is a one lane dirt road with turnouts. The road is closed to vehicle traffic by use of a locked gate at the entrance of the Red Butte Research Natural Area (RNA).

Grazing Activities – The area has been excluded from livestock grazing because of its RNA status.

Recreation Activities – General recreation access to the area is not permitted because of its status as a Research Natural Area. The scenery is natural due to the Research Natural Area designation; however this setting is topographically less variable than many adjacent to it near the Salt Lake Valley. It is not a spectacular scenic setting. There are no known archeological or historic sites in the segment.

Other Resource Activities – Since the area is in a Research Natural Area, economic development or use is not allowed. There is not any commercial fishing or hunting operations in the canyon. Land in the canyon was acquired by the Federal Government between 1888 and 1909 and was used as a water source by the U.S. Army at Fort Douglas until 1991. The Army closed the basin to logging and grazing in the early 1900's to protect water quality. The basin has remained closed to the public and has been used primarily as a research site for biologists at the University of Utah.

Special Designations – Red Butte Research Natural Area is part of a national network of ecological areas designated in perpetuity for research and/or education to maintain biological diversity on National Forest System lands. Red Butte RNA will continue to be managed for non-manipulative research, observation, and study, and will continue to provide important research opportunities and baseline information about the ecological composition, structure, and function of plant communities (such as gambel oak, aspen, riparian, and Douglas-fir) that naturally dominate the area. Red Butte RNA will also assist in implementing the Endangered Species Act and the monitoring provisions of the National Forest Management Act. This RNA will continue to provide unique research opportunities in an urban/wildland interface setting. Trails surrounding the Research Natural Area will be realigned to protect against unauthorized public access. As a result of educational efforts, people will understand the value of research natural areas and compliance with the area closure will improve.

The area within the stream corridor is recognized by the State of Utah as a Drinking Water Source Protection Zone for three groundwater sources (wells located off the Forest). This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1A, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land outside the 3.1a buffer and within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 2.4: Research Natural Areas: Manage existing and proposed Research Natural Areas to protect their unique and/or representative qualities. Limit human induced effects as much as possible for the purpose of using the ecotype as a benchmark from which to measure human-induced effects elsewhere. Each designated Research Natural Area may have a management plan developed to provide additional direction specific to that area.

(S2.4) Timber harvest, grazing, road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are not allowed.

(G2.4-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed to meet specific research objectives and/or to perpetuate the unique or representative ecosystem.

Management Prescription 2.7 Special Interest Areas and Special Areas: Manage to protect particular values or unique qualities of special interest. Objectives for **Special Interest Areas** is “to protect and, where appropriate, foster public use and enjoyment of areas with scenic, historical, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, or other special characteristics. To classify areas that possess unusual recreation and scientific values so that these special values are available for public study, use, or enjoyment” (FSM 2360.2). Objectives for **Special Areas** are: “To protect and manage for public use and enjoyment, special recreation areas with scenic, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, archaeological, or other special characteristics or unique values.” (FSM2372.02) Special Interest and Special Areas may have management plans developed to address specific needs and opportunities for the individual area.

(S2.7) Timber harvest, road construction, and new recreation development are not allowed.

(G2.7-1) Vegetation/fuels treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed in circumstances where these activities help perpetuate the unique ecosystem, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G2.7-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.7-3) New trail construction is allowed if associated with resource interpretation and public study, use, or enjoyment.

(G2.7-4) Allow manipulative restoration where needed for scientific study and increased public understanding of the unique values of the area.

Socio-Economic Environment – Currently, eighty-five percent of Utah's population lives within 15 miles of the Wasatch Range. This concentration is commonly known as the Wasatch Front urban area and has a population of just over 2,000,000 residents. Salt Lake County is home to 15 unincorporated cities and has a population of 898,387. Salt Lake City is home to the University of Utah and Westminster College, and is the center for Utah's economy.

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest borders the metropolitan area and is recognized as an urban forest and ranks within the top five mostly visited National Forests in the nation. The proximity to outdoor recreation opportunities and variety of available activities is unparalleled. There are 13 world class ski resorts in Utah with the majority within an hour and a half drive from Salt Lake City. The Wasatch Mountains offer hundreds of miles of mountain biking and hiking trails that offer back country access to alpine canyons in very close proximity to a large metropolitan area. The Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons offer world class skiing, rock climbing and fishing opportunities in the area's alpine lakes and streams. These two canyons are home to ski resorts that offer year around recreation opportunities, where many valley residents visit the canyons in the summer to retreat from valley heat.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The Red Butte Creek segment is located on National Forest System lands and is administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as directed by the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

This segment is located entirely within a Research Natural Area where public access is prohibited and few people visit. The University of Utah uses portions of the area for research. There would likely be quite limited support by the County or City for shared preservation work or administration. However, there is no private land in the basin and almost no public use, so the need for shared administration is probably not a big concern.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with

protection of river values.

This segment is entirely on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Currently, there is no road access to this area and the threat of development seems low, due to RNA status and management of National Forest land. The only non-federal land in the Red Butte drainage above the reservoir appears to be in the upper (eastern) basin and is not within the ¼ mile stream corridor. Currently, there is no road access to this area and the threat of development seems low. If development were proposed there, it would be subject to Salt Lake County planning and zoning requirements for Forestry Recreation 20.

(3) Support or opposition to designation

One public comment on the eligibility process during Forest Plan revision supported Red Butte Creek's eligibility and suggested that the reservoir be stabilized and made an integral part of the ecosystem.

During scoping the Central Utah Project and Water Conservancy District did not support any designation that would interfere with their property around Red Butte Reservoir. Again during the comment period for the Draft EIS the Central Utah Water Conservation District emphasized designation of Red Butte Creek upstream and outside of their property could be considered.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

The reservoir and adjoining land immediately below and surrounding the reservoir is now owned by the Central Utah Water Conservancy District. They manage the reservoir as a rearing area for rare fish species and as a mitigation measure for water diversions in other parts of central Utah. Designation would add protection to the watershed and fishery and benefit the cooperative work between the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (US FWS), and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) to protect the Bonneville cutthroat trout (BCT) population; would aid in work emphasizing on BCT reproduction, streamside incubators; and help maintain natural area bio-diversity.

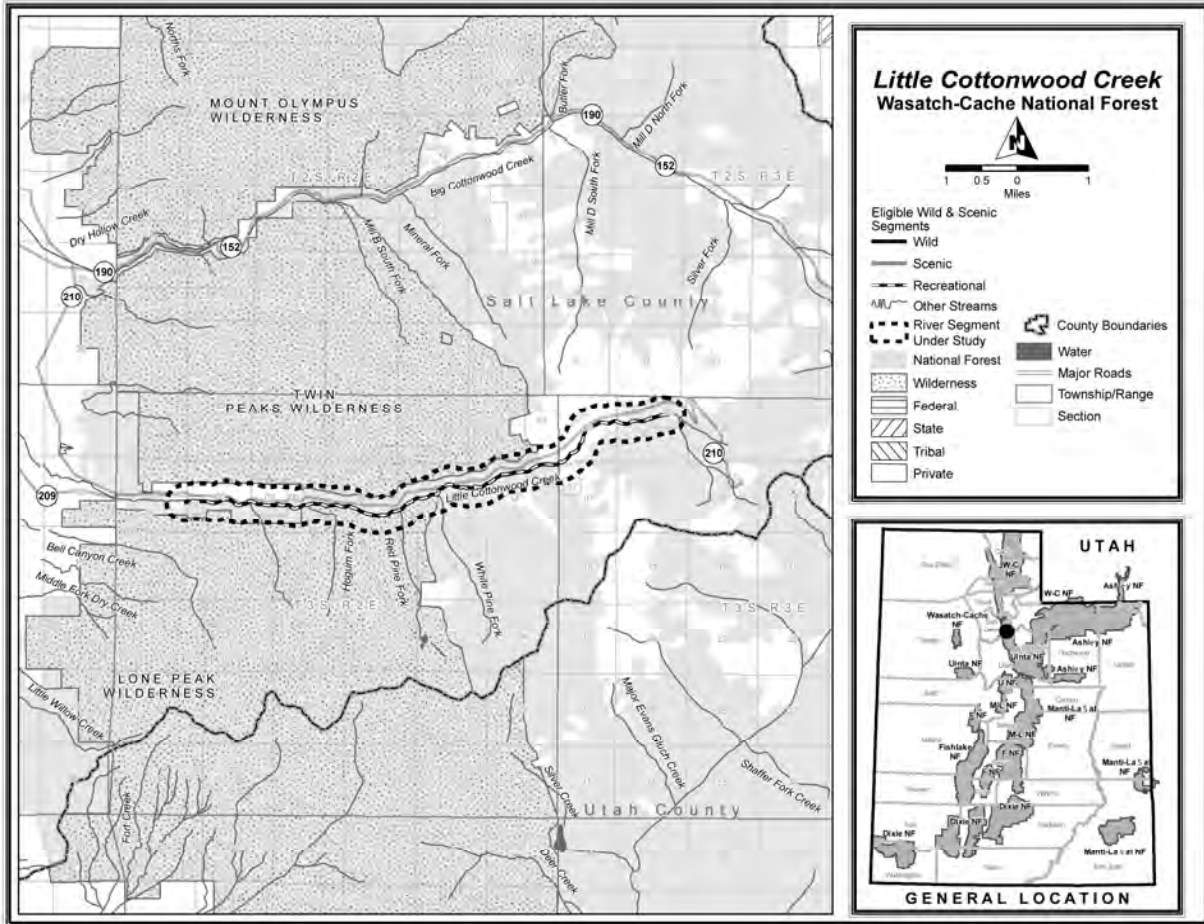
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment has a minor contribution to the basin integrity. As the stream flows into the urbanized Salt Lake Valley it is diverted for irrigation. Designation of Red Butte Creek would add another layer of protective status to the stream that is already afforded by the RNA designation and as a DWSPZ for groundwater sources.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There is good potential for public partnerships and volunteer efforts should Red Butte Creek becomes part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. Demonstrated partnerships have been made for this stream currently. This stream is part of the Embrace-A-Stream Program (EAS) administered by Trout Unlimited.

Little Cottonwood Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Little Cottonwood Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 9.9 miles, from source to Murray Diversion

Eligible: 7.6 miles, from confluence with Grizzly Gulch to Murray Diversion

Location:

Little Cottonwood Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Salt Lake Ranger District, Salt Lake County, Utah		Congressional District 2	
	Segment 1	Start SW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 5, T 3 S, R 3 E, SLM	End NW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 7, T 3 S, R 2 E, SLM	Classification Recreational

* The project maps shown in the 1999 Draft Inventory and at the public meetings during the scoping period are incorrect. The maps show Little Cottonwood Creek extending up one of the four unnamed headwaters streams, this is incorrect. The correct starting location for Little Cottonwood Creek begins at the confluence with Grizzly Gulch. The maps also incorrectly show the location of the end point at the Murray Diversion. The Murray Diversion is upstream from where the maps indicate (~435840.21 E, 4491201.44 N, UTM 12 NAD 27). The length of the stream will change by approximately 2.3 miles.

Physical Description of River:

This river segment flows between elevations ranging from 8,800 to 5,400 feet. The stream has cut into glacial-fluvial outwash, moraines, and avalanche debris. It has a steep, high energy riffle-run pattern, except for the reach from Tanner Flat to Snowbird which is primarily a pool-riffle-run system. There is some braiding at low flows. Unlike the reaches above and below, it is moderate gradient and energy. Little Cottonwood Creek is a perennial mountain stream that is dominated by snow melt. Mountain goats are visible in some areas and people stop to view them.

Uplands are characterized by aspen with conifers dominating north facing slopes. At lower elevations, oak-maple communities dominate the south facing slopes. The riparian ecosystems are characterized by cottonwood, birch, box elder, and dogwood at lower elevations, giving way to aspen, alder, willows and dogwood at higher portions of this segment. Tall forb communities occur on open slopes at the upper portion of this segment providing spectacular wildflower displays in July and August. Some of the rocky slopes probably support Wasatch jamesia and Garretts bladderpod, both Intermountain Region sensitive species. This vegetation in this segment is more or less natural in appearance, although diversity is not necessarily unique in character. There are no threatened or endangered wildlife species present. There are no threatened or endangered fish species present. Fish species present include stocked and naturally reproducing rainbow trout and brook trout. The stream is ranked by the State of Utah as Class III, an important fishery.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flow: The segment is free from major channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is generally unimpaired except for the lower mile. This segment is free-flowing to the upper diversion structure.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Geology/Hydrology – The geologic landscape in this segment is that of a heavily glaciated valley, with steep grey granite walls. The cirques in the upper basin offer an excellent example of past glaciations. As background views from the corridor, the features reveal an interesting story of earth's history. The geologic value is outstandingly remarkable.

Scenery – Topographic relief is great, and vegetation diversity is very good. Scenes in the upper portion of the segment are very high quality. This kind of valley scene is unique locally and is considered one of the more spectacular viewsheds in the area. Several viewpoints within the corridor offer a spectacular diversity of view. Scenic views from the stream to the rugged cliff faces are very striking. The scenic value is outstandingly remarkable.

Ecology – The upper watershed within the corridor has significant tall forb communities of those remaining along the Wasatch Front. The ecological value is outstandingly remarkable.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Recreational

Little Cottonwood Creek is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System above the Murray City diversion. It is classified as a recreational river because:

- Some existing impoundments or diversions are present. The existence of low dams, diversions or

other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains free-flowing and generally natural and riverine in appearance.

- While some of the upper portions of Little Cottonwood Creek have development immediately adjacent to the channel, a majority of the stream is relatively undisturbed.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This eligible segment of Little Cottonwood Creek extends from its confluence with Grizzly Gulch, through many tracts of private land downstream to the Forest boundary, near the Murray City diversion and the Wasatch Resort community. The stream flows through a mix of private lands and National Forest system lands for the first 2 ½ miles from the Town of Alta and Alta Ski Lifts downstream to the Snowbird Resort. National Forest lands account for the middle portion of the segment and then at the end of the segment there is a mix of ownership, where small private tracts are surrounded by National Forest system land.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres	
0-0.6	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	286 acres	1930 acres
0.6-0.9	Private Land		
0.9-0.93	Wasatch-Cache National Forest		
0.93-1.76	Private Land	241 acres	
1.76-7.26	Wasatch-Cache National Forest		
7.26-7.264	Private Land		
7.264-7.6	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	Total 2237 acres	

Private property within the Albion Basin owned by homeowners and Alta Ski Lifts, Snowbird and Wasatch Resort is zoned for Forestry Recreation (FR). The purpose of the Forestry Recreation zone is to permit limited residential development as well as utilization and preservation of the natural environment and resources of the canyon areas.

Other sections of private land within the Town of Alta is zoned forestry multifamily (FM). This zone is to permit development of certain areas in the foothill and canyon areas of the county for high-density residential, limited commercial, and other specified uses to the extent that such development is compatible with the protection of the natural and scenic resources of these areas for the continued benefit of future generations.

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment.

Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

Water Resources Development – In the part of Little Cottonwood Creek, from Snowbird to the lower diversion at the Murray City hydroelectric plant near Wasatch Resort, the stream is not significantly impeded or modified. Water from Cecret Lake is regulated by Salt Lake City and there are diversions for snowmaking at Alta and Snowbird Ski Areas. Water that makes up most of the base flow below Snowbird is regulated by the Wasatch Tunnel by Salt Lake County Water Conservation District #3. The average flow discharged into Little Cottonwood Creek is 300-500 gpm; during peak runoff there may be short periods of discharge up to 2,000 gpm.

Salt Lake County Service Area #3 is responsible for providing drinking water and wastewater services to Snowbird Ski Resort and also manages the Town of Alta's water system through an interlocal agreement. Water from the Wasatch Drain Tunnel is used in Snowbird's Co-generation Plant through a non-consumptive use water right, where water from the drain tunnel is diverted through the Co-generation Plant and then returned to Little Cottonwood Creek.

The diversion directly upstream from the Murray City diversion, which was most recently owned by Whitmore Oxygen, is not a significant diversion. Below the Murray City plant and diversion to the Forest boundary and beyond, Little Cottonwood Creek is dewatered for about a mile through most of the year. Off-stream reservoir operations alter stream flows several times throughout the summer. Water from Little Cottonwood Creek provides high-quality drinking water to the large urban population in the Salt Lake Valley.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Parallel access provided by State Highway 210 along the eligible segment, a two lane asphalt road is recognized as a state scenic byway. This road provides year around access to the Wasatch Resort subdivision, the Town of Alta, Alta Ski Lifts and adjoining lodges, the Snowbird Resort, and Forest Service trails and campgrounds from the Salt Lake Valley. This road receives very heavy use particularly during the winter from skiers traveling to resorts and trailheads, Alta and Snowbird guests, employees and service industry traffic, and Alta residents. There are large paved parking lots at Snowbird and Alta destination ski areas that are adjacent to the creek. Two Forest Service campgrounds are located in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The Albion Basin campground is located above Segment 1 along a headwater tributary. Tanner Flat Campground is located down the canyon and has developed campsites adjacent to the stream with hardened road surfaces.

In the reach from Snowbird through Alta channel modifications are present. There are no full-scale impoundments in this reach. However, the stream is diverted underground through long culverts at two or more points on the stream. While the upper reach is encroached upon by parking lots, snow storage sites, and other developments, flows are not directly impeded and the natural functions of the channel have been modified only slightly. There are two road/stream crossings where the Alta bypass road crosses the creek. There are many foot bridges spanning the stream within the Snowbird resort, along the Little Cottonwood Creek Trail, at the White Pine Trailhead.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – Historically, locatable minerals have been mined and removed from the Forest in years past. Most of the locatable metaliferous minerals were mined from Little Cottonwood Canyon on the Salt Lake Ranger District. The discovery of silver ore in 1860 led to the settlement of the Town of Alta. Mining activity continued through the late 1800's and early 1900's with the last operation of appreciable size closing in 1967. Most of the activity occurred in mining districts in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

The availability of lands open to operations under the 1872 Mining Law can be affected by several factors including withdrawals, special legislation, and outstanding or reserved mineral rights (National Forest

Surface, state or private minerals rights). Special designations allow mining entry but restrict certain types of mining activity. These include the Salt Lake City municipal watershed

Grazing Activities – There are no permitted grazing allotments in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Recreation Activities – The ski resorts in Little Cottonwood Canyon will continue to serve as hubs of year-round outdoor recreation use of both private and public lands within permit areas. Jogging, hiking, and bike-riding are popular, as are sightseeing along the Little Cottonwood Creek Trail located at the mouth of the canyon. Rock climbing is also very popular, particularly at the Gate Buttriss. In the lower reaches of the stream access to the stream is relatively easy from the paved road. Access to the stream is limited in much of its middle reaches because of the road location high above the stream, and steep, forested terrain between stream and road. Much recreation in this segment is hiking to the Lone Peak Wilderness or other upland settings from a trailhead in the canyon bottom. River related recreation is minimal, and water play/swimming in the stream is prohibited by local ordinance. Some fishing is done in the stream, but this is a minor focus of recreation.

Other Resource Activities – People have developed the upper and lower parts of Little Cottonwood Canyon on private land. The Salt Lake Temple granite quarry is present in the lower part of this segment, and it is a developed and interpreted site with a parking lot and picnic opportunities. An old power plant ruin is also present in the segment, just west of Tanner Flats Campground.

Special Designations – Little Cottonwood Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCAs). RHCAs include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 8.7 miles of this stream corridor that flows along State Highway 210 is within the Little Cottonwood Canyon State Scenic Byway.

Salt Lake City owns all or the largest percentage of water rights in Little Cottonwood Canyon, and has congressionally delegated authority to protect the water supply. Congress also directed the Forest Service to administer designated watersheds in cooperation with Salt Lake City for the purpose of storing, conserving and protecting water from pollution. The entire stream corridor for Little Cottonwood Creek is recognized as a surface and groundwater drinking water source protection zone by the State of Utah. Little Cottonwood Canyon is a protected watershed area and is also regulated by the Salt Lake City - County Health Regulation #14 (watersheds) authorized by Utah Code Annotated 26-24-20. Water regulations are enforced by the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office, the Salt Lake City Water Department, the Salt Lake City - County Health Department, the USDA Forest Service, and the Alta Marshal's Office.

It is unlawful for any person:

- To permit a dog (s) to be taken into the watershed area. This does not apply to seeing eye/hearing dogs or law enforcement dogs.
- To pollute or allow pollution of any water in the watershed area.
- To operate any type of motor vehicle upon the property within the watershed except on a highway or road open for public use, approved roads in residential/cabin areas, official picnic/camp area

roads, and ski area parking lots. Emergency and official government vehicles are exempt when on official business.

- To deposit any human excreta within the watershed area other than into approved toilets. Cesspools are also prohibited.
- To permit a horse or any other domestic animal into the area without a permit.
- To camp overnight except in officially designated campgrounds. This does not apply to backpacking.
- To backpack camp unless the campsite is located over 200 feet from the nearest water source
- To bathe, swim or wash clothes, diapers, eating utensils, or any other object in any spring, marsh, stream, or other water source.
- To throw or break glass.

These regulations apply in the entire canyon area from ridge top to ridge top, not just in the immediate area of surface water.

Approximately 1.1 miles of this stream flows within the Lone Peak Wilderness and management of the stream corridor will be directed by Wilderness regulations. The majority of the Little Cottonwood Creek stream corridor is within the Twin Peak and Lone Peak Wilderness Areas. The following acts are prohibited in the Twin Peak and Lone Peak Wilderness Areas: Group sizes exceeding 10 persons, camping within 200 feet of lakes, trails, or other sources of water, camping for more than 3 days at one site, short cutting a trail switchback, and disposing of garbage, debris, or other waste. No open fires are allowed in the Red Pine Fork and Maybird Gulch drainages within the Lone Peak Wilderness. No open fires are allowed in the Mill B South Fork (Lake Blanche) drainage within the Twin Peaks Wilderness.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor outside the 3.1w buffer below Snowbird to the private land near the bottom of the segment:

Management Prescription 1.1 Opportunity Class I: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1w Watershed Emphasis: consists of uplands identified as important watersheds.

(S3.1W) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation facility development are not allowed.

(G3.1W-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed for the

purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring watersheds to desired conditions, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1W-2) Livestock grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.1W-3) New trail construction is allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land outside the 3.1w stream buffer to the extent of the ¼ mile stream corridor:

Management Prescription 2.6 Undeveloped Areas: Manage to protect undeveloped landscapes in a manner other than formal recommended wilderness. Although other uses and activities may occur, the primary emphasis is protection to assure the values and unique qualities associated with undeveloped areas are recognized and preserved. No new developments or activity that would alter the landscape or character are allowed, however use of motorized equipment (such as chainsaws for trail clearing) is allowed.

Approximately 6 miles flows through an inventoried roadless areas. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor administered as Alta Ski Lifts and Snowbird Resort:

Management Prescription 4.5 Developed Recreation Areas: These areas include developed facilities such as campgrounds, trailheads, boat docks, and resorts under special use permit as well as adjacent areas associated with these sites. High levels of visitor interaction can be expected where sights and sounds of others are noticeable and there are moderate to high opportunities for social interaction. Access to these areas is primarily by motorized roads with some trails. Visitors can expect higher levels of regulation. Signs and visitor information are noticeable throughout the area. Site development tends toward the Roaded Natural to Rural end of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). Facilities vary from rustic using native materials to facilities designed primarily for visitor comfort or convenience and built using synthetic materials. Visitor impacts can be noticeable. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is high with managers focusing on public safety, service, education, user ethics, and enforcement. ADA level development is encouraged. Because of the large capitol investments in these areas, site protection is paramount.

(S4.5) Livestock grazing and wildland fire use are not allowed.

(G4.5-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, new recreation development, and new trail construction are allowed for the purposes of providing public enjoyment, safety, and protection of site investments.

Socio-Economic Environment – Currently, eighty-five percent of Utah's population lives within 15 miles of the Wasatch Range. This concentration is commonly known as the Wasatch Front urban area and has a population of just over 2,000,000 residents. Salt Lake County is home to 15 unincorporated cities and has a population of 898,387. Salt Lake City is home to the University of Utah and Westminster College, and is the center of Utah's economy.

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest borders the metropolitan area and is recognized as an urban forest and ranks within the top five mostly visited National Forests in the nation. The proximity to outdoor recreation opportunities and variety of available activities is unparalleled. There are 13 world class ski resorts in Utah with the majority within an hour and a half drive from Salt Lake City. The Wasatch Mountains offer hundreds of miles of mountain biking and hiking trails that offer back country access to alpine canyons in very close proximity to a large metropolitan area. The Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons offer world class skiing, rock climbing and fishing opportunities in the area's alpine lakes and streams. These two canyons are home to ski resorts that offer year around recreation opportunities, where many valley residents visit the canyons in the summer to retreat from valley heat.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – This segment of stream flows through the private land within the Town of Alta, ski resorts that have a mix of private and Forest system land, Wasatch-Cache National Forest land, and private land in the lower part of the canyon that is administered by Salt Lake County.

National Forest System land along the entire segment is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Forest Plan, 2003. Private lands within this segment are subject to regulations designated by the Town of Alta and by Salt Lake County.

The Town of Alta General Plan recognizes the unique alpine and headwater qualities of their community and has incorporated zoning and strict regulations pertaining development and impacts to wetlands, water quality, steep slopes, avalanche hazards, vegetation, and scenery.

The ski areas along Little Cottonwood Creek are administered through Special Uses Permits from the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Management for these ski areas is directed through the Ski Area Master Development Plans for Alta Ski Lifts and Snowbird Resort.

The private land near the end of the segment is in unincorporated Salt Lake County and development is directed by the Countywide Land Use Plan and zoning ordinances and the Wasatch Canyons Plan.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

(1) The extent to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including costs, should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

While Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities is an active partner in watershed protection with the Forest Service they are not supportive of Little Cottonwood Creek being found suitable.

(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any local zoning and/or land use controls that appear to conflict with protection of river values.

The private land could be developed in the future. This development would be directed by the County Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances for the Forest Recreation (FR 40) zone, which allows for one seasonal cabin per forty acres. Regulations for sensitive areas, steep slopes, jurisdictional wetlands, natural waterways and areas lying within the floodplain, and areas of wildlife habitat are declared under Title 17.18.020. Title 17.18.060 specifies setbacks for development from natural waterways of 50 ft. for

dwelling, 100 ft. for septic systems, and up to 100 ft. for dwellings if within the FEMA mapped floodplain.

Salt Lake City has adjudicated the water rights to most of the water flowing from Little Cottonwood Canyon and generally refuses to sell water to potential users who would develop their property. Because a property owner cannot obtain a building permit from the County without water right or sales contract, the City feels it is able to protect its water from contamination. This indirectly probably helps to protect WSR values.

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) believes designation would impair its ability to maintain State Road 210 in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Comments for Little Cottonwood Creek to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System were mixed for this stream segment.

Letters received during the EIS scoping showed continued support from some individuals. The Town of Alta requested further evaluation. Alta Ski Lifts, UDOT, and Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities did not support designation. Designation of Little Cottonwood Canyon may complicate the Alta Fen Project that is designed to improve water quality in the headwaters of the stream, which would also complicate the operation of the Wasatch Drain Tunnel by Salt Lake County Service District #3.

No comments were received specifically supporting Little Cottonwood Creek during the public comment period for the Draft EIS. The State of Utah expressed concerns that designation would impact the state's ability to maintain or expand the highway.

(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

Designation of this segment of Little Cottonwood Creek would offer additional protection to the local and State of Utah protections for drinking water sources, the State Scenic Byway, the roadless and Wilderness designation within the corridor, and watershed protection measures identified in the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003. Management of this watershed is in cooperation between Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, the Town of Alta, Alta Ski Lifts and Snowbird Resort, and the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Salt Lake County Service Area #3 expressed concerns that designation would limit the Alta Fen project and that water from the Wasatch Drain Tunnel would have to be treated at higher costs to the County.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Because of the other watershed protection measures and wilderness designations in place, designation would not make a significant contribution to river system or basin integrity.

(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.

There is good potential for partnerships and volunteer efforts if this segment is designated. The Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, a nonprofit organization with a mission to continuously improve the environment of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons through stewardship and education programs, has a demonstrated commitment to stewardships programs.

APPENDIX B

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) AND NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) LIST OF RIVERS

APPENDIX B – BLM AND NPS LIST OF RIVERS

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a cooperating agency with the Forest Service. A Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies was signed in 2007. This appendix contains information for the following BLM river segments: Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Kanab, Moab, Monticello, Price, Richfield, St. George, and Vernal Field Offices. In March 1999, the St. George Field Office completed their Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (USDI BLM 1999). In February 2000, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument completed their Approved Management Plan Record of Decision (USDI BLM 2000). In September 2008, the Monticello Field Office completed its Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, but has not signed a final decision. It is possible that when the BLM approves the final decision for the Monticello Field Office that the Preferred Alternative and determination of suitability may differ from what is presented in this appendix. However, this is the best available data. In October 2008, the Kanab Field Office, Moab, Price, Richfield, and Vernal Field Offices of the BLM completed their Record of Decisions and Approved Resource Management Plans (USDI BLM 2008).

Two National Park Service units in Utah have completed Wild and Scenic River suitability determinations during their General Management Plan process. They are Natural Bridges National Monument and Zion National Park.

Kanab Field Office (BLM)

The information for Table 1 was obtained from the Kanab Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (July 2008), Chapter 2, Wild and Scenic Rivers, pages 2-51 to 2-2-55. The information was confirmed in the Kanab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (USDI BLM 2008). Table 1 contains a list of river segments that have been found suitable and not suitable for designation.

Table 1. List of river segment, miles, and suitability determination and tentative classifications for the Proposed RMP.

Kanab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan River Segment	Miles	Proposed RMP Tentative Classification
North Fork Virgin River • Segment 48-49 Section 31 - 33 (northeast of Zion NP)	2.2	Suitable - Wild
East Fork Virgin River • Segment 37-40a • Segment 40a-41 • Segment 36-37	5.4 5.2 2.9	Suitable - Scenic Suitable - Wild Not Suitable
Orderville Gulch (Esplin Gulch) • Segment 44-45 Zion NP Boundary to the Falls. Esplin Gulch Segment 45 to 45A.	3.2	Suitable - Wild
Meadow Creek / Mineral Gulch • Segments 33-35 and 35-38 - South of Highway 9 to the confluence of Mineral Gulch, then to the confluence with East Fork Virgin River.	9.2	Suitable - Wild
Deep Creek • Segment 50-51 from the Washington County line to the BLM boundary in Section 30.	0.7	Not Suitable
Cottonwood Creek • Segment 28-29 beginning in Section 10 at the BLM boundary ending at confluence with Indian Canyon.	1.1	Not suitable
Indian Canyon • Segment 26-27 from the head of the canyon to confluence with Cottonwood Creek.	0.7	Not suitable
South Fork Indian Canyon • Segment 22-23 from the head of South Fork Indian Canyon to BLM boundary in northeast corner of Section 20.	1.8	Not suitable

Kanab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan River Segment	Miles	Proposed RMP Tentative Classification
North Branch of South Fork Indian Canyon • Segment 24-25 from the point where the canyon deepens to BLM boundary in southeast corner of Section 17.	0.4	Not suitable
Water Canyon • Segment 20-21 from the point where the canyon deepens to the BLM boundary in Section 21.	3.2	Not suitable
Hell Dive Canyon • Segment 30-31 from the point where the canyon deepens to the confluence with Cottonwood Creek.	1.4	Not suitable
Paria River • Segment 68-69 beginning at Wilderness/GSENM boundary to Arizona border. Entire segment is within Paria Canyon Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness.	4.8	Suitable - Wild
Three Mile Creek • Segment 56-57 Beginning at Forest boundary in Section 11 to BLM boundary in Section 7.	3.7	Not suitable

Moab Field Office (BLM)

The information for Table 2 was obtained from the Moab Field Office, Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (August 2008), pages 2-39 to 2-44. The information was confirmed in the Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (USDI BLM 2008). Table 2 contains a list of river segments that have been found suitable and not suitable for designation.

Table 2. List of river segment, miles, and suitability determination and tentative classifications for the Proposed RMP.

Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan River Segment	Miles	Proposed RMP Tentative Classification
Beaver Creek • Segment 1 – Forest Service boundary to one mile from Dolores River • Segment 2 – One mile to Dolores River	7.7	Segment 1 – Not suitable Segment 2 – Not suitable
Colorado River • Segment 1 – Colorado-Utah state line to Westwater Canyon • Segment 2 – Westwater Canyon (Mile 125) to River Mile 112 • Segment 3 – River Mile 112 to confluence with the Dolores River • Segment 3(a) – River Mile 112 to Cisco Wash • Segment 3(b) – Cisco Wash to confluence with the Dolores River • Segment 4 – Confluence of the Colorado River with the Dolores River to River Mile 49 near Potash • Segment 5 – River Mile 44.5 to Mile 38.5 • Segment 6 – River Mile 37.5 to Mile 34 at the Canyonlands National Park boundary	66.5	Segment 1 – Not suitable Segment 2 – Suitable– Wild Segment 3(a) – Suitable– Scenic Segment 3(b) – Suitable– Recreational Segment 4 – Suitable– Recreational Segment 5 – Suitable– Scenic Segment 6 – Suitable– Scenic
Cottonwood Canyon • Source near Cottonwood Point to private land (includes the first ½ mile of Horse Canyon)	10.4	Not suitable
Dolores River • Segment 1 – Colorado State line to Fisher Creek • Segment 2 – Fisher Creek to Bridge Canyon • Segment 3 – Bridge Canyon to Colorado River	22.0	Segment 1 – Suitable– Recreational Segment 2 – Suitable– Scenic Segment 3 – Suitable– Recreational
Green River • Segment 1 – Coal Creek to Nefertiti Boat Ramp • Segment 2 – Nefertiti Boat Ramp to Swasey's Boat Ramp	99.0	Segment 1 – Suitable–Wild Segment 2 – Suitable–

Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan River Segment	Miles	Proposed RMP Tentative Classification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segment 3 – Swasey's Boat Ramp to I-70 Bridge • Segment 3(a) – Swasey's Boat Ramp to River Mile 97 (confluence with the San Rafael River; combination of Segment 3 and part of Segment 4) • Segment 4 – I-70 Bridge to River Mile 91 below Ruby Ranch • Segment 4(a) – Mile 97 at the confluence with the San Rafael River to Canyonlands National Park boundary • Segment 5 – Mile 91 below Ruby Ranch to Hey Joe Canyon • Segment 6 – Hey Joe Canyon to Canyonlands National Park Boundary 		Recreational Segment 3 – Not suitable Segment 3(a) – Not suitable Segment 4 – Not suitable Segment 4(a) – Suitable–Scenic Segment 5 – Not suitable Segment 6 – Not suitable
Mill Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segment 1 – National Forest boundary to private property below diversion • Segment 2 – T26S, R23E, Section 19 to Power Dam 	6.0	Segment 1 – Not suitable Segment 2 – Not suitable
Negro Bill Canyon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segment 1 – From state land below rim to ¼ mile from Colorado River • Segment 2 – Last ¼ mile to Colorado River 	7.4	Segment 1 – Not suitable Segment 2 – Not suitable
North Fork Mill Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Forest boundary near Wilson Mesa to Mill Creek 	11.2	Not suitable
Onion Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segment 1 – Source to Onion Creek Road • Segment 2 – Beginning of Onion Creek Road to Colorado River 	12.5	Segment 1 – Not suitable Segment 2 – Not suitable
Professor Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Forest and state land boundary to diversion near private land 	7.4	Not suitable
Rattlesnake Canyon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source to Green River (including Flat Nose George Tributary) 	31.6	Not suitable
Salt Wash <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arches National Park boundary to Colorado River 	0.3	Salt Wash to be deferred until NPS does suitability on portion within Arches National Park. It would remain eligible...By default, the lower 0.25 miles of this 0.3 mile segment is within Segment 4 of the Colorado River. Consequently, it would be managed as suitable with a recreation classification.
Thompson Canyon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source of Thompson to Fisher Creek (Cottonwood Canyon; tributary of Dolores River) 	5.5	Not suitable

Monticello Field Office (BLM)

The information for Table 3 was obtained from the Monticello Field Office, Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (August 2008), Table 2.1 – Summary Table of the Proposed Plan and All Alternatives, pages 2-64 to 2-71. Table 3 contains a list of river segments that have been found suitable and not suitable for designation.

Table 3. List of river segment, miles, and suitability determination and tentative classifications for the Proposed RMP.

Monticello Field Office Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement River Segment	Miles	Proposed RMP Tentative Classification
Colorado River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Segment 1: Northern most MFO boundary on east side of Colorado River (1 mile north of Potash land) south to private land. • Segment 2: State lands near River Mile 44 to approximately River Mile 38.5. • Segment 3: From approximately River Mile 37.5 at State land to boundary of Canyonlands NP near River Mile 31. 	2.2 5.5 6.5	Not Suitable Suitable–Scenic Suitable–Scenic
Indian Creek	4.8	Not Suitable

Monticello Field Office Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement River Segment	Miles	Proposed RMP Tentative Classification
• Forest boundary to Donnelly Canyon		
Fable Valley • Source to mouth at Gypsum Creek	6.8	Not Suitable
Dark Canyon • Youngs Canyon to GCNRA	6.4	Suitable–Wild
San Juan River • #1: North side – MFO, portions are within San Juan River SRMA; South side Navajo Nation. • #2: North side – MFO, portions are within San Juan River SRMA; South side – Navajo Nation • #3: North side – MFO, San Juan River SRMA; South side – Navajo Nation. • #4: North side – MFO; South side – Navajo Nation. • #5: North side – MFO, San Juan River SRMA and Cedar Mesa ACEC; South side – Navajo Nation.	8.5 10 13.3 4.2 17.3	Not Suitable Not Suitable Not Suitable Not Suitable Suitable–Wild
Arch Canyon • Forest boundary to ½ mile west of its confluence with Comb Wash.	6.9	Not Suitable

Price Field Office (BLM)

The information for Table 4 was obtained from the Price Field Office, Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (August 2008), Table 2-20 – Wild and Scenic Rivers, pages 2-124 to 2-141. It is available on the web at:

http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/price/planning/Proposed_RMP_Final_EIS.html. The information was confirmed in the Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (USDI BLM 2008). Table 4 contains a list of river segments that have been found suitable and not suitable for designation.

Table 4. List of river segment, miles, and suitability determination and tentative classifications for the Proposed RMP.

Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan River Segment	Miles	Proposed RMP Tentative Classification
Barrier Creek • Canyonlands National Park boundary to mouth at Green River.	13.7	Not Suitable
Bear Canyon Creek • Headwater to mouth at Rock Creek.	6.7	Not Suitable
Buckskin Canyon Creek • Headwaters to mouth at Rock Creek.	6.1	Not Suitable
Cane Wash • Head of wash to mouth at San Rafael River.	20.7	Not Suitable
Coal Wash • North and South Forks of Coal Wash to confluence with North Salt Wash.	5.3	Not Suitable
Cottonwood Wash • Head of wash to county road at T. 20 S., R. 13 E., Sec. 14.	6.1	Not Suitable
Fish Creek • Scofield Reservoir to confluence with White River.	10.2	Not Suitable
Gordon Creek • Confluence of Bob Wright and Mud Water Canyons to mouth at Price River.	13.1	Not Suitable
Green River • County line near Nine Mile Creek to Chandler Canyon (Desolation Canyon) • Chandler Creek to Florence Creek (Desolation Canyon) • Florence Creek to Nefertiti boat ramp (Desolation and Gray Canyons) • Nefertiti boat ramp to Swaseys boat ramp • Swaseys boat ramp to I-70 bridge • I-70 bridge to mile 91 below Ruby Ranch (to Confluence with San Rafael River in Proposed RMP) • Confluence with San Rafael River to Canyonlands National Park (Proposed RMP only) • Mile 91 below Ruby Ranch to Hey Joe Canyon	169	Suitable - Wild Suitable - Scenic Suitable - Wild Suitable - Recreational Not Suitable Not Suitable Suitable - Scenic See Confluence with San

Price Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan River Segment	Miles	Proposed RMP Tentative Classification
• Hey Joe Canyon to Canyonlands National Park Boundary		Rafael River to Canyonlands NP above. See Confluence with San Rafael River to Canyonlands NP above.
Keg Spring Canyon • Head of canyon to mouth at Green River	8.7	Not Suitable
Muddy Creek • I-70 to Lone Tree Crossing • Lone Tree Crossing to South Salt Wash • South Salt Wash to county road downstream of San Rafael and North Caineville Reefs.	53.6	Not Suitable Not Suitable Not Suitable
Nine Mile Creek • Minnie Maude Creek to Bulls Canyon	43.9	Not Suitable
North Fork Coal Wash • Head of wash to Fix It Pass route • Fix It Pass route to confluence with South Fork Coal Wash	10.5	Not Suitable Not Suitable
North Salt Wash • Confluence with Horn Silver Gulch to mouth at San Rafael River	12.3	Not Suitable
Price River • Confluence of Fish Creek and White River to Poplar Street bridge in Helper • Mounds bridge to Book Cliffs escarpment • Book Cliffs escarpment to mouth at Green River	100.6	Not Suitable Not Suitable Not Suitable
Range Creek • Headwaters to Trail Canyon • Trail Canyon to drill holes at T.17 S., R. 16 E., Sec. 27 • Drill holes at T. 17 S., R. 16 E., Sec. 27 to mouth at Green River	38.8	Not Suitable Not Suitable Not Suitable
Rock Creek • North Fork headwaters to mouth at Green River	15.2	Not Suitable
San Rafael River • Confluence of Ferron and Cottonwood Creeks to Fuller Bottom • Fuller Bottom to Johansen corral • Johansen corral to Lockhart Wash • Lockhart Wash to Tidwell Bottom • Tidwell Bottom to mouth at Green River	105.5	Not Suitable Not Suitable Not Suitable Not Suitable
South Fork Coal Wash • Head of wash to Eva Conover route • Eva Conover route to confluence with North Fork Coal Wash	11	Not Suitable Not Suitable

Richfield Field Office (BLM)

The information for Table 5 was obtained from the Richfield Field Office, Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (August 2008), Table 2-20 – Wild and Scenic River Decisions, pages 2-105 to 2-113. The information was confirmed in the Richfield Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (USDI BLM 2008). Table 5 contains a list of river segments that have been found suitable and not suitable for designation.

Table 5. List of river segment, miles, and suitability determination and tentative classifications for the Proposed RMP.

Richfield Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan River Segment	Miles	Proposed RMP Tentative Classification
Dirty Devil Complex		
• Dirty Devil River	54.0	Not Suitable
• Beaver Wash Canyon	6.8	Not Suitable
• Larry Canyon	4.0	Not Suitable
• No Mans Canyon	7.1	Not Suitable
• Robbers Roost Canyon	31.0	Not Suitable
• Sams Mesa Box Canyon	9.5	Not Suitable
• Twin Corral Box Canyon	9.0	Not Suitable

Richfield Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan River Segment	Miles	Proposed RMP Tentative Classification
Fish Creek • National Forest boundary to private land in T.30 S., R. 5 E., Sec. 5	0.25	Not Suitable
Fremont River • Fremont Gorge • Capitol Reef NP to Caineville Diversion	5.0 4.0	Suitable - Wild Not Suitable
Maidenwater Creek • T. 33 S., R.12 Sec. 33 to Sec. 36	3.0	Not Suitable
Quitcupah Creek • Public lands in T. 22 S., R. 5 E., Sec. 15 and 17	1.4	Not Suitable
Total	135.05	

St. George Field Office (BLM)

The information for Table 6 was obtained from the St. George Field Office Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (USDI BLM 1999), Appendix 6, Table A8-1, and the Final General Management Plan/EIS for Zion National Park (September 2001), Appendix F, Tables F-2 and F-3 (pages 414 to 415). Table 6 contains a list of river segments that have been found suitable for designation.

Table 6. List of river segment, miles, and suitability determination and tentative classifications for the RMP.

St. George Field Office Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan River Segment	Miles	RMP Tentative Classification
Deep Creek • Public land from DRA boundary to the north boundary of Zion National Park	7.37	Suitable - Wild
Crystal Creek • Public land portion to confluence with Deep Creek	4.01	Suitable - Wild
Smith Creek • Public land from source to Smith Creek's confluence with LaVerkin Creek	1.25	Suitable - Wild
LaVerkin Creek • Public land north of Zion National Park to northernmost private land parcel south of Zion National Park	7.38	Suitable - Wild
North Fork Virgin River • BLM-managed portion north of Zion National Park	0.74	Suitable - Wild
Oak Creek • Public land portion to Kolob Creek confluence	0.98	Suitable - Wild
Kolob Creek • Public Land east of Kolob Narrows to north boundary of Zion National Park	2.65	Suitable - Wild
Virgin River, Segment B • Portion of Segment B within the Beaver Dam Mountains Wilderness Area	1.34	Suitable - Wild
Kolob Creek addition*	0.4	Suitable - Wild
Goose Creek*	0.4	Suitable - Wild
Shunes Creek* I	1.0	Suitable - Wild
Willis Creek*	0.3	Suitable - Wild
Beartrap Canyon*	0.1	Suitable - Wild
Middle Fork Taylor Creek*	0.1	Suitable - Wild

*Segment addressed in the Zion National Park General Management Plan (9/2001)

Vernal Field Office (BLM)

The information for Table 7 was obtained from the Vernal Field Office, Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (August 2008), Table 2.1.19 – Proposed RMP and Alternatives – Special Designations: Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs), pages 2-67 to 2-71. The information was confirmed in the Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (USDI BLM 2008). Table 7 contains a list of river segments that have been found suitable and not suitable for designation.

Table 7. List of river segment, miles, and suitability determination and tentative classifications for the Proposed RMP.

Vernal Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan River Segment	Miles	Proposed RMP Tentative Classification
Upper Green River • From Little Hole to the Utah state line.	22	Suitable - Scenic
Lower Green River • Between public land boundary south of Ouray and the Carbon County line.	30	Suitable - Scenic
Argyle Creek • Between headwaters and Carbon County line	22	Not Suitable
Bitter Creek • Between Utah State line and private property	22	Not Suitable
Evacuation Creek • Between Utah State line and the White River	21	Not Suitable
Green River - Middle • From Dinosaur National Monument to the boundary of Ouray National Waterfowl Refuge	36	Not Suitable
Nine Mile Creek • Between Green River and Duchesne County line • Between Carbon County line and confluence with Gate Canyon	13 6	Not Suitable
White River • Segments A, B, and C	44	Not Suitable

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (BLM) _____

The information for Table 8 was obtained from the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Management Plan (February 2000), Table A4.1 – Escalante River System Suitable Segments, pages 104 to 110. Table 8 contains a list of river segments that have been found suitable for designation.

Table 8. List of river segment, miles, and suitability determination and tentative classifications for the Management Plan.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan River Segment	Miles	Management Plan Tentative Classification
Escalante River System Suitable Segments		
Escalante River-1 • Confluence with Pine Creek (T35S, R3E, S9) to Highway 12 (T35S, R4E, S12)	13.8	Suitable - Wild
Escalante River-2 • Highway 12 to east side of private land (T35S, R4E, S13)	1.1	Suitable - Recreational
Escalante River-3 • Private land to boundary (T36S, R6E, S4)	19.2	Suitable - Wild
Harris Wash • T36S, R5E, S35 to Monument boundary (T36S, R5E, S36)	1.1	Suitable - Wild
Lower Boulder Creek • Downstream side of T34S, R4E, S11 to Escalante River (T35S, R5E, S22)	13.5	Suitable - Wild
Slickrock Canyon • Monument boundary (T33S, R5E, S22) to Deer Creek (T33S, R5E, S33)	2.8	Suitable - Wild
Lower Deer Creek-1 • Slickrock Canyon (T33S, R5E, S 33) to Burr Trail Road (T34S, R5E, S16)	3.8	Suitable - Recreational
Lower Deer Creek-2 • Burr Trail Road to Lower Boulder Creek (T35S, R5E, S9)	7.0	Suitable - Wild
The Gulch-1 • Monument boundary (T32S, R6E, S32)to Burr Trail Road (T34S, R5E, S13)	11.0	Suitable - Wild
The Gulch-2 • Along Burr Trail Road to T34S, R5E, S13	0.6	Suitable - Recreational
The Gulch-3 • Below Burr Trail Road to Escalante River (T35S, R5E, S36)	13.0	Suitable - Wild
Steep Creek • Monument boundary (T33S, R5E, S24) to The Gulch (T34S, R5E, S12)	6.4	Suitable - Wild
Lower Sand Creek and tributary Willow Patch Creek	13.2	Suitable - Wild

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan River Segment	Miles	Management Plan Tentative Classification
• Sweetwater Creek (T34S, R4E, S8) to Escalante River (T35S, R4E, S10)		
Mamie Creek and west tributary • Monument Boundary (T34S, R3E, S16) to Escalante River (T35S, R4E, S7)	9.2	Suitable - Wild
Death Hollow Creek • Monument boundary (T34S, R3E, S3) to Mamie Creek (T34S, R3E, S36)	9.9	Suitable - Wild
Calf Creek-1 • Headwaters (T34S, R4E, S10) to Lower Calf Creek Falls (T34S, R4E, S24)	3.5	Suitable - Wild
Calf Creek-2 • Lower Falls to Calf Creek Recreation Site (T35S, R4E, S1)	3	Suitable - Scenic
Calf Creek-3 • Recreation Site to Escalante River (T35S, R4E, S12)	1.5	Suitable - Recreational
Twenty-five Mile Wash • T37S, R6E, S2 to Monument boundary (T37S, R6E, S25), does not include unnamed tributary on north side	6.8	Suitable - Wild
Paria River System Suitable Segments		
Upper Paria River - 1 • Little Dry Valley (T38S, R2W, S21 to T41S, R1W, S7)	21.7	Suitable - Wild
Upper Paria River - 2 • T41S, R1W, S7 to downstream side of private property south of Highway 89 (T42S, R1W, S28)	16.9	Suitable - Recreational
Lower Paria River - 1 • Downstream side of private property (T43S, R1W, S10) to Wilderness boundary (T43S, R1W, S23)	3.3	Suitable - Recreational
Lower Paria River - 2 • Segment in Wilderness (T43S, R1W, S23 to T44S, R1W, S12)	4.8	Suitable - Wild
Deer Creek Canyon • Headwaters (T40S, R3W, S1) to Paria River (T40S, R2W, S4)	5.2	Suitable - Wild
Snake Creek • Entire (T39S, R2W, S26 to T40S, R2W, S10)	4.7	Suitable - Wild
Hogeye Creek • Entire (T40S, R2W, S 1 to T40S, R2W, S26)	6.3	Suitable - Wild
Kitchen Canyon • T40S, R2W, S28 to Starlight Canyon (T40S, R2W, S34)	1.3	Suitable - Wild
Starlight Canyon • Entire (T41S, R2W, S7 to T40S, R2W, S35)	4.9	Suitable - Wild
Lower Sheep Creek • Bull Valley Gorge (T39S, R2W, S7) to Paria River (T39S, R2W, S17)	1.5	Suitable - Wild
Hackberry Creek • Top (T38S, R1W, S29) to Cottonwood Creek	20.1	Suitable - Wild
Lower Cottonwood Creek • Confluence with Hackberry Creek to Paria River	2.9	Suitable - Recreational
Buckskin Gulch/Wire Pass • Wilderness boundary (T43S, R2W, S15) to Paria River (T44S, R1W, S12)	18.0	Suitable - Wild

Natural Bridges National Monument (NPS) _____

Natural Bridges National Monument determined suitability as documented in the Natural Bridges National Monument, Utah Draft Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan, September 1995, Appendix D, page 141, Suitability. Table 9 contains a list of river segments that have been found suitable for designation.

Table 9. List of river segment, miles, and suitability determination and tentative classifications for the Management Plan.

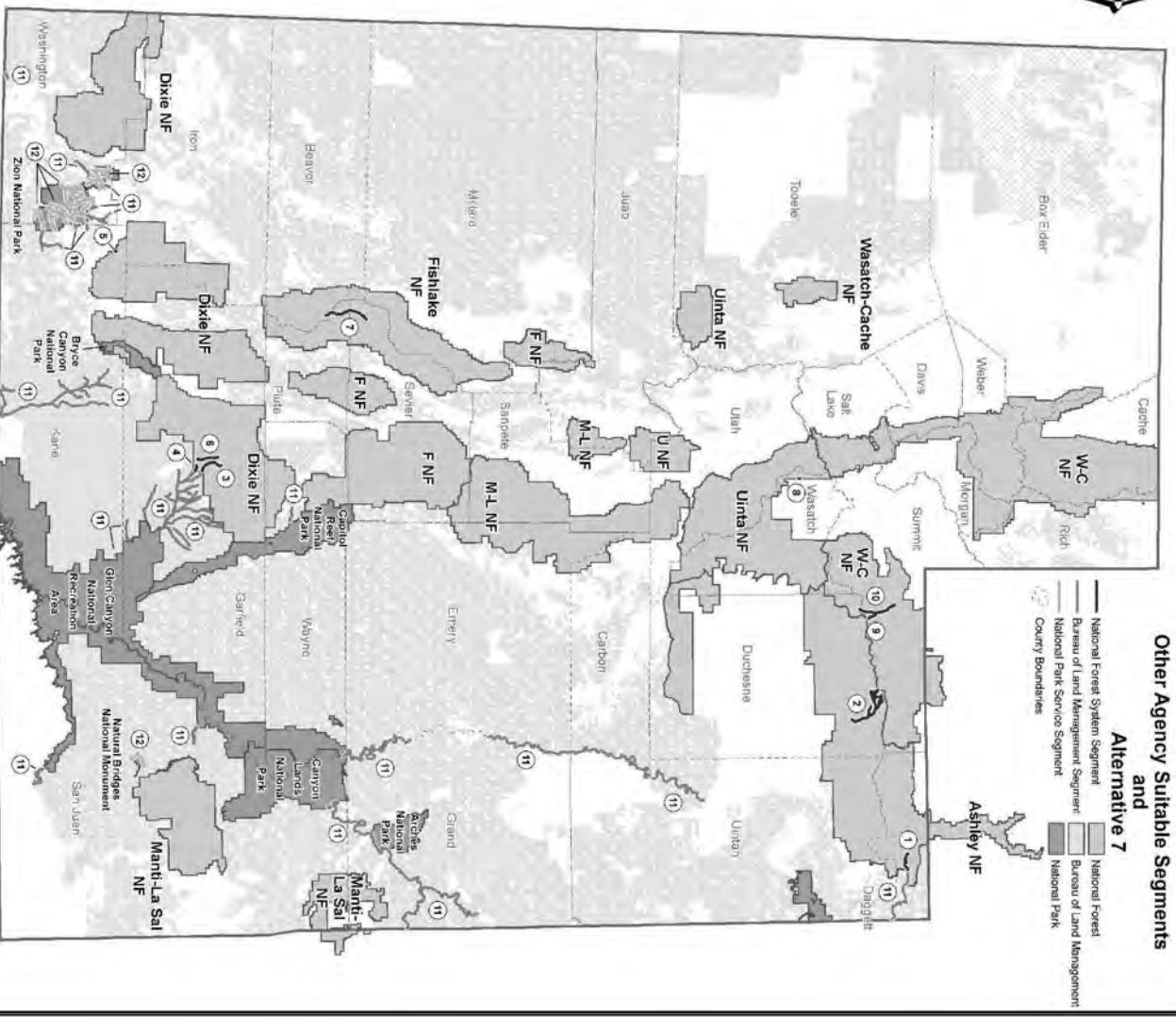
Natural Bridges National Monument Management Plan River Segment	Miles	Management Plan Tentative Classification
White Canyon creek, along with its tributary— Armstrong Canyon Creek	7.0 5.2	Suitable – Classified as Wild during eligibility

Zion National Park (NPS)

Zion National Park determined suitability of rivers segments as documented in the Zion National Park General Management Plan and Record of Decision, June 2001, Appendix E, Table 2, pages 80 to 82. Table 10 contains a list of river segments that have been found suitable for designation.

Table 10. List of river segment, miles, and suitability determination and tentative classifications for the Management Plan.

Zion National Park General Management Plan River Segment	NPS Miles	BLM Miles	Total Miles	Management Plan Tentative Classification
North Fork Virgin, above Temple of Sinawava			10.0	Suitable - Wild
• Kolob Creek (including BLM Segment)	2.9	0.4	3.3	Suitable - Wild
• Goose Creek (including BLM Segment)	4.2	0.4	4.6	Suitable - Wild
• Imlay Creek	2.7	-	2.7	Suitable - Wild
• Orderville Canyon	3.5	-	3.5	Suitable - Wild
• Deep Creek	0.8	-	0.8	Suitable - Wild
• Mystery Canyon	1.4	-	1.4	Suitable - Wild
Total	25.5	0.8	26.3	
North Fork Virgin, below Temple of Sinawava	8.0	-	8.0	Suitable - Recreational
• Birch Creek Canyon	2.3	-	2.3	Suitable - Wild
• Pine Creek (Excluding the segment below the lowest switchback west of the tunnel on Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway)	4.6	-	4.6	Suitable - Wild
• Pine Creek (Below the switchback to the confluence with the North Fork Virgin)				Suitable - Recreational
• Oak Creek (including BLM Segment)	2.8	-	2.8	Suitable - Recreational
• Heaps Canyon	2.8	-	2.8	Suitable - Wild
• Behunin Canyon	1.9	-	1.9	Suitable - Wild
• Echo Canyon	2.5	-	2.5	Suitable - Wild
• Clear Creek	6.4	-	6.4	Suitable - Recreational
Total	31.3	0	31.3	
East Fork Virgin River	8.0	-	8.0	Suitable - Wild
• Shunes Creek (including BLM segment) excluding the segment from the water diversion to the western Park boundary)	2.0	1.0	3.0	Suitable - Wild
• Shunes Creek (From the western Park boundary to the water diversion)				Suitable - Recreational
Total	10.0	1.0	11.0	
North Creek	17.5	-	17.5	Suitable - Wild
• Wildcat Canyon	2.8	-	2.8	Suitable - Wild
• Right Fork	9.1	-	9.1	Suitable - Wild
• Left Fork	7.5	-	7.5	Suitable - Wild
• Grapevine Wash	2.6	-	3.0	Suitable - Scenic
• Wolf Springs Wash	1.4	-	1.9	Suitable - Scenic
• Pine Spring Wash	4.6	-	6.0	Suitable - Scenic
• Little Creek	7.1	-	7.1	Suitable - Wild
• Russell Gulch	2.0	-	2.0	Suitable - Wild
Total	54.6	0	56.9	
La Verkin Creek	8.70	-	8.7	Suitable - Wild
• Willis Creek (including BLM segment)	1.60	0.3	1.9	Suitable - Wild
• Beartrap Canyon (including BLM segment)	2.20	0.1	2.3	Suitable - Wild
• Timber Creek	3.10	-	3.1	Suitable - Wild
• Curren Creek	1.4	-	1.6	Suitable - Wild
• Cane Creek	0.6	-	1.1	Suitable - Wild
• Hop Valley Creek	3.30	-	4.3	Suitable - Wild
Total	20.9	0.4	23.0	
Taylor Creek	4.2	-	4.6	Suitable - Wild
• North Fork	2.0	-	2.0	Suitable - Wild
• Middle Fork (from east of the Park boundary along the Kolob Canyons Road for 1 mile)	2.0	0.1	2.0	Suitable - Scenic
The rest of the Middle Fork				Suitable - Wild
• South Fork	1.5	-	1.5	Suitable - Wild
Total	10.0	0.1	10.2	
TOTALS	152.3	2.3	158.7	



Other Agency Suitable Segments and Alternative 7

- National Forest System Segment
- Bureau of Land Management Segment
- National Park Service Segment
- National Park
- County Boundaries

- ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST**
- 1 Green River
 - 2 Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Painter Draw
- DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST**
- 3 Death Hollow Creek
 - 4 Mame Creek
 - 5 North Fork Virgin River
 - 6 Pine Creek
- FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST**
- 7 Fish Creek
- WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST**
- 8 Little Provo Deer Creek - only 1 mile recommended under A/E 7
 - 9 Oetler Fork, Source to Mouth
 - 10 Stillwater Fork
- UINTA NATIONAL FOREST**
- 9 Little Provo Deer Creek - only 1 mile recommended under A/E 7
- MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST**
- No Segments
- OTHER AGENCY***
- 11 Bureau of Land Management
 - 12 National Park Service

See Appendix B of FEIS for list of segment names for other agency suitable rivers.



UTVCP/CRS/CRS/04/11/2009

APPENDIX C

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER MANAGEMENT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

APPENDIX C –

Wild and Scenic River Management Statutory Requirements January 2005

Objective: Define the requirements necessary to manage a designated wild and scenic river as directed by statute and to serve as a basis for translating into program accountability and cost measures. This list is based on the specific direction in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA)¹.

Requirements by section of WSRA (in narrative format):

Section 1(b) – Congressional Declaration of Policy

- Defines a three-fold purpose for designated rivers: free-flowing condition, water quality and outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs).
- Describes generally the values (ORVs) for which rivers are added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System).

Requirements:

- Describe the ORVs in adequate detail in the comprehensive river management plan (CRMP) to guide future management actions and serve as the baseline for monitoring. Note: If a river's ORVs are not identified and sufficiently detailed through a pre-designation study or in the Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), conduct a resource assessment in development of the CRMP.

Section 2(b) – Classification (see also Section 3(d)(1))

- Identifies and describes three classes of rivers: wild, scenic and recreational.
- Directs rivers be “administered” within a classification.

Requirements:

- Define the river's initial landscape character from which to establish standards for future in-corridor land-use changes.

Sections 3(b) and 3(c) – Establishment of Boundaries and Classification; Public Availability of Maps and Descriptions

- Directs establishment of a detailed boundary.
- Describes notice and other requirements for final boundary map.

Requirements:

- Submit final boundary package (map and legal description) to Congress and publish notice of its availability in the Federal Register.

¹ For a more detailed presentation of managing a wild and scenic river, refer to *Wild and Scenic River Management Responsibilities* (2002), a technical paper of the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council.

Sections 3(d)(1) and 3(d)(2) – Management Plans; Review Requirements for Early Designations

- Directs development of a CRMP that must: address resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacities, and other management practices necessary or desirable to achieve the purposes of WSRA. Note: This requirement results from generic amendment of the WSRA (1986).
- Describes notice requirement.

Requirements

- Develop CRMP and incorporate resulting direction into the LRMP. The CRMP should:

- Describe existing resource conditions with a detailed description of ORVs,
- Define the goals and desired conditions for protecting river values,
- Address development of lands and facilities,
- Address user capacities,
- Address water quality issues and instream flow requirements,
- Reflect a collaborative approach, recognizing the responsibilities of and opportunities for partnership with all stakeholders,
- Identify regulatory authorities of other governmental agencies that assist in protecting river values, and,
- Include a monitoring strategy to maintain desired conditions.

- Review pre-1986 plans for conformance with the requirements of Section 3(d)(1); i.e. review existing direction relative to requirements of a CRMP and revise LRMP to address any needed change.

Sections 6(a)(1) through 6(g)(1)-(3) – Acquisition Procedures and Limitations

- Describes acquisition procedures and limitations, including in fee title, through exchange and/or donation.

Requirements:

- Maintain text and history of property-specific easements.
- Administer easements to protect and enhance river-related values.

Section 7(a) – Restrictions on Hydroelectric and Water Resources Projects on Designated Rivers

- Provides standards of evaluation to protect a river from the harmful effects of federally assisted water resources projects. A standard is provided for proposals within the designated river corridor (“direct and adverse effects”), and proposals below, above or on a stream tributary to the river (“invade...or unreasonably diminish...”).

Requirements:

- Describe existing water resources project development in bed or bank of a designated rivers as part of initial landscape character (refer to section 2(b)). This description provides context for evaluation of subsequent maintenance or replacement that is subject to the WSRA.
- Provide direction in CRMP to evaluate a water resources project under appropriate standard of Section 7(a). Develop necessary agreements with federal agencies to provide timely notice of proposed water resources projects.
- Evaluate and make determination under Section 7(a).

Section 9(a) – Limitations on Mineral Entry

- Withdraws minerals located on federal lands within wild river corridors.
- Allows a mining claimant to obtain rights to mineral deposits and use of surface and surface resources as reasonably required for prospecting or mining.

Requirements:

- Provide direction for discretionary mineral activity in the CRMP, as appropriate.

Section 10(a) – Management Direction

- Directs the values of each river (free flow, water quality and ORVs) be protected and enhanced.
- Establishes a nondegradation and enhancement policy for all rivers regardless of classification and ownership.
- Allows existing uses on federal lands (e.g., recreation activities, livestock grazing) to continue where they do not conflict with river protection.

Requirements:

- Potential effects from projects and/or activities to the river's free-flowing condition, water quality or ORVs on federal and nonfederal lands must be evaluated, with adverse effects (i.e., conditions outside LRMP standards) mitigated to the extent of Forest Service authority.
- Develop a monitoring plan to protect and enhance values.

Section 10(d) – WSRs Administered by Forest Service

- Allows the Forest Service to use its general statutory authorities to protect river values on nonfederal land and water. This includes requiring special-use permits for commercial guides and, as appropriate, nonregulatory or regulatory permits for private on-river, in-corridor use to allow the Forest Service to provide a level of public safety, to maintain a desired recreation experience, and to protect biological and physical values.

Requirements:

- Permit commercial outfitting and recreation events and require, as appropriate, nonregulatory or regulatory permit systems for private users.

Section 10(e)—Cooperative Agreements

- Provides for Forest Service-state partnership in wild and scenic river administration. Such agreements allow for collaboration in development and implementation of a CRMP and recognize the role of state and local government in directing activities on nonfederal lands (e.g., water pollution abatement, zoning).

Requirements:

- Develop, as appropriate, Forest Service-state cooperative agreements to protect and enhance river values.

Section 11(b)(1)—Federal Assistance to Others

- Authorizes the Forest Service to provide technical, i.e., nonmonetary assistance and the use of National Forest System funds to plan, protect and manage river resources. Technical assistance and limited financial assistance may be applied to projects/activities on nonfederal lands within and proximate to a wild and scenic river corridor. Opportunities for such partnership should be identified in the CRMP and implemented through a properly documented written agreement to assure the public’s interest and the private landowner’s rights are protected.

Requirements:

- Develop, as appropriate, written cooperative agreements with local and state agencies, and private organizations and individuals to protect and enhance river values.

Section 12(a) – Management Policies

- Directs the river-administering agency and all federal departments and agencies with jurisdiction over lands within or proximate to a designated river to protect river values.

Requirements:

- Protect river values in actions for which the river-administering agency has responsibility.
- Work with other federal agencies to protect river values in their programs and activities.

Section 12(c) – Water Pollution

- Directs the river-administering agency to “cooperate” with the Environmental Protection Agency and state-water quality agencies in addressing water quality concerns.

Requirements:

- Describe existing condition (in physical, chemical and biological parameters, as appropriate).
- Identify water-quality related issues and develop a strategy in cooperation with EPA and state-water quality agencies to improve/protect water quality.

Section 13(c) – Federal Reservation of Water

- Establishes a federal reservation of water in the quantity necessary to meet purposes.

Requirements:

- Describe existing conditions, with ORVs related to water-quantity dependency.
- Develop a strategy to protect the riparian area, water-dependent ORVs and riverine processes (channel maintenance).

Requirements by section of WSRA (in table format):

WSRA	Direction	Requirements	Status
Section 1(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defines purposes. • Describes generally values for which rivers are added to the National System. 	Describe ORVs in detail in CRMP to guide future management actions and serve as baseline for monitoring.	
Section 2(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies and describes classes: wild, scenic and recreational. 	Define river's initial landscape character from which to establish standards for future in-corridor land-use changes.	
Sections 3(b) and 3(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs establishment of detailed boundary. • Describes notice requirements. 	Submit final boundary package to Congress and publish in Federal Register.	
Sections 3(d)(1) and 3(d)(2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directs development of a CRMP and defines its specific content. 	Develop direction to protect and enhance river values through the CRMP.	
Sections 6(a)(1) through 6(g)(1)-(3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes acquisition procedures and limitations. 	Maintain text and history of property-specific easements.	
Section 7(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides standards of evaluation to protect river from harmful effects of federally assisted water resources projects. 	Describe existing water resources project development and provide direction to evaluate water resources projects in CRMP. Conduct specific-project review under Section 7(a).	
Section 9(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides limitation on mineral activity. 	Provide direction for discretionary mineral activity in the CRMP, as appropriate	
Section 10(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a nondegradation and enhancement policy. 	Develop a monitoring plan.	
Section 10(d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows use of Forest Service general statutory authority for commercial outfitting. 	Permit commercial outfitting and require, as appropriate, nonregulatory or regulatory permits for private use.	

WSRA	Direction	Requirements	Status
Section 10(e)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides for cooperative agreements between Forest Service-state. 	Develop, as appropriate, Forest Service-state agreements to protect and enhance river values.	
Section 11(b)(1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorizes the Forest Service to provide technical assistance and National Forest System funds to plan, protect and manage river resources. 	Develop, as appropriate, written cooperative agreements with others to protect and enhance river values.	
Section 12(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directs the river-administering agency to protect river values in activities within or proximate to the river corridor. 	Consider actions on lands within and proximate to the river corridor relative to protecting free-flow, water quality and the outstanding values.	
Section 12(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directs cooperation with EPA and state agencies to protect and improve water quality. 	Describe baseline conditions, identify water quality issues, and develop protection strategy.	
Sections 13(c)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes federal reservation of water. 	Identify flow-dependent ORVs and develop a strategy to protect.	

APPENDIX D

EFFECTS OF MANAGING A RIVER AS A COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

APPENDIX D – EFFECTS OF MANAGING A RIVER AS A COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM

The information in this Appendix discloses the effects of managing a river as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System). These effects would occur if a river determined suitable in a planning area is subsequently designated by Congress.

The management responsibilities associated with a designated wild and scenic river (WSR) are explained in detail in the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council's (Council) technical report, *Wild and Scenic River Management Responsibilities (March 2002)*. The following discussion is excerpted from this source document and describes the effects of managing a river as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System), based on the direction in the Wild and Scenic Rivers (Act).

The intent of each section of the Act relevant to management of WSRs is briefly presented, followed by specific management implications.

Purposes (WSRA Section 1(b))

The purposes for which WSRs are added to the National System are to protect the river's free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). Sections 7(a) and 10(a) make reference to these collective "values" for which rivers are added to the National System.

Management Implications:

- Focus the comprehensive river management plan (CRMP) and subsequent river management on protecting a river's free-flowing condition and water quality in addition to the ORVs.
- Thoroughly define the ORVs to guide future management actions and to serve as the baseline for monitoring.

Classification (WSRA Section 2(b))

The classification system describes the type and intensity of development in existence at the date of the river's designation. To be "administered" in a class means defining the river's initial landscape character and, through development of the CRMP, establishing standards relative to future in-corridor land uses. For example, administering a wild river will require more restrictive decisions to protect the river's character than on a scenic or recreational river. However, it must be emphasized that the intent of the Act, to preserve a river's free-flowing condition (Section 7(a)) and to protect and enhance the values for which it was designated (Section 10(a)), applies equally to each of the three classifications.

A river's classification does not represent the values for which it was added to the National System. For example, a "recreational" river segment denotes a level of in-corridor and water resources development and does not necessarily mean that the recreation resource has been determined an ORV. Similarly, a recreational classification does not imply that the river will be managed for recreational activities. For example, there are rivers in the National System paralleled by a road and hence classified as recreational for which the ORV is the fish resource. An appropriate intensity of recreation and other resource use will be allowed subject to an ability to protect and enhance those fish populations/habitats.

Management Implications:

- Describe a river's classification and landscape character at the date of designation in the CRMP to serve as the basis for evaluating proposed land uses and monitoring.

- Use classification to provide a general framework for the type and intensity of land management activities that may take place in the future.
- Consider allowing uses in existence at the date of designation that do not conform to the river's classification and that are not specifically addressed in the enabling legislation to continue, so long as the river's free-flowing condition, water quality, and ORVs are protected.
- Apply the protections under Sections 7 (water resources projects) and 10(a) (nondegradation policy) independent of classification.

Establishment of Boundaries and Classification (Sections 3(b) and 3(c))

The Act requires that each federally administered river in the National System have a legally established boundary. Congress has, in a few instances, specified the boundaries for a river in the designating legislation. Generally, however, this responsibility is left to the managing agency to be completed following designation. This section requires the administering agency to establish a detailed boundary of not more than 320 acres of land per river mile within one year of the date of designation. For the significant majority of rivers in the National System, Congress has included the classification in the designating legislation.

The notice of the availability of the boundaries and classification (if not included in the amendatory act) must be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress. Refer to *Establishment of WSR Boundaries*, a technical report of the Council (September 1998), for additional discussion of developing a boundary that provides necessary protection for identified values.

Management Implications:

- A bank-to-bank boundary is unacceptable (refer to *Establishment of WSR Boundaries* for a more detailed discussion).
- Use a river's ORVs as the basis for boundary establishment. They must be sufficiently described and properly referenced in establishing a detailed boundary for the river.
- The final WSR boundary is not required to be posted or otherwise located on the ground.

Management Plan (Section 3(d)(1))

The Act requires a "comprehensive management plan . . . to provide for protection of the river values" (Section 3(d)(1)). The CRMP must address: resource protection; development of lands and facilities; user capacities; and other management practices necessary or desirable to achieve the purposes of the Act.

The comprehensive river management plan (CRMP) is to be coordinated with, and incorporated into, a river-administering agency's resource management plan. The Act provides three full fiscal years after the date of designation for its completion and requires a notice of its completion and availability be published in the *Federal Register*.

Management Implications:

- A CRMP is required for all congressionally designated WSRs.
- Include a detailed description of the ORVs as a platform for development of necessary management direction in the CRMP.
- Address the types and amounts of public use the river area can sustain without adverse impact to other values in the CRMP (Interagency Guidelines).
- Review and revise, as necessary, pre-1986 CRMPs to include all elements described in Section 3(d)(1).
- Prior to the completion of a CRMP, thoroughly analyze the effects of a proposed activity on the values for which the river was designated.

Acquisition Procedures and Limitations (Sections 6(a)(1) through 6(g)(1)-(3))

This section describes procedures and limitations for acquisition of lands and interests in lands by federal managers on congressionally designated WSRs. Acquisition of lands (fee-simple) or interests in lands (easements) from willing sellers is an appropriate tool in select circumstances on some rivers. Note: The provisions of Section 6 do not apply to rivers added under Section 2(a)(ii). Refer to *Protecting Resource Values on Non-Federal Lands*, a technical report of the Council (October 1996) for discussion of nonacquisition strategies for protecting river values.

Management Implications:

- Establish general principles for land acquisition in the CRMP (Interagency Guidelines), where appropriate. Consider acquisition of lands or interests in lands to provide resource protection and access and to facilitate appropriate recreation use.

Restrictions on Hydroelectric and Water Resources Projects (Section 7(a))

This section is one of the most important and powerful parts of the Act, directing federal agencies to protect the free-flowing condition and other values of designated rivers. More specifically, the Act prohibits the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) from licensing the construction of hydroelectric facilities on rivers that have been designated as components of the National System. Further, the Act prohibits other federal agencies from assisting in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on a designated river. The Act also includes a standard that governs water resources projects below, above or on a stream tributary to a designated river or congressionally authorized study river. Determinations under Section 7(a) or 7(b) are made by the river-administering agency.

Refer to the *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: Section 7*, a technical paper of the Council (May 1997), for a discussion of standards and presentation of procedures to evaluate the effects of proposed water resources projects. The Department of Agriculture has regulations governing the applicability of Section 7 at 36 CFR Part 297.

Management Implications:

- The Secretary of Agriculture or the Interior (or his/her designee) is responsible for making determinations under Section 7.
- Evaluate a water resources project based on its effects on the values for which a river is added to the National System, namely its free-flowing condition, water quality, and ORVs. The river's classification is not a factor in this evaluation.
- FERC-licensed facilities are prohibited within a designated river corridor. Other federally assisted water resources projects within a designated river corridor are evaluated as to their potential "direct and adverse effect" on the values for which the river was designated. Proposed water resources projects below, above, or on a stream tributary to a designated river are evaluated as to their potential to invade the designated river area or unreasonably diminish the scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values of the designated river.
- Include direction in the CRMP to evaluate a water resources project under Section 7(a). It is also helpful to provide reference to, or include, the evaluation procedures in the CRMP (or appendix).

Limitations on Entry on Public Lands (Section 8(a))

This section requires all public lands within a WSR corridor to be retained in federal ownership, with allowances for exchange as conditioned in Section 6(d) and lease of federal lands as described in Section 14(A).

Management Implications

- Consider the potential for exchange in establishing general principles for land acquisition in the CRMP.

Limitations on Mineral Entry (Section 9(a))

In areas where mineral activity is permissible, the CRMP should address locatable, leasable and salable mineral materials. Locatable minerals are “valuable mineral deposits” located under the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended, and include, for example, gold, silver, copper and lead. Leasable minerals are defined by statute (e.g., oil, gas, coal, geothermal); a lease must be obtained from the government for their extraction. Salable minerals are disposed of by permit and consist, for example, of common varieties of sand, stone and gravel. Leasable and salable mineral activities are discretionary on the part of the administering agency.

The Act affects the development of federal minerals in several ways. First, subject to valid existing rights (i.e., subject to existing mining claims and mineral leases), the minerals located on federal lands within the bed or banks or 1/4 mile of the banks of any designated *wild* river are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from the operation of the mineral leasing laws. Second, subject to valid existing rights (i.e., subject to mining claims where the claimant has filed a proper patent application and paid the required fees prior to the river’s designation), mining claimants may only obtain title to the mineral deposits and such rights to the use of the surface and surface resources as are reasonably required for prospecting or mining. Third, the Act requires regulations be developed to govern mining and mineral leasing activities in WSR corridors. While the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture have not issued these regulations, the BLM and USFS use their existing regulations (43 CFR 3809 and 36 CFR 228, respectively) to meet, to the extent possible, the nondegradation standard of Section 10(a).

Management Implications:

- Provide direction for discretionary mineral activity in the CRMP, as appropriate.
- Consider the opportunity to recommend a withdrawal of scenic and recreational river segments from the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended through the river planning process, as appropriate. Such a recommendation, however, will require a detailed analysis of the values to be protected and rationale for the recommendation. This proposal should be closely coordinated with the BLM, the agency responsible for the mineral withdrawal.

Management Direction (Section 10(a))

The Interagency Guidelines interpret Section 10(a) as a “nondegradation and enhancement policy for all designated river areas, regardless of classification.” Existing uses on federal lands may continue where they do not conflict with river protection. Adverse effects to the values made explicit in Section 1(b) of the Act on federal and nonfederal lands must be identified in development of the CRMP, with appropriate strategies detailed for their resolution. To achieve a nondegradation standard, the river-administering agency must document baseline resource conditions and monitor changes to these conditions.

Management Implications:

- This section is interpreted as a nondegradation and enhancement policy for all rivers, regardless of classification (Interagency Guidelines). The river manager must seek to protect existing river-related values and, to the greatest extent possible, enhance those values.
- Provide for public recreation and resource uses that do not adversely impact or degrade the values for which the river was designated (Interagency Guidelines).
- Protect rivers by documenting and eliminating adverse impacts on values (free-flow, water quality, ORVs), including activities that were occurring on the date of designation. Enhance rivers by seeking opportunities to improve conditions.

Management of WSRs in Wilderness (Section 10(b))

Section 10(b) removes the potential for conflict on WSRs flowing in designated wilderness by applying the more restrictive provisions of the WSRs or Wilderness Acts in any situation of conflict. This section recognizes the importance of designating river systems by removing any potential for conflict in dual designations.

Management Implications:

- River managers must be familiar with provisions of both acts when developing the CRMP.

WSRs Administered by the USDA Forest Service (Section 10(d))

This section provides the USFS the authority to use its general statutory authorities to protect WSR values. Some of the most important laws applicable to the USFS include the Organic Administration Act, Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act, and National Forest Management Act.

This section also allows the USFS to require special-use permits for all commercial guiding services on WSRs flowing through federal or private lands. The authority is codified in regulation (36 CFR, Part 261), with its scope defined as “an act or omission” within the designated boundaries of a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.” Specifically, Section 261.10(c) prohibits conducting any business activity within the boundaries of a WSR “unless authorized by federal law, regulation, or special-use authorization.” If use regulation is necessary to protect river values, Section 261.58(z) allows the USFS to prohibit by order “entering or being on lands or waters within the boundaries of a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.”

Requiring special-use permits for commercial guides and, as appropriate, nonregulatory or regulatory permits for private on-river and/or in-corridor river use allows the USFS to provide a level of public safety, to maintain a desired recreation experience, and to protect biological and physical values. On-river limitations may include, for example, restrictions on the numbers of private and commercial boaters, timing of use, and type and size of craft. In-corridor limitations may include, for example, restrictions on party size, timing of use, and type of activities.

Management Implications:

- Apply general statutory authorities, in addition to the requirements of the Act, to protect WSR values.

Cooperative Agreements (Section 10(e))

This section encourages a federal-state partnership in WSR administration. It recognizes the benefits from collaborative development and implementation of a CRMP and the role of state and local government in directing activities on nonfederal lands (e.g., water pollution abatement, zoning). Refer also to Section 12(a) of the Act that directs federal agencies to, where appropriate, enter into written cooperative agreements with the state river-administering agency for the management of federal lands within the boundaries of a state-administered (Section 2(a)(ii)) river.

Management Implications:

- Identify opportunities in the CRMP for the river-administering agency to effect specific written cooperative agreements in administration of a WSR.

Federal Assistance to Others (Section 11(b)(1))

This section authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, or the head of any federal agency to provide technical (i.e., nonmonetary) assistance and the use of agency funds to states, their political subdivisions, private organizations, and individuals to “plan, protect, and manage river

resources.” This authority applies to projects/activities on nonfederal lands within and proximate to a WSR corridor. It provides a mechanism to effect partnerships for projects/activities distant from the designated WSR yet with the potential to affect designated WSR values. Opportunities for such partnerships should be identified in the CRMP and implemented through a properly documented written agreement to assure the public’s interests and the private landowner’s rights are protected.

Management Implications:

Identify opportunities in the CRMP for the river-administering agency to effect specific written cooperative agreements in administration of a WSR.

Management Policies (Section 12(a))

This section applies to activities conducted by a federal department or agency that are within or proximate to a WSR designated under Sections 2(a)(ii) or 3(a). It also applies to rivers under study pursuant to Section 5(a) and to rivers being considered pursuant to Section 2(a)(ii). Through the language of this section, Congress directs other federal agencies to protect river values in addition to meeting their agency mission. Refer to *Implementing the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: Authorities and Roles of Key Federal Agencies*, a technical report of the Council (January 1999), for a description of the authorities of other federal agencies in river protection.

Management Implications:

- In addition to preparing a CRMP for lands within the river corridor, the river-administering agency must consider actions on lands it administers adjacent to this area and make certain such actions protect WSR values.
- Other federal agencies must protect WSR values in actions for which they are responsible within and adjacent to a WSR corridor.

Existing Rights (Section 12(b))

Section 12(b) qualifies that nothing in Section 12(a) is to be construed to eliminate existing rights or privileges affecting federal lands without the owner’s consent.

Management Implications:

- Consider existing rights or privileges affecting federal lands when evaluating management actions on lands within or adjacent to the river corridor administered by the river-administering agency or other federal agency.

Water Pollution (Section 12(c))

Section 12(c) directs the river-administering agency to cooperate with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state water quality agencies in addressing water quality concerns in WSRs. Cooperation requires active participation by the river-administering agency in evaluation of existing water quality, identification of limitations, and development of the often long-term strategies necessary to address water quality-related problems.

Management Implications:

- Seek enforcement of water quality laws through the EPA and state water-quality agencies.
- Work in cooperation with the EPA and state water quality agencies to establish baseline conditions, identify water-quality related issues, and develop a strategy to improve/ protect water quality.

Jurisdiction and Responsibilities of State with Respect to Fish and Wildlife (Section 13(a))

This section clarifies that the role of the states in management of fish and wildlife is unaffected by the Act. The river-administering agency remains responsible, however, for evaluation of components of fish

or wildlife restoration or enhancement projects that are also water resources projects and subject to Section 7(a) of the Act. In most instances, such projects would have a beneficial effect on WSR values; however, they must be designed to avoid adverse effects on free flow and other river-related values.

Management Implications:

- Develop an effective partnership with state fish and wildlife agencies to achieve mutual goals in river protection.

Federal Reservation of Water (Section 13(c))

This section expressly reserves the quantity of water necessary to achieve the Act's purposes, including protecting the values for which a river is designated.

Management Implications:

- Describe the dependency of ORVs to flow in the CRMP.
- Establish baseline conditions, identify water-quantity related issues, and develop a strategy to protect flow-dependent ORVs.

Interstate Compacts (Section 13(e))

This section clarifies that interstate compacts are unaffected by the Act.

Management Implications:

- Determine if an interstate compact exists and identify its tenets.

Navigable Rivers (Section 13(f))

Section 13(g) clarifies that nothing in the Act affects a state's rights to navigable waterways. A body of water is determined to be navigable under federal law when, at the time of statehood, it was used or was capable of being used as a public highway for transporting goods or for travel in the customary modes of trade and travel on water (the Daniel Ball case, U.S. Supreme Court). State ownership of the underlying riverbed does not, however, preclude the river-administering agency from regulating uses (e.g., private and commercial boating) on the water column as necessary to meet the purposes of the Act. The need to regulate on-water use includes providing a level of public safety, maintaining a desired recreation experience, and protecting biological and physical values. On-river limitations may include, for example, restrictions on the numbers of private and commercial boaters, timing of use, and type and size of craft.

Management Implications:

- Work in partnership with the state to assure that the state's public trust interest in navigability and the purposes of the Act are met.

Easements and Rights-of-Way (Section 13(g))

An easement or right-of-way may be granted within the boundary of a WSR, subject to conditions to protect values.

Management Implications:

- Evaluate any component of a project proposal requiring an easement or right-of-way that is a water resources project under Section 7(a) of the Act prior to further consideration of the easement/right-of-way.
- Grant an easement or right-of-way subject to the nondegradation policy of Section 10(a) and if it is in accordance with all laws applicable to the area.

APPENDIX E

VALID EXISTING WATER RIGHTS

APPENDIX E—VALID EXISTING WATER RIGHTS

The purpose of this section is to describe the water rights that are associated with the proposed Wild and Scenic River stream segments and drainage basins and to address the concern about impacts to valid existing water rights if a river segment is found suitable for designation.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act creates a federal reserved water right for a quantity of water sufficient to meet the purposes of the Act on designated river segments. The Forest Service would have the responsibility of preserving each designated segment in its free-flowing condition to protect its outstandingly remarkable values. The quantity of water necessary to fulfill that responsibility would be determined through assessments of instream flow needs.

A federal reserved water right for a Wild and Scenic river would be a non-consumptive water right. As such it would not impair future downstream appropriations, and arguably would protect and enhance them.

Designation as a Wild, Scenic, and/or Recreational river would not affect existing, valid water rights. A new federal reserved water right asserted by a Wild and Scenic River designation would be junior to all valid existing rights. This action would have no impact on existing water rights whether upstream or downstream because it would be junior to any existing right.

Maps identifying current valid existing water rights in the proposed Wild and Scenic River segments were created using the Utah Division of Water Rights (UDWRT) Water Right Points of Diversion GIS data available for download from the UDWRT website.

This mapped data is displayed on the UDWRT website specifically for this Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study and can be found on their website. For color maps visit: <http://utstnrwrt6.waterrights.utah.gov/mapserver/wildscenic/startup.htm> and for black and white maps visit: <http://utstnrwrt6.waterrights.utah.gov/mapserver/wildscenic/startbw.htm> (also attached). The maps show the Wild and Scenic River segments, their drainage basin and the UDWRT Points of Diversion within the basin. The mapped Points of Diversion include water uses for domestic, municipal, irrigation, mining, power, stock watering, and other uses and include approved, perfected, and unapproved water right applications. Water rights depicted belong to a variety of entities from private to government.

The maps will be listed in order by Forest as listed in the list of rivers in Chapter 3:

- Ashley National Forest: Duchesne RD, Flaming Gorge RD, Vernal RD.
- Dixie National Forest: Cedar City RD, Escalante RD, Fremont RD, Pine Valley RD
- Fishlake National Forest: Beaver RD, Fillmore RD, Richfield RD
- Manti-La Sal National Forest: Ferron/Price RD, Moab RD, Monticello RD
- Uinta National Forest: Pleasant Grove RD, Spanish Fork RD
- Wasatch-Cache National Forest: Evanston RD, Kamas, RD, Logan RD, Mountain View RD, Ogden RD, Salt Lake RD

The maps were created to show the water rights in the Wild and Scenic segment basins and the representation of these Points is limited to the UDWRT GIS data and the online mapping software. The data used to describe the water rights is created by the Utah Division of Water Rights and is based on their Geographic Information System (GIS) data regarding water right Points of Diversion (WRPOD). WRPOD is a point shapefile created nightly from data in the Utah Division of Water Rights database; the maps in Appendix E were created from the WRPOD shapefile retrieved from the website on September 29th 2007. Locations in the WRPOD shapefile have been computed from information submitted with water right applications and may not show the exact locations of the Points of Diversion. The location

data is of varied quality including both map scaled and field surveyed information. The locations recorded in the database are actually offsets from a Public Land Survey Section Monument. They are converted to UTM coordinates using calculations against a database of PLS monuments originally extracted from digitized 1:24000 RSPLS coverage. The monument database is updated with more precise coordinates as they become available including field GPS surveyed locations. Improved monument locations will in turn benefit the quality of the WRPOD point locations in this coverage with time since location values are re-calculated each week. The WRPOD data (shapefile) are a complete record of point of diversion locations taken from the Division's day to day operating database and can be accessed from their website at: <http://www.waterrights.utah.gov/gisinfo/wrcover.asp>.

The WRPOD database is a complete record with the following exceptions:

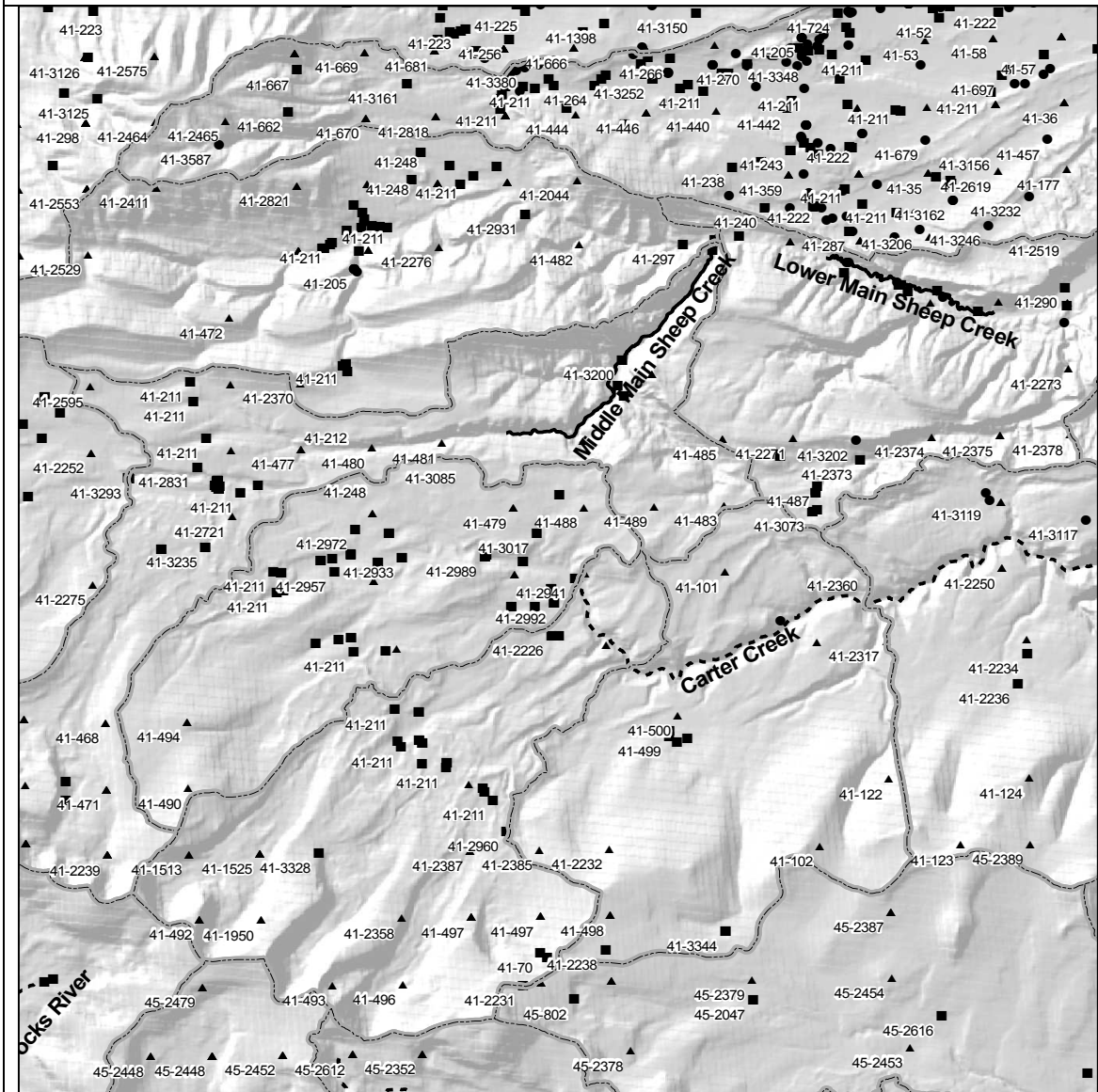
- 1) The Division's point of diversion referencing policy includes a provision which allows some point of diversion locations to be described more as areas (Point-to-Point Filings) than discrete points. Point to point filings are usually limited to stock watering rights. They are represented in the WRPOD shapefile by a discrete point which is located within the area covered by the point to point description.
- 2) Utah State Law required applications to divert surface water to be filed with the State Engineer after 1903 and groundwater after 1935. There may be existing diversions which began prior to those dates which are not included in the Division of Water Right records. The Division becomes aware of these rights and includes these rights in its records when the user submits a statement of water user claim either pursuant to adjudication or to establish there is a water right under which the State Engineer is to take action.
- 3) Data in the Division of Water Rights database was entered over an eight year period from paper files maintained by the office. Data entered in the database has been subsequently verified by staff. However, errors are occasionally detected in the database as a result of entry operations either from current staff activities or the original entry project. The Division makes an ongoing effort to maintain the database free of errors and omissions; however users of the data are responsible to verify it is suitable for their purpose. The Division appreciates and encourages users to promptly disclose any inconsistencies detected in the data to Division staff that will make every effort to correct any errors discovered.

The attribute items contained in the WRPOD shapefile do not represent all of the water right information available for a particular water right filing. Additional attributes can be obtained either from the Water Right Information page located at:

<http://www.waterrights.utah.gov/wrinfo/default.asp> or by downloading at water right information table at: <http://www.waterrights.utah.gov/cgi-bin/pubdump.exe?DBNAME=WRDB>

Middle Main and Lower Main Sheep Creek

Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District



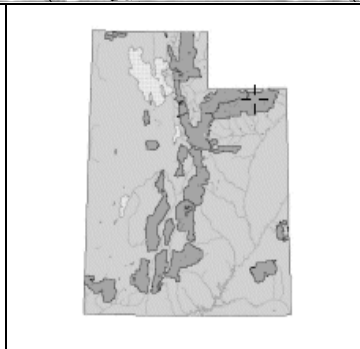
Watersheds

Points of Diversion

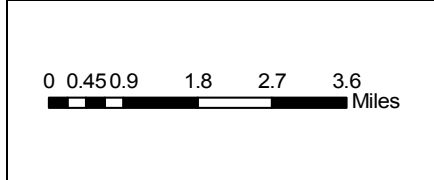
- ▲ Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground

WSR Segments Classification

- Recreational
- - - Scenic
- Wild

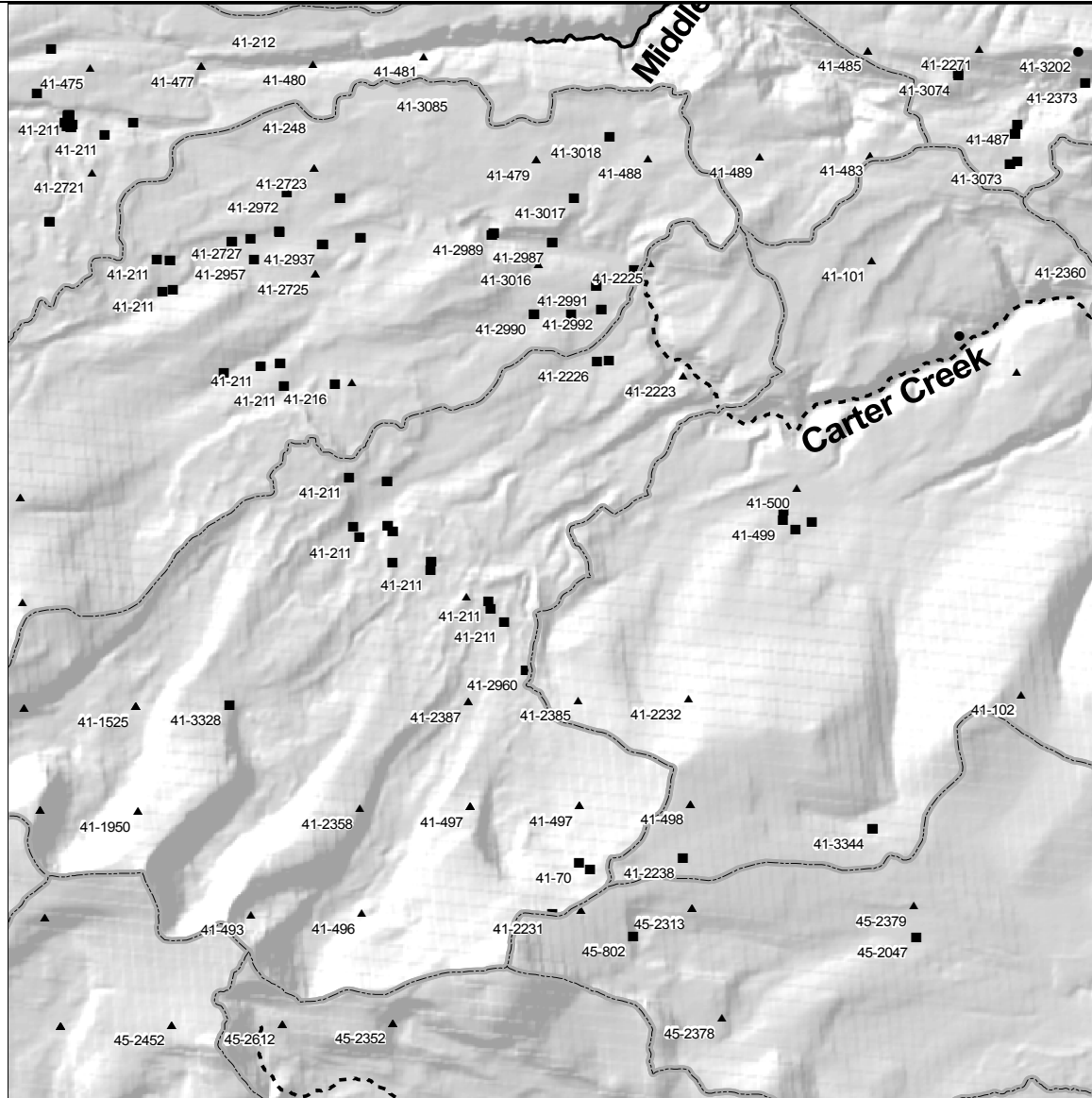



This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.



Upper Carter Creek

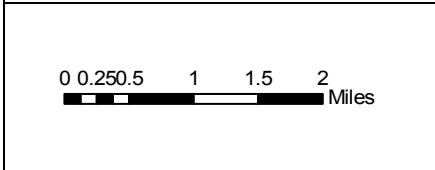
Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District



 Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 ▲ Point to Point
 ■ Surface
 ● Underground
 WSR Segments Classification
 — Recreational
 - - - Scenic
 — Wild

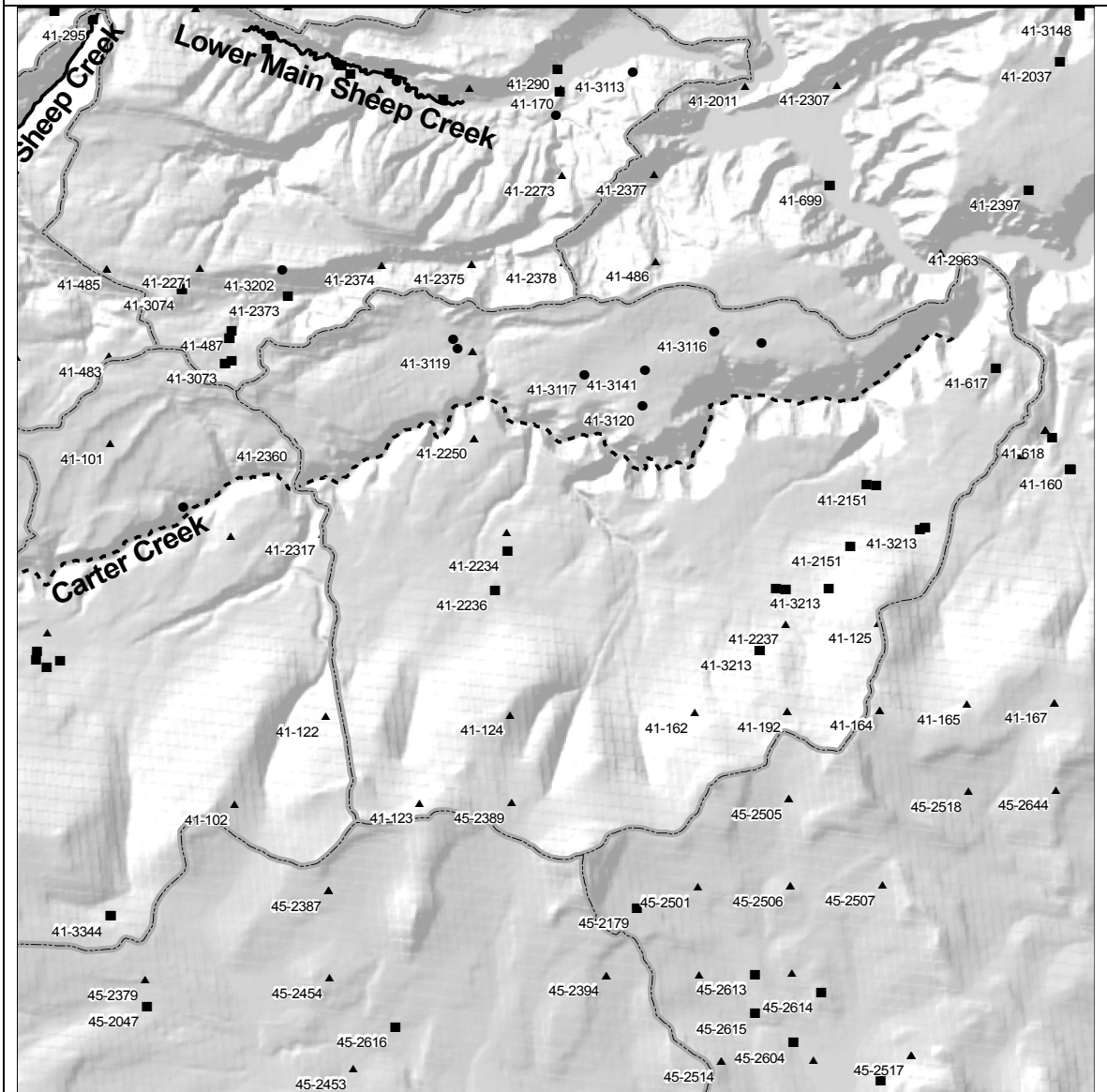


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.



Lower Carter Creek

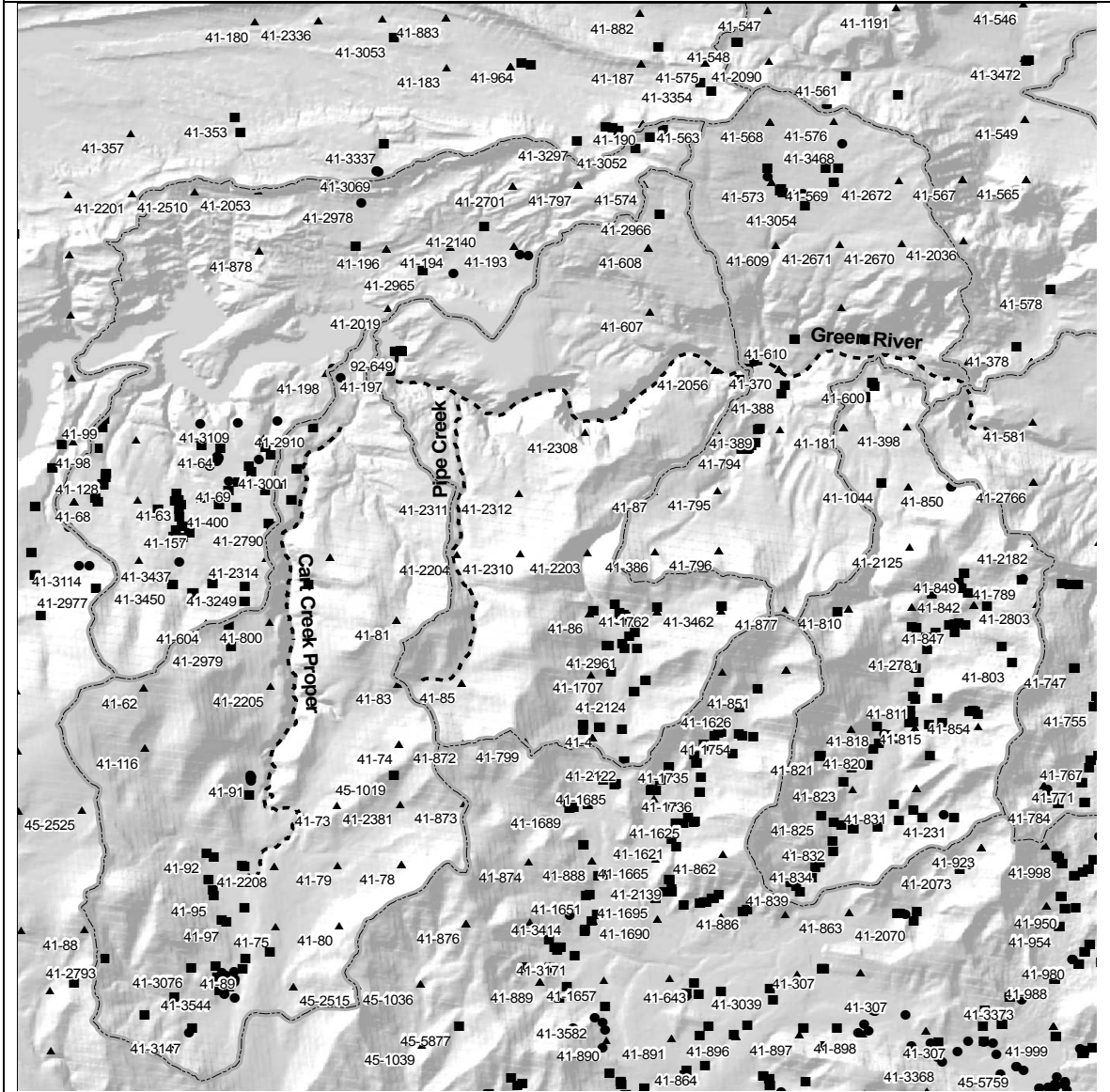
Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District




<p> Watersheds</p> <p>Points of Diversion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point to Point Surface Underground <p>WSR Segments Classification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational Scenic Wild 		<p>This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.</p>	




Cart Creek Proper, Pipe Creek, and the Green River

Ashley National Forest, Flaming Gorge Ranger District






 Watersheds

Points of Diversion

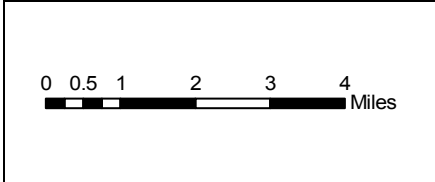
-  Point to Point
-  Surface
-  Underground

WSR Segments Classification

-  Recreational
-  Scenic
-  Wild

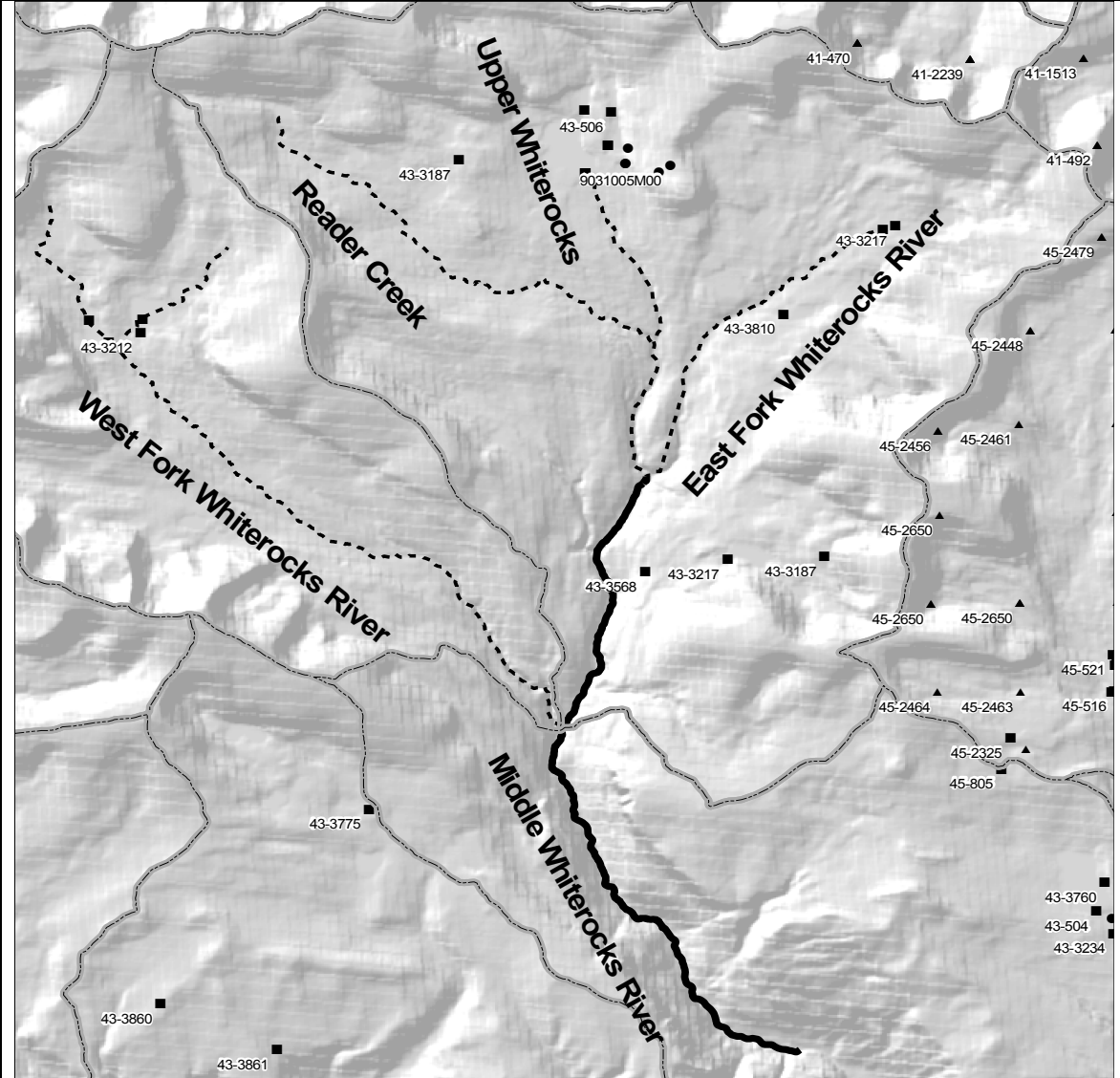


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.



Middle Fork, East Fork, West Fork, Upper Whiterocks River, and Reader Creek

Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District



Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 ▲ Point to Point
 ■ Surface
 ● Underground
 WSR Segments Classification
 — Recreational
 - - - Scenic
 — Wild

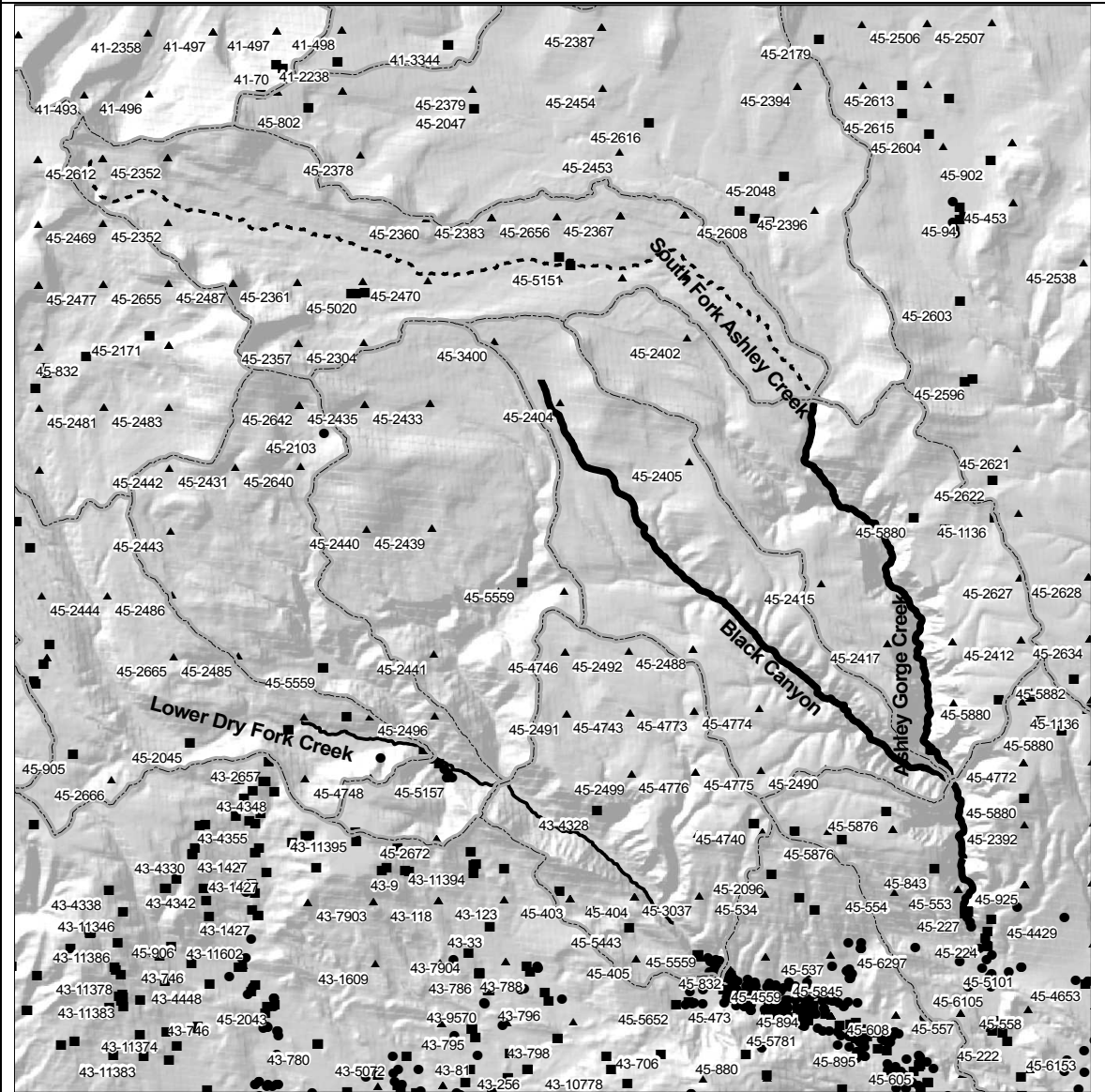
This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.


0 0.375 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 Miles

N




South Fork Ashley Creek, Ashley Gorge Creek, Lower Dry Fork Creek, and Black Canyon

Ashley National Forest, Vernal Ranger District






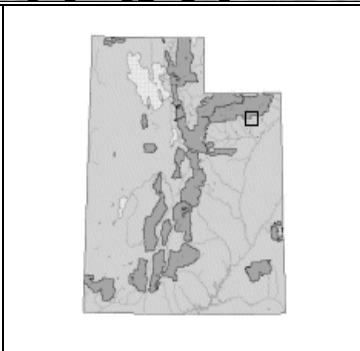
 Watersheds

Points of Diversion

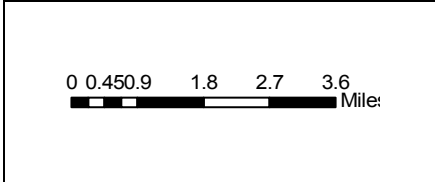
-  Point to Point
-  Surface
-  Underground

WSR Segments Classification

-  Recreational
-  Scenic
-  Wild

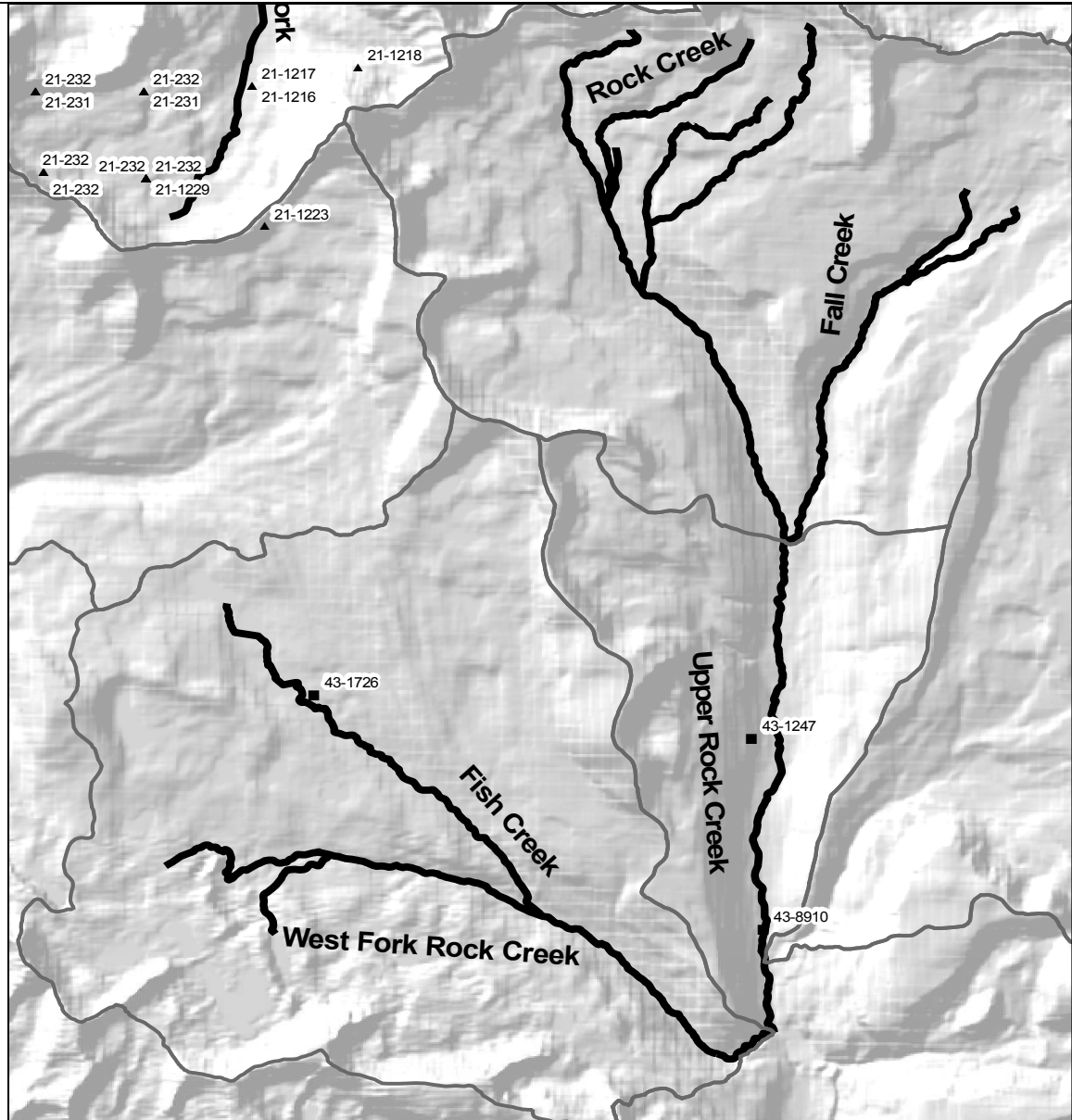









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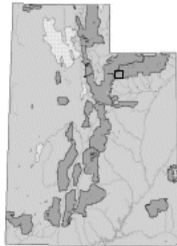


Upper Rock Creek, Fall Creek, West Fork Rock Creek including Fish Creek

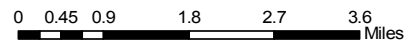
Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger District



-  Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
 -  Point to Point
 -  Surface
 -  Underground
- WSR Segments Classification
 -  Recreational
 -  Scenic
 -  Wild

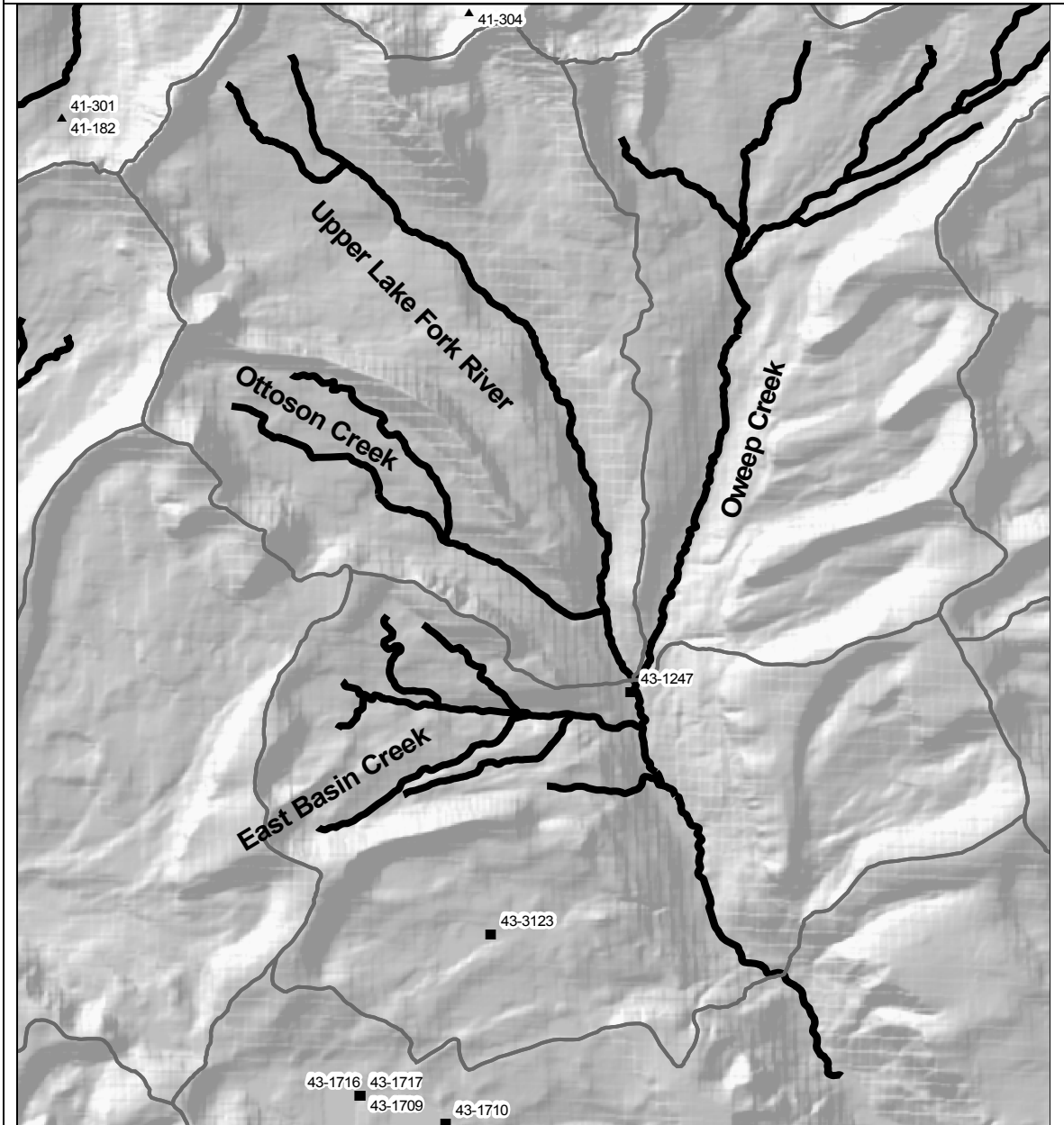



This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.






Upper Lake Fork and Oweep Creek

Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger District






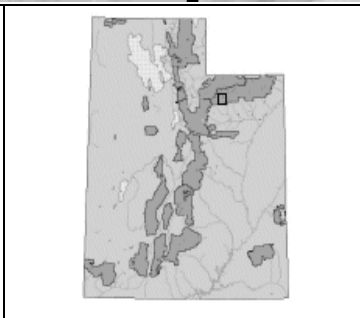
 Watersheds

Points of Diversion

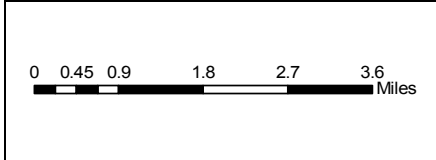
-  Point to Point
-  Surface
-  Underground

WSR Segments Classification

-  Recreational
-  Scenic
-  Wild

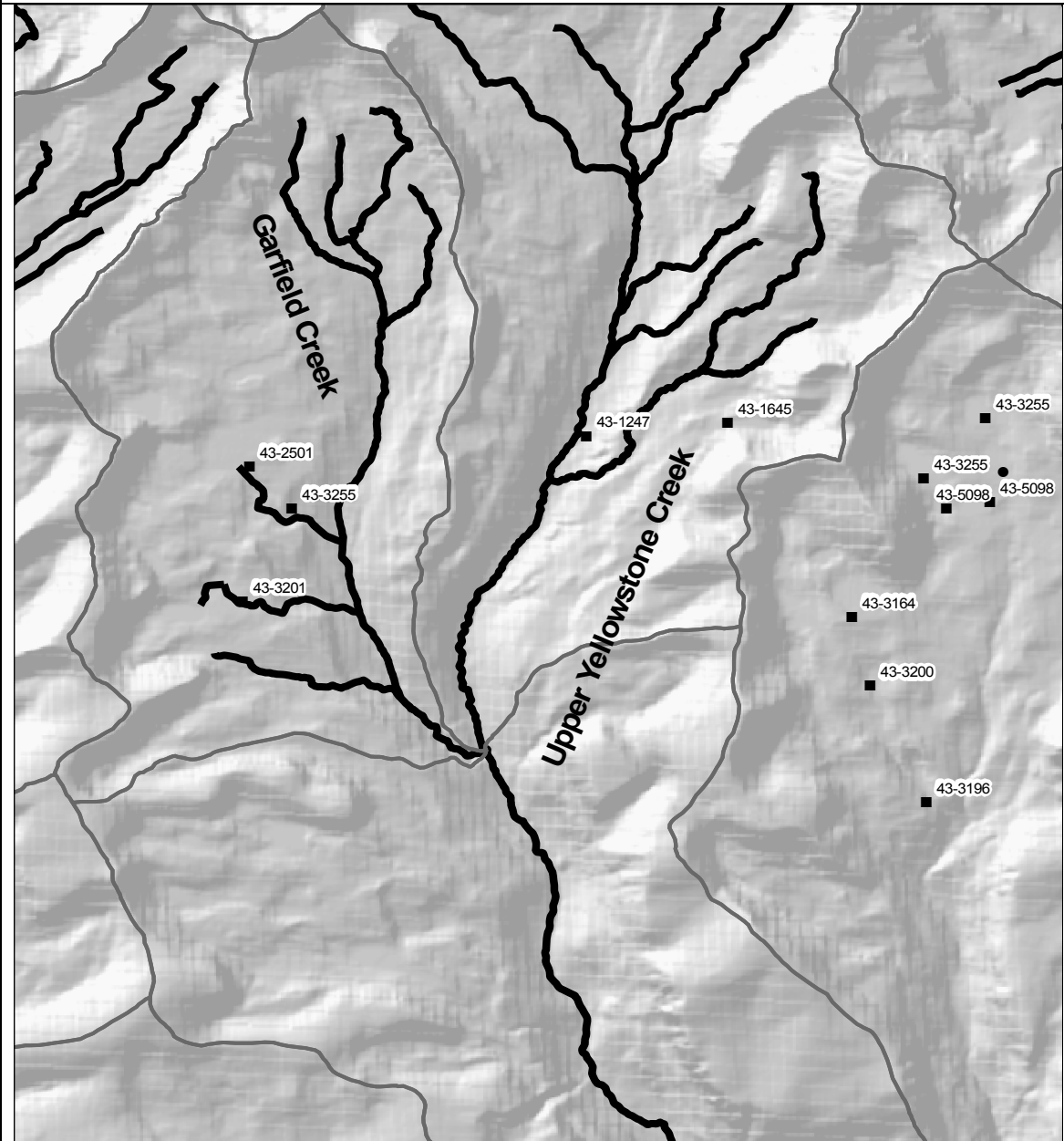



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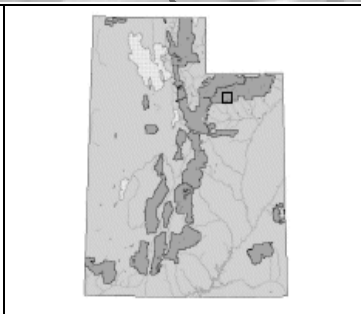


Upper Yellowstone and Garfield Creeks

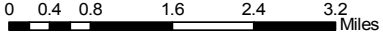
Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger District



 Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 ▲ Point to Point
 ■ Surface
 ● Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 — Recreational
 - - - Scenic
 — Wild

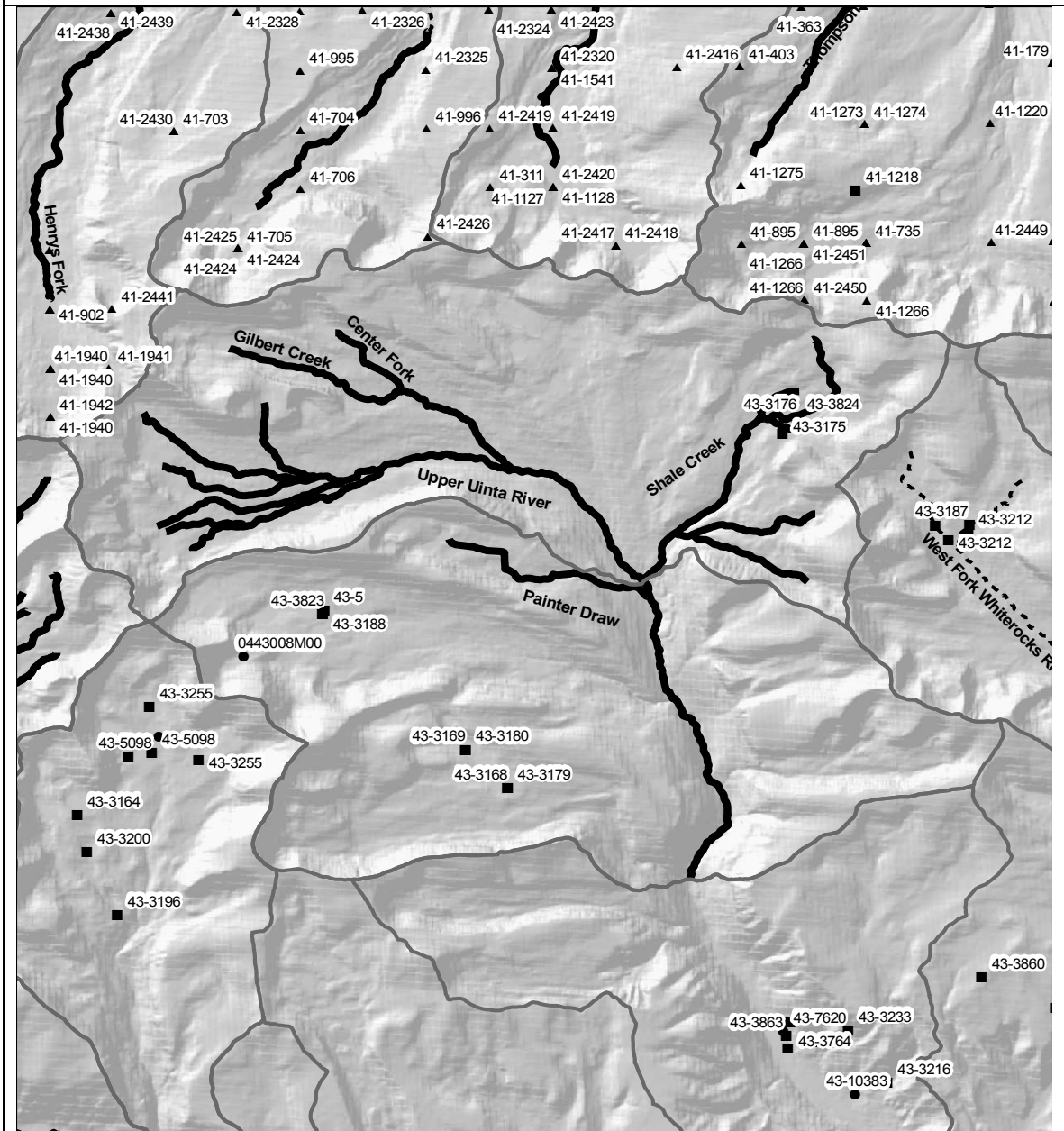









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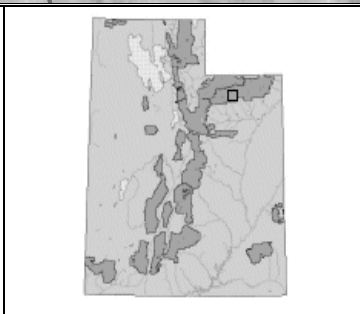



Upper Uinta River and Shale Creek

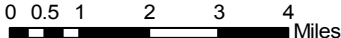

Ashley National Forest, Duchesne Ranger District



 Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 Point to Point
 Surface
 Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 Recreational
 Scenic
 Wild

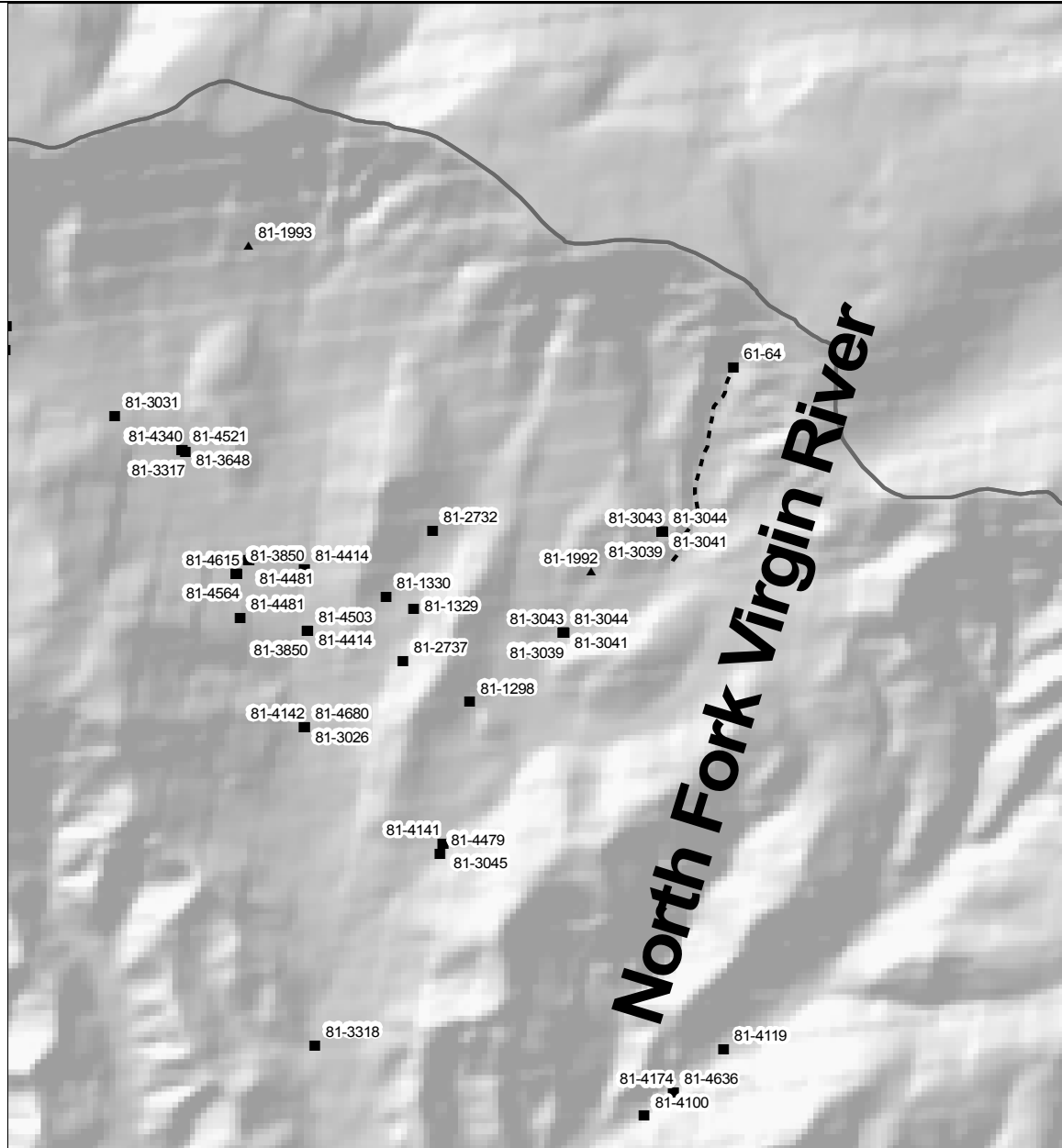


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

 0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles
 N

North Fork Virgin River

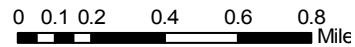
Dixie National Forest, Cedar City Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
- ▲ Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground
- WSR Segments Classification
- Recreational
- - - Scenic
- Wild

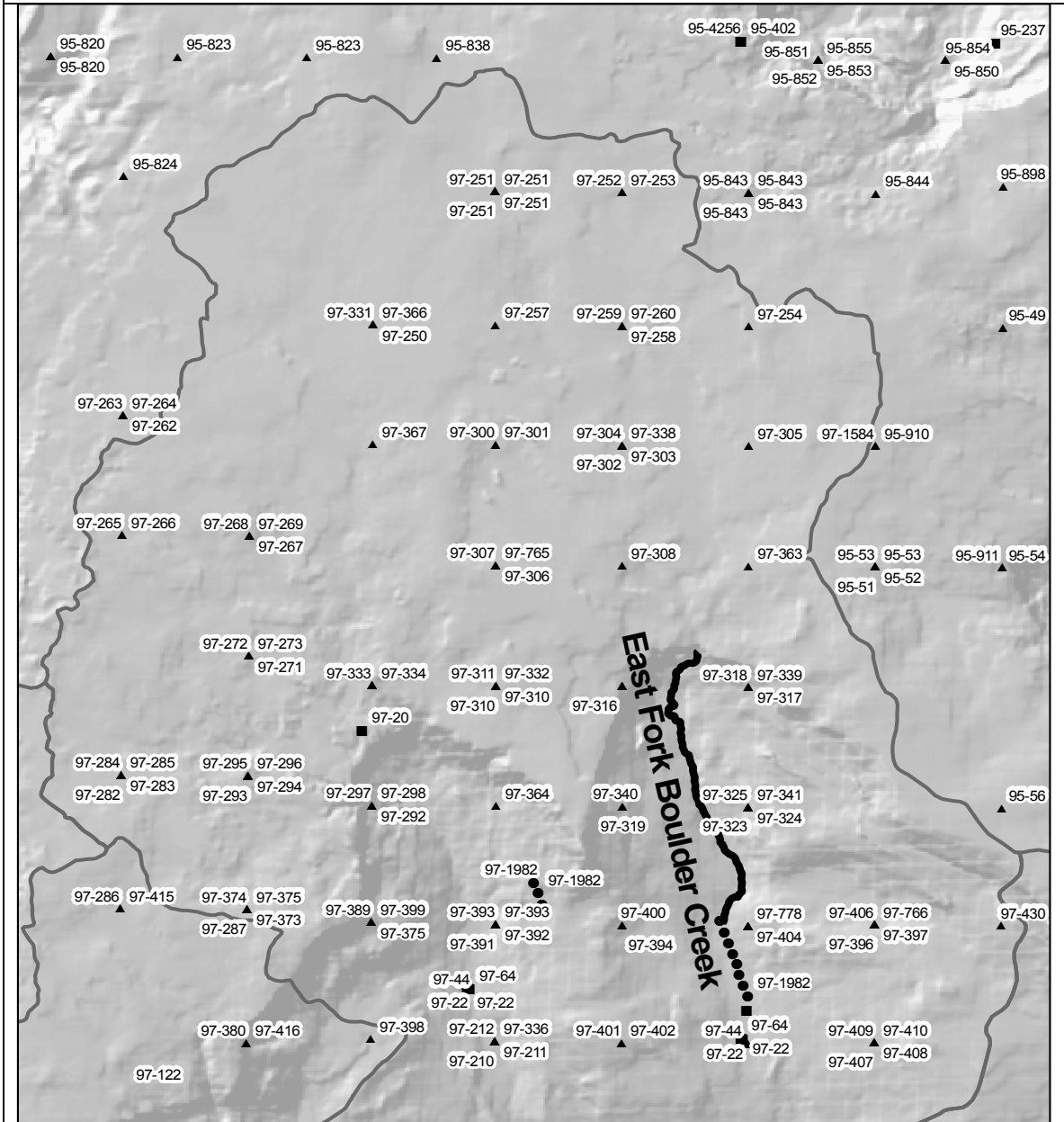


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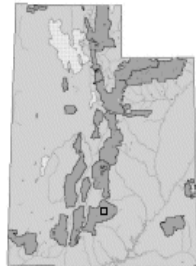


East Fork Boulder Creek

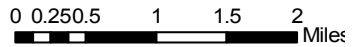
Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
 - ▲ Point to Point
 - Surface
 - Underground
- WSR Segments Classification
 - Recreational
 - - - Scenic
 - Wild

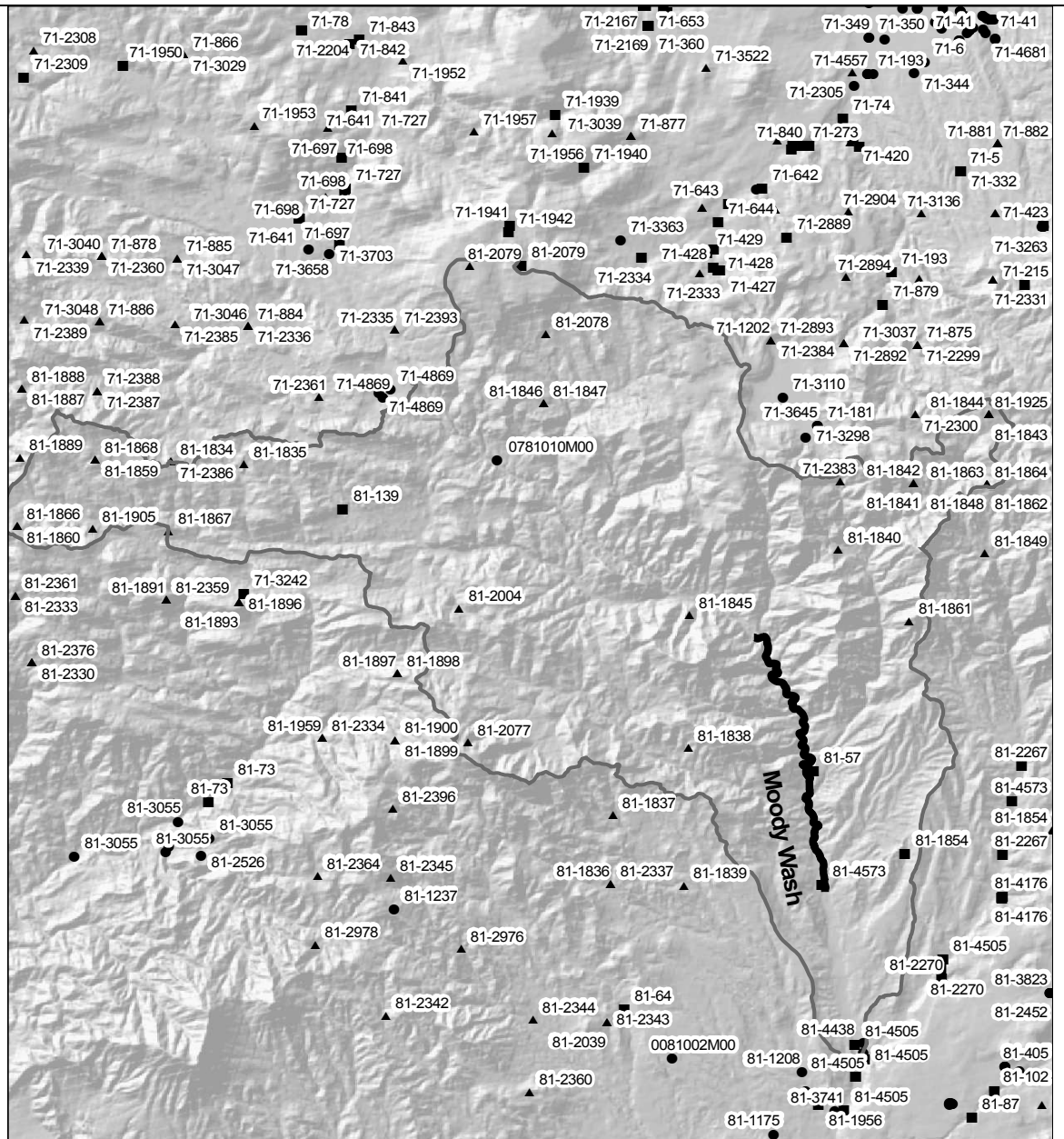









This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.



Moody Wash

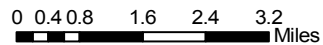
Dixie National Forest, Pine Valley Ranger District



-  Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
-  Point to Point
-  Surface
-  Underground
- WSR Segments
- Classification
-  Recreational
-  Scenic
-  Wild

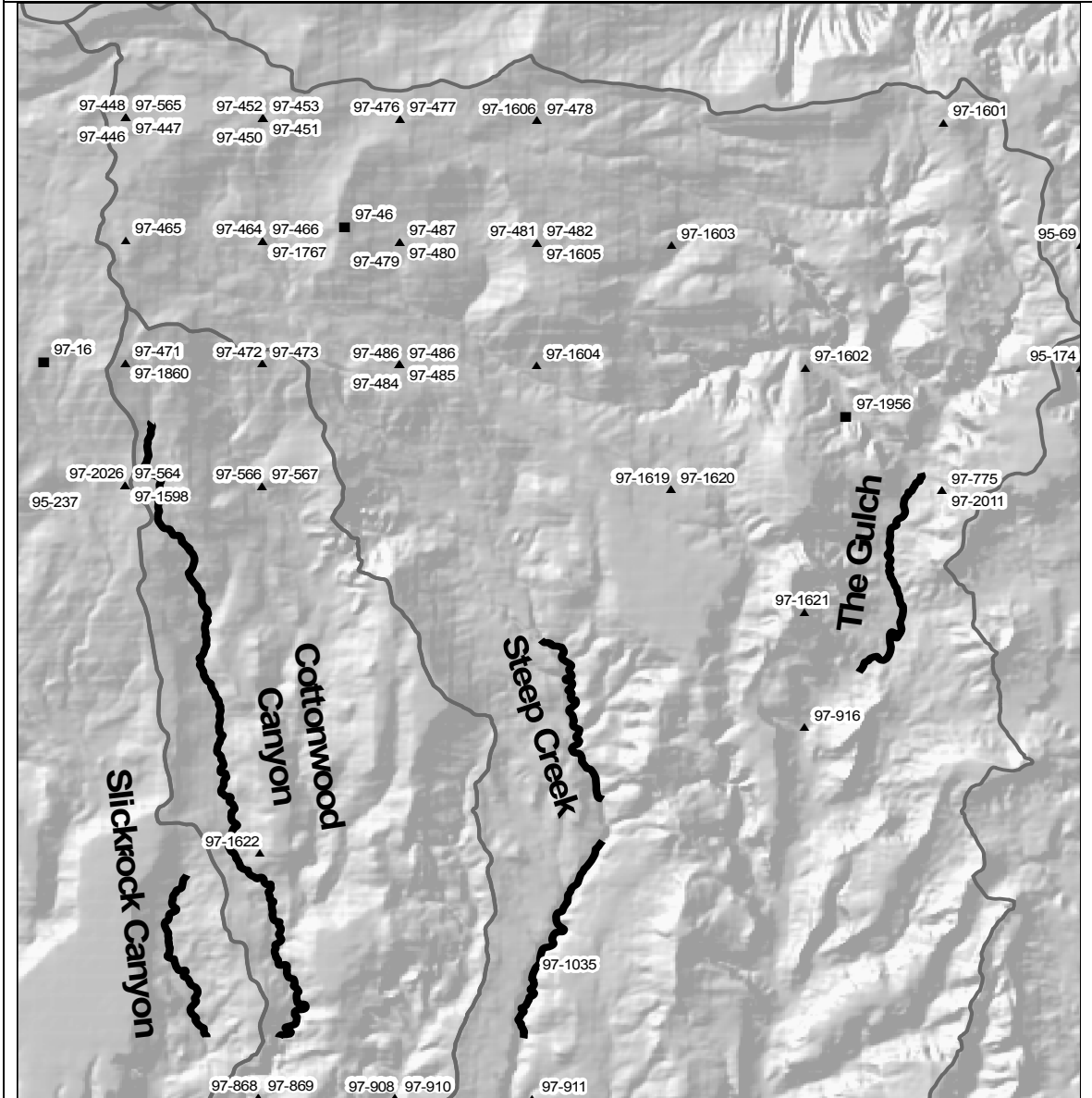


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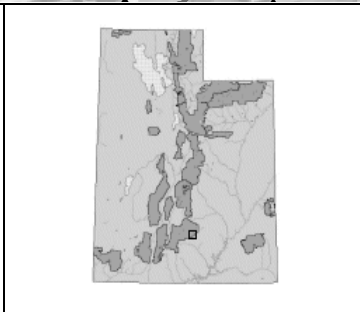


Cottonwood and Slickrock Canyons, Steep Creek, and the Gulch

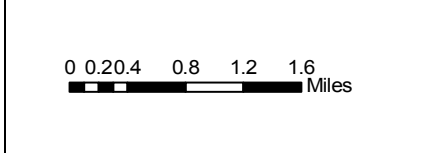
Dixie National Forest, Fremont Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
- Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground
- WSR Segments
- Classification
- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

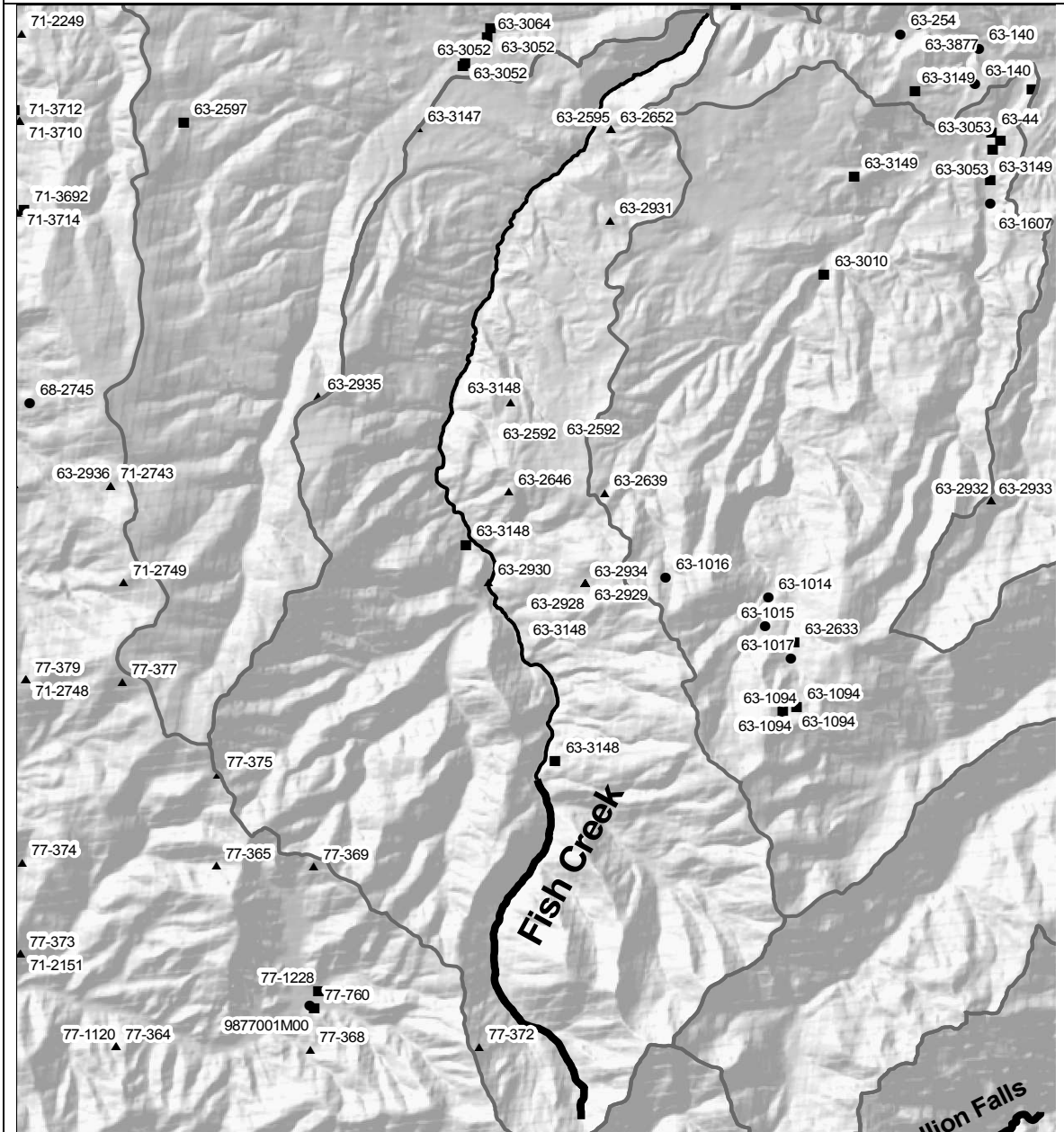









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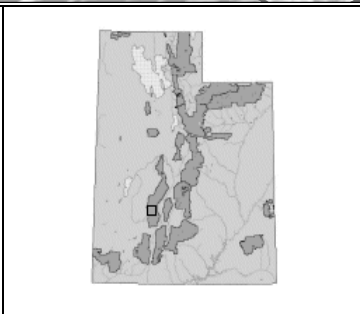


Fish Creek

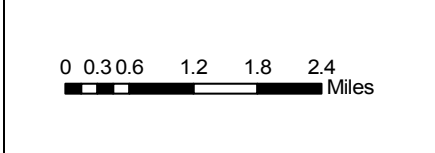
Fishlake National Forest, Beaver Ranger District



 Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 Point to Point
 Surface
 Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 Recreational
 Scenic
 Wild

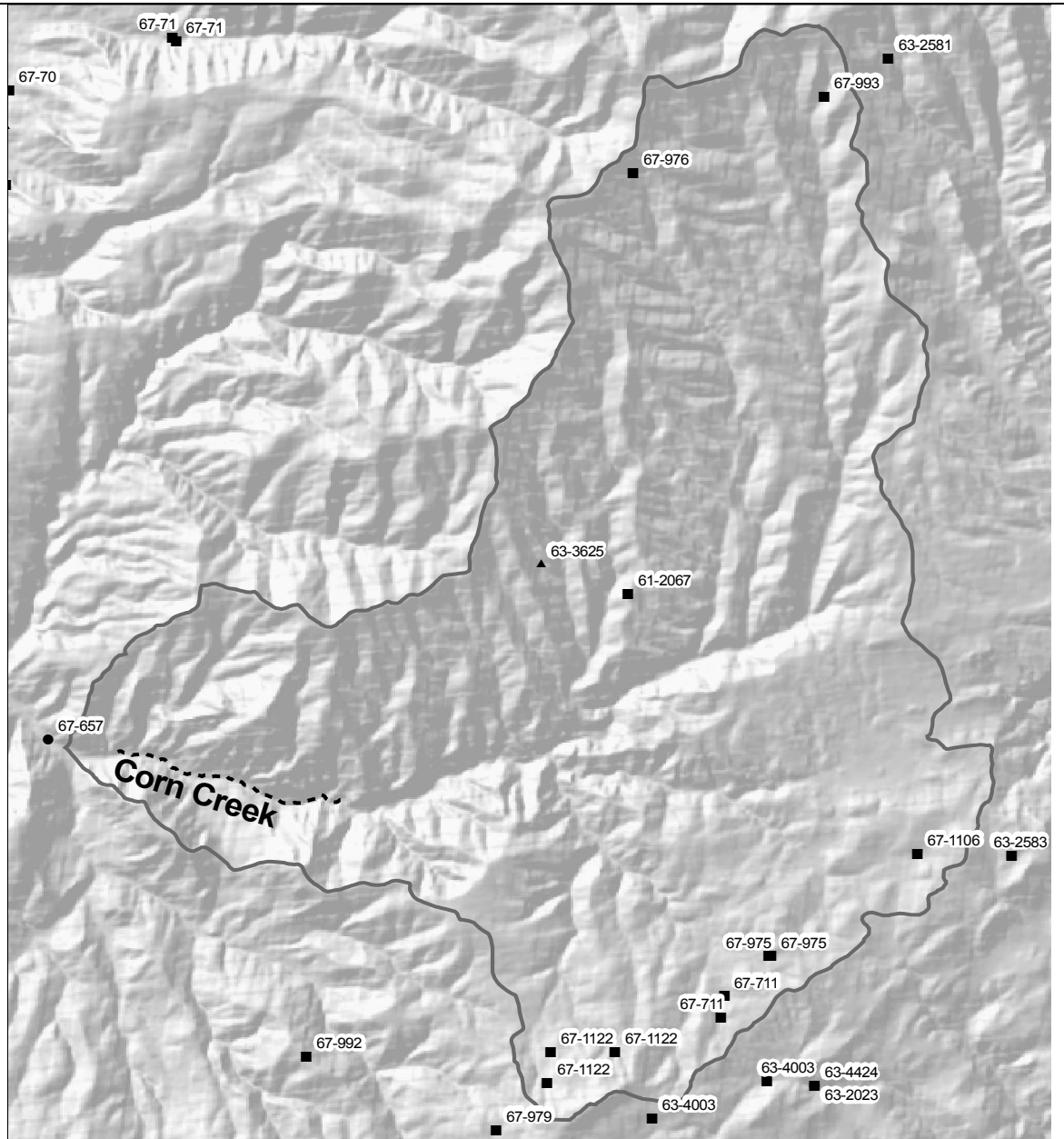












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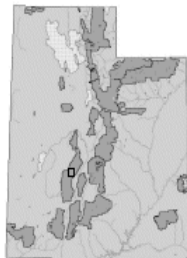


Corn Creek

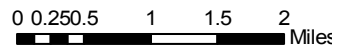
Fishlake National Forest, Fillmore Ranger District



-  Watersheds
-  Points of Diversion
-  Point to Point
-  Surface
-  Underground
-  WSR Segments
-  Classification
-  Recreational
-  Scenic
-  Wild

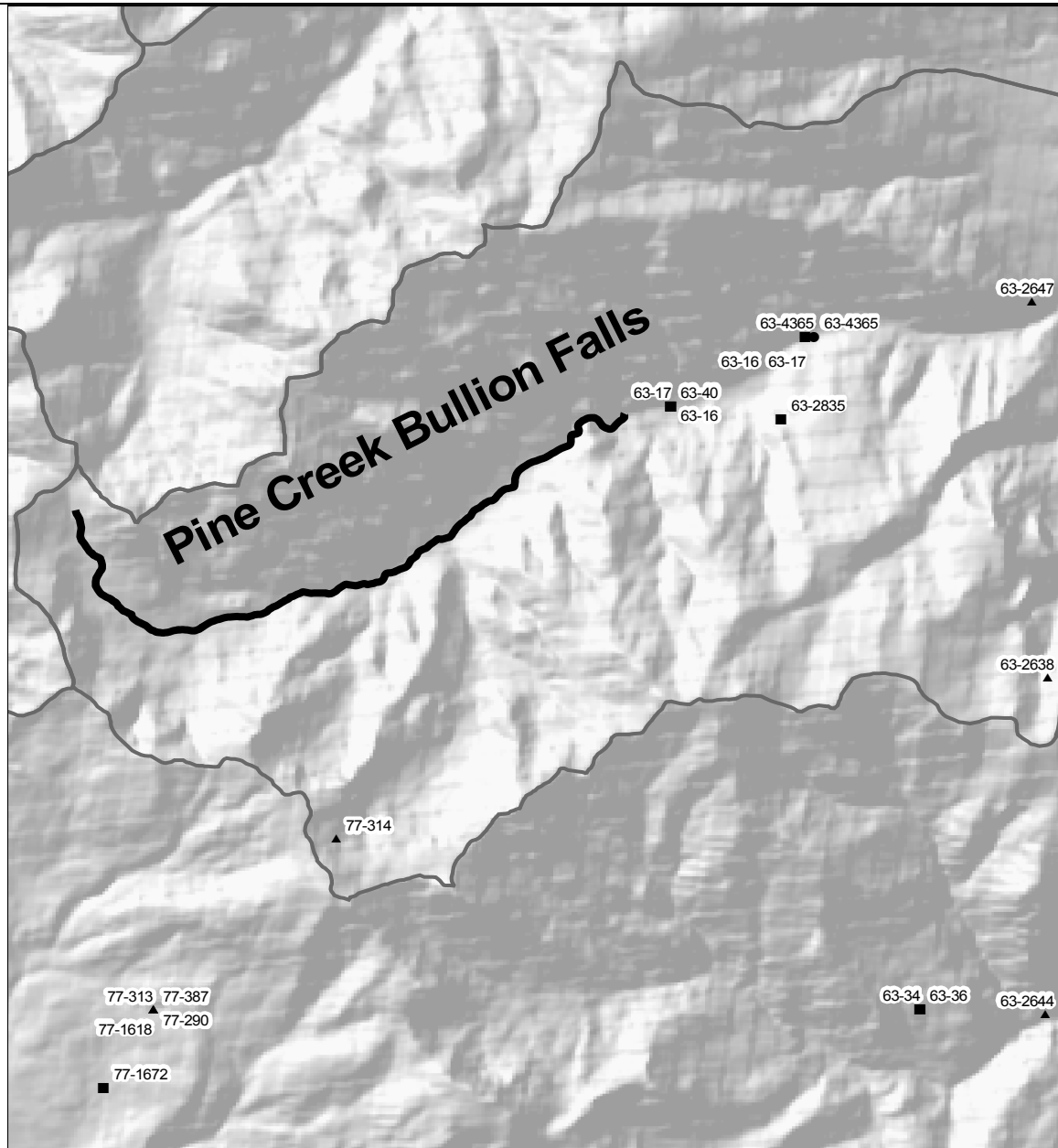


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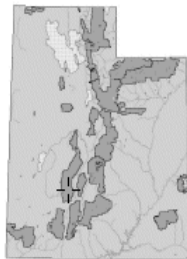


Pine Creek/Bullion Falls

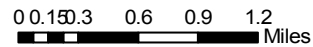
Fishlake National Forest, Beaver Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
- ▲ Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground
- WSR Segments
- Classification
- Recreational
- - - Scenic
- Wild

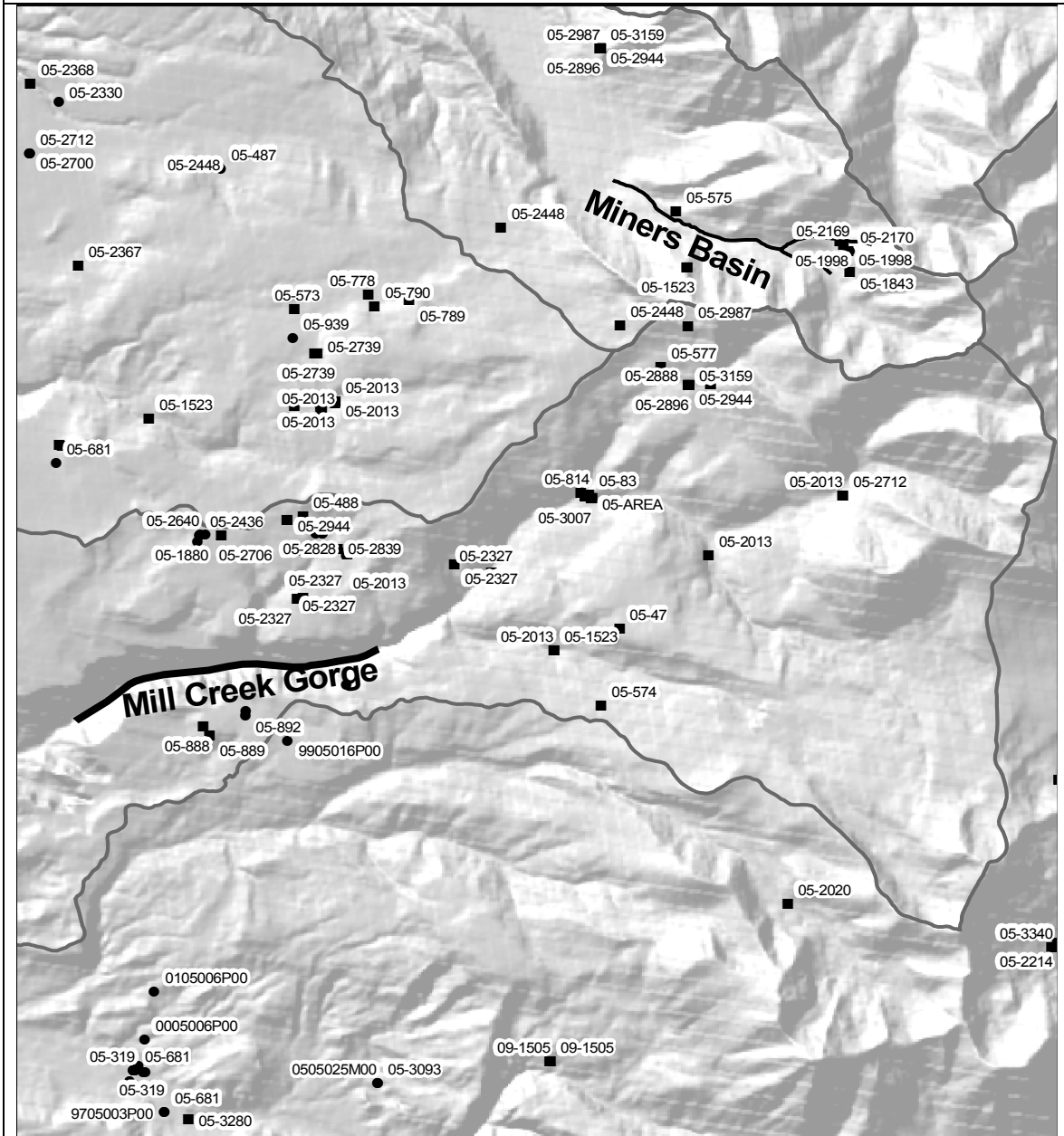


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

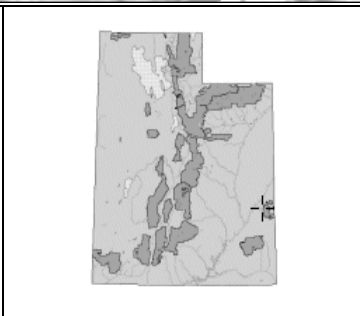


Miners Basin and Mill Creek Gorge

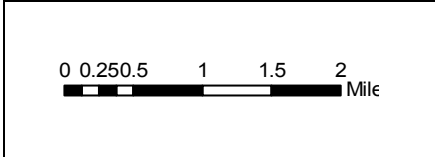
Manti-La Sal National Forest, Moab Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
- ▲ Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground
- WSR Segments
- Classification
- Recreational
- - - Scenic
- ▬ Wild

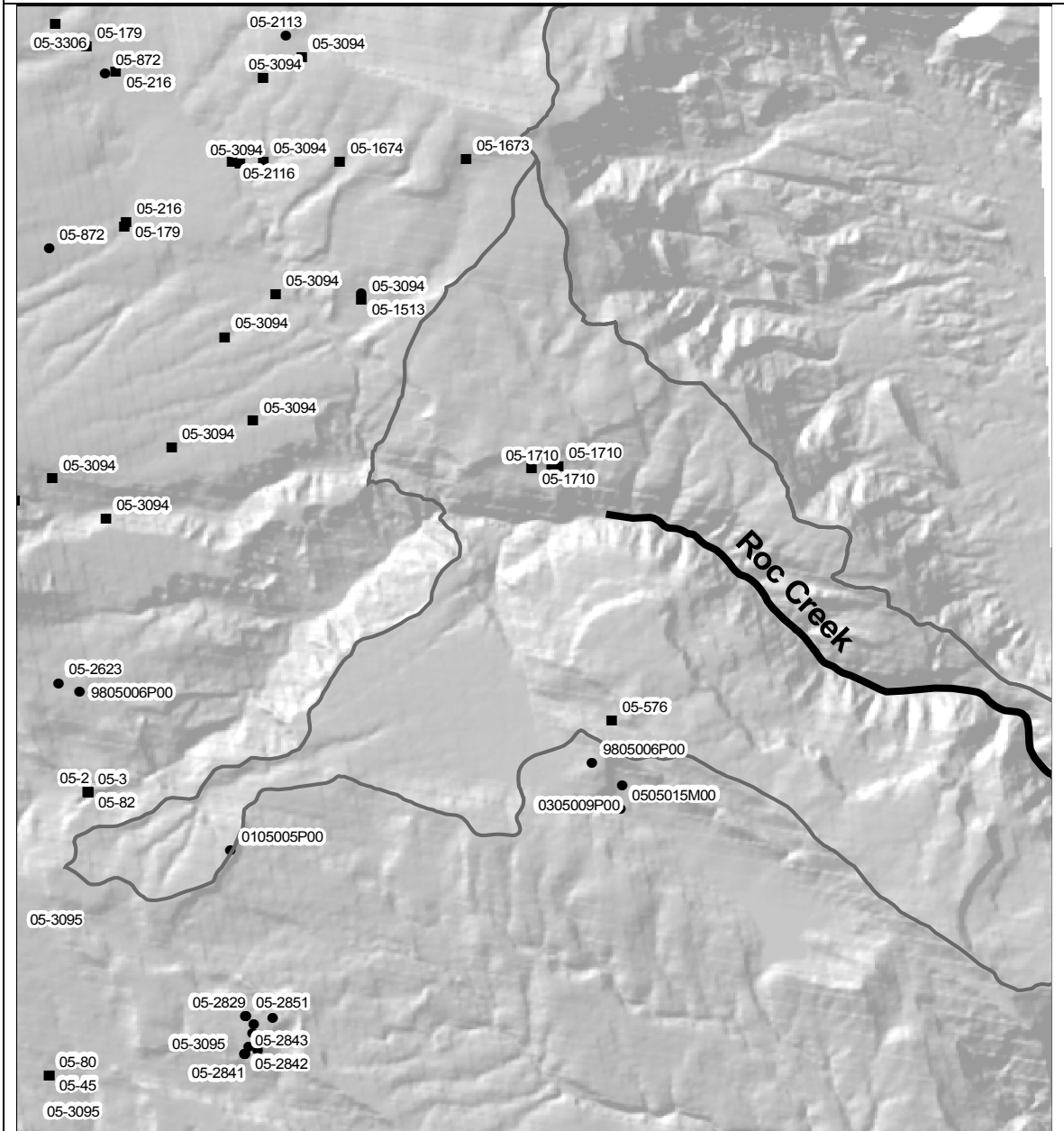


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

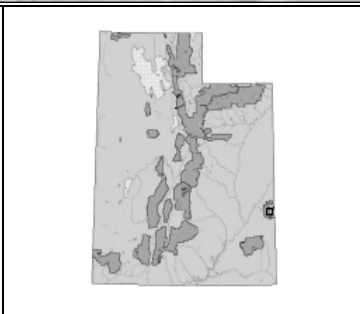


Roc Creek (Utah portion)

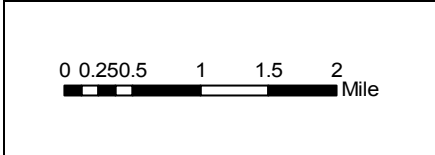
Manti-La Sal National Forest, Moab Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
- ▲ Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground
- WSR Segments Classification
- Recreational
- - - Scenic
- ▬ Wild

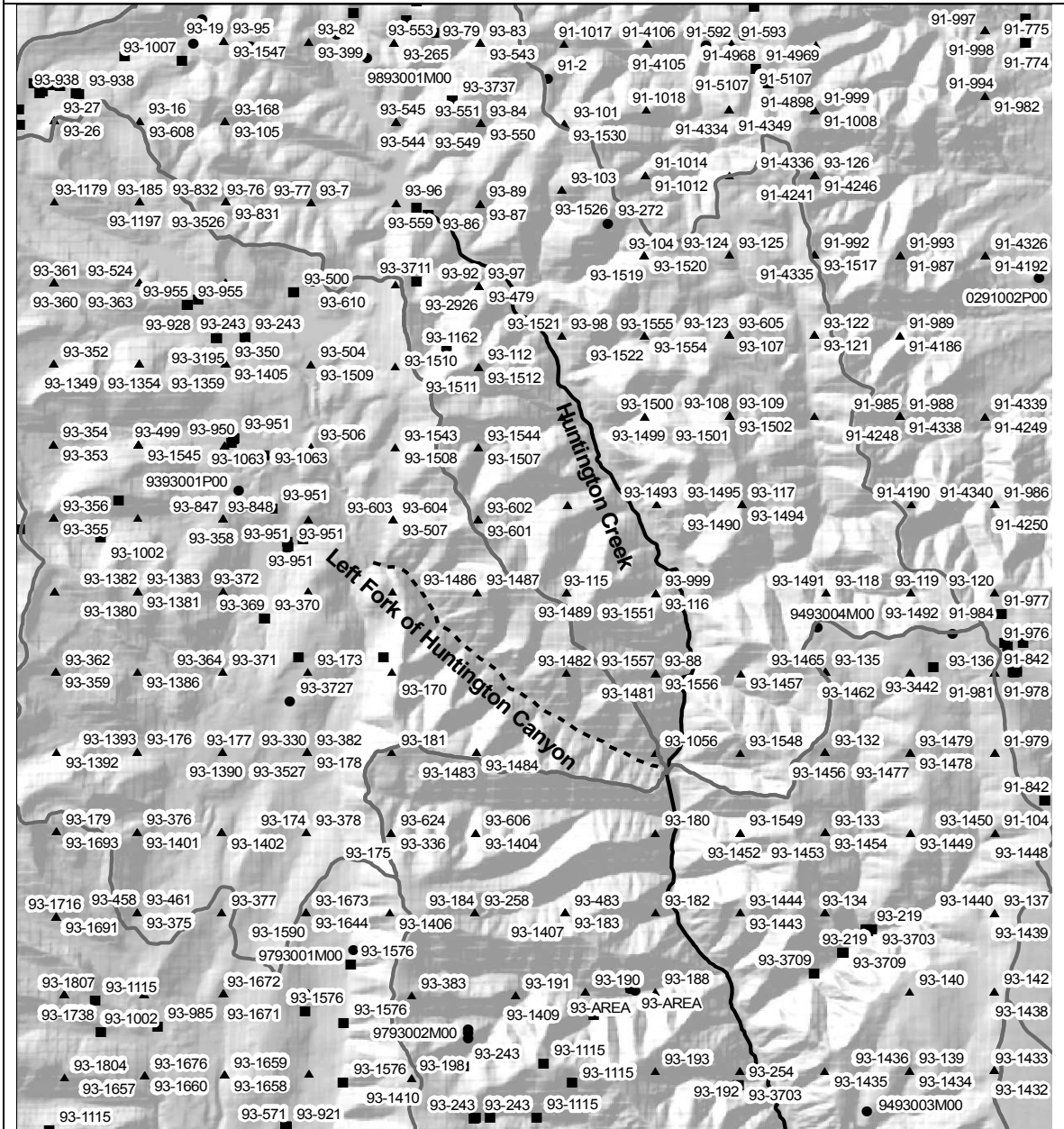


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

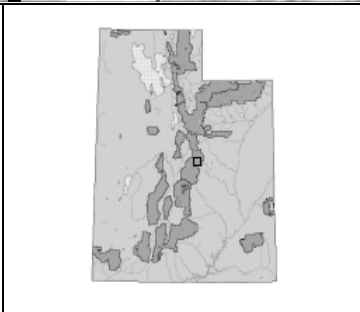


Huntington and Left Fork Huntington Creeks

Manti-La Sal National Forest, Ferron/Price Ranger District



Watersheds
 Point to Point
 Surface
 Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 Recreational
 Scenic
 Wild

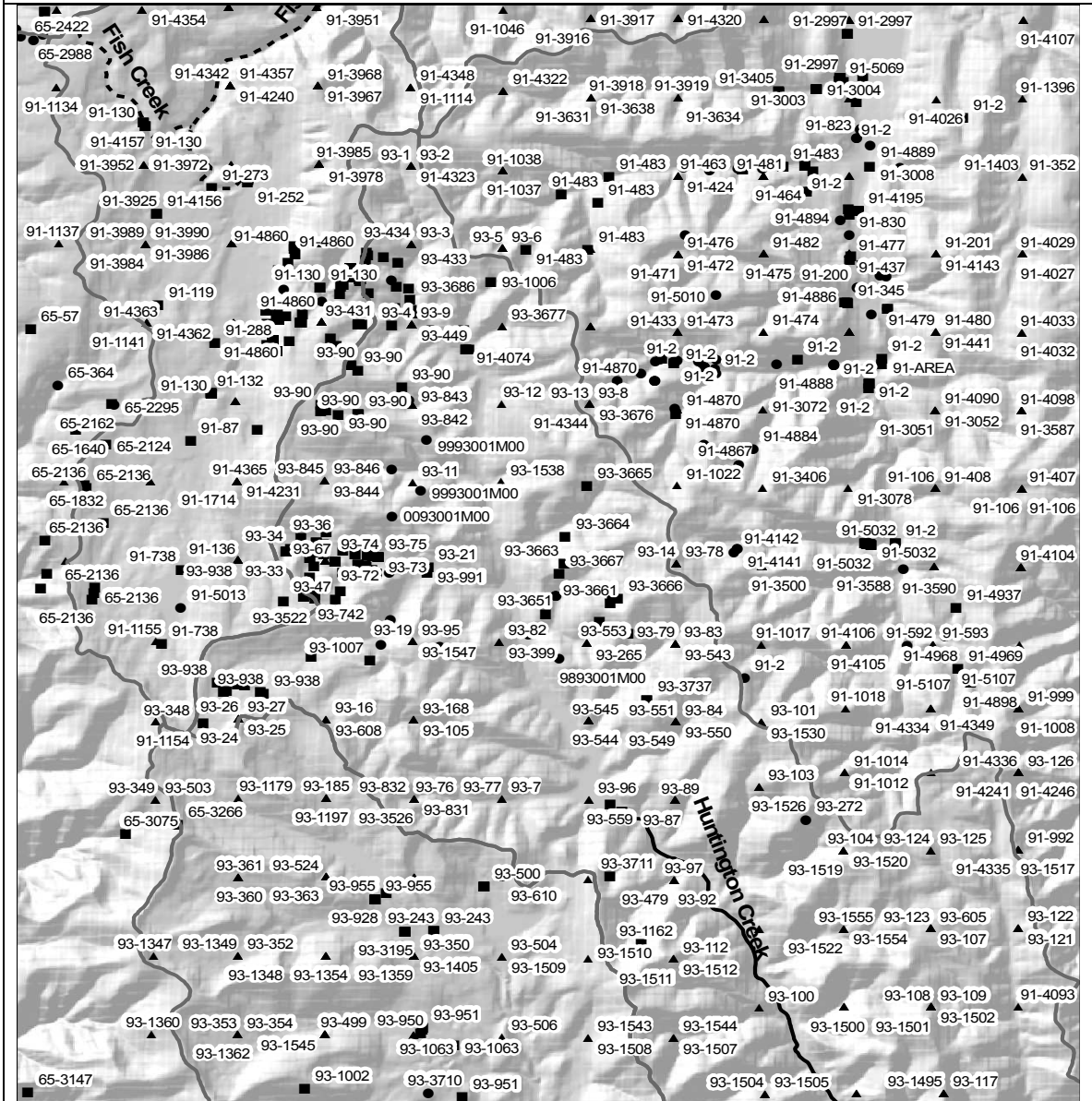










This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

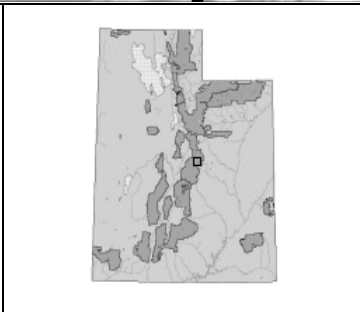
0 0.350.7 1.4 2.1 2.8 Miles
 N

Upper Left Fork Huntington and Huntington, and Upper Fish Creeks

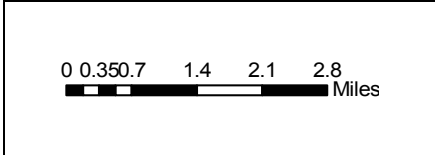
Manti-La Sal National Forest, Ferron/Price Ranger District



 Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 Point to Point
 Surface
 Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 Recreational
 Scenic
 Wild

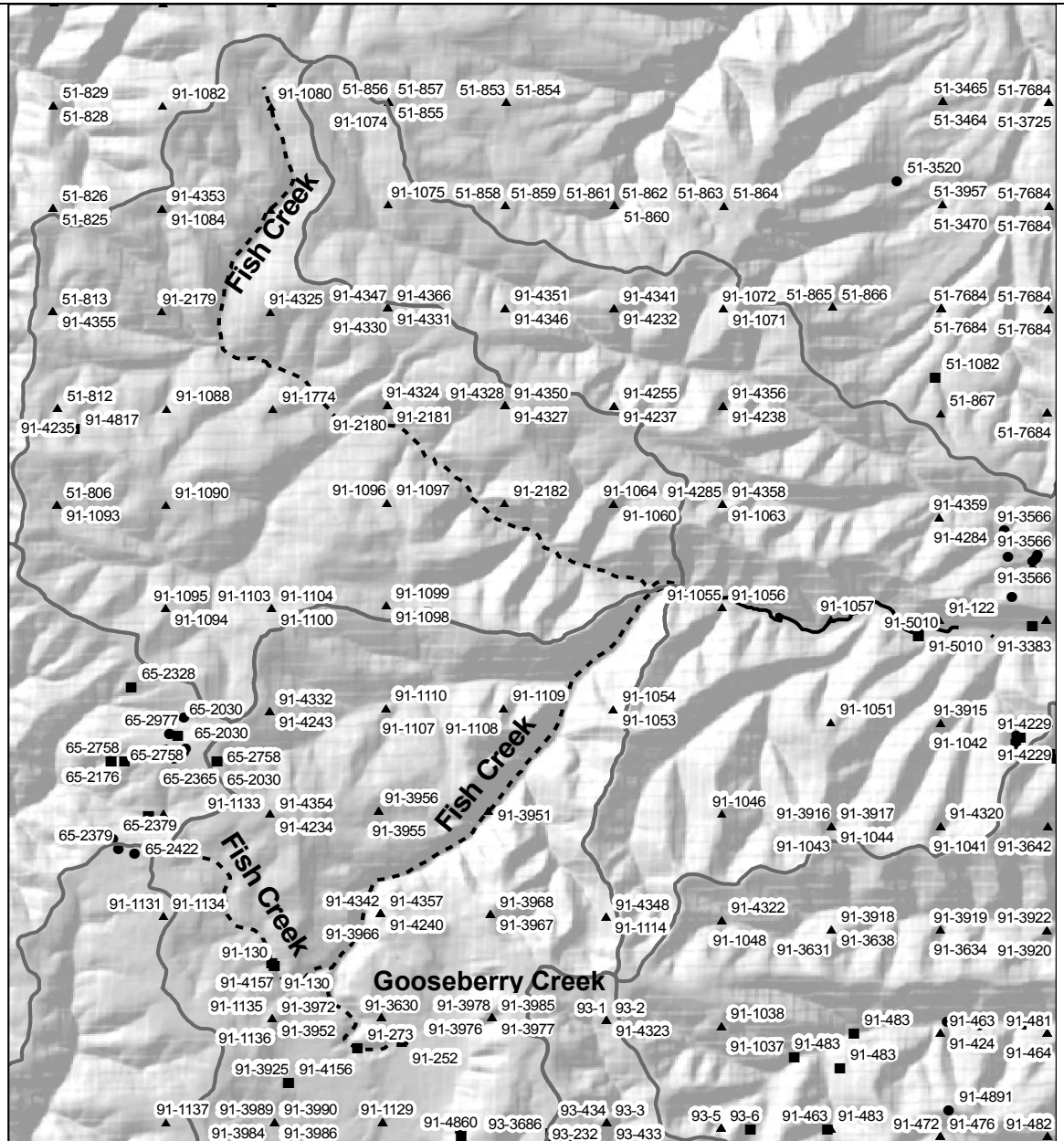


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.



Fish and Gooseberry Creeks

Manti-La Sal National Forest, Ferron/Price Ranger District



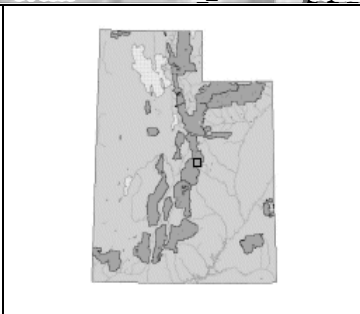
Watersheds

Points of Diversion

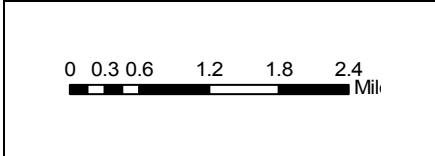
- Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground

WSR Segments Classification

- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

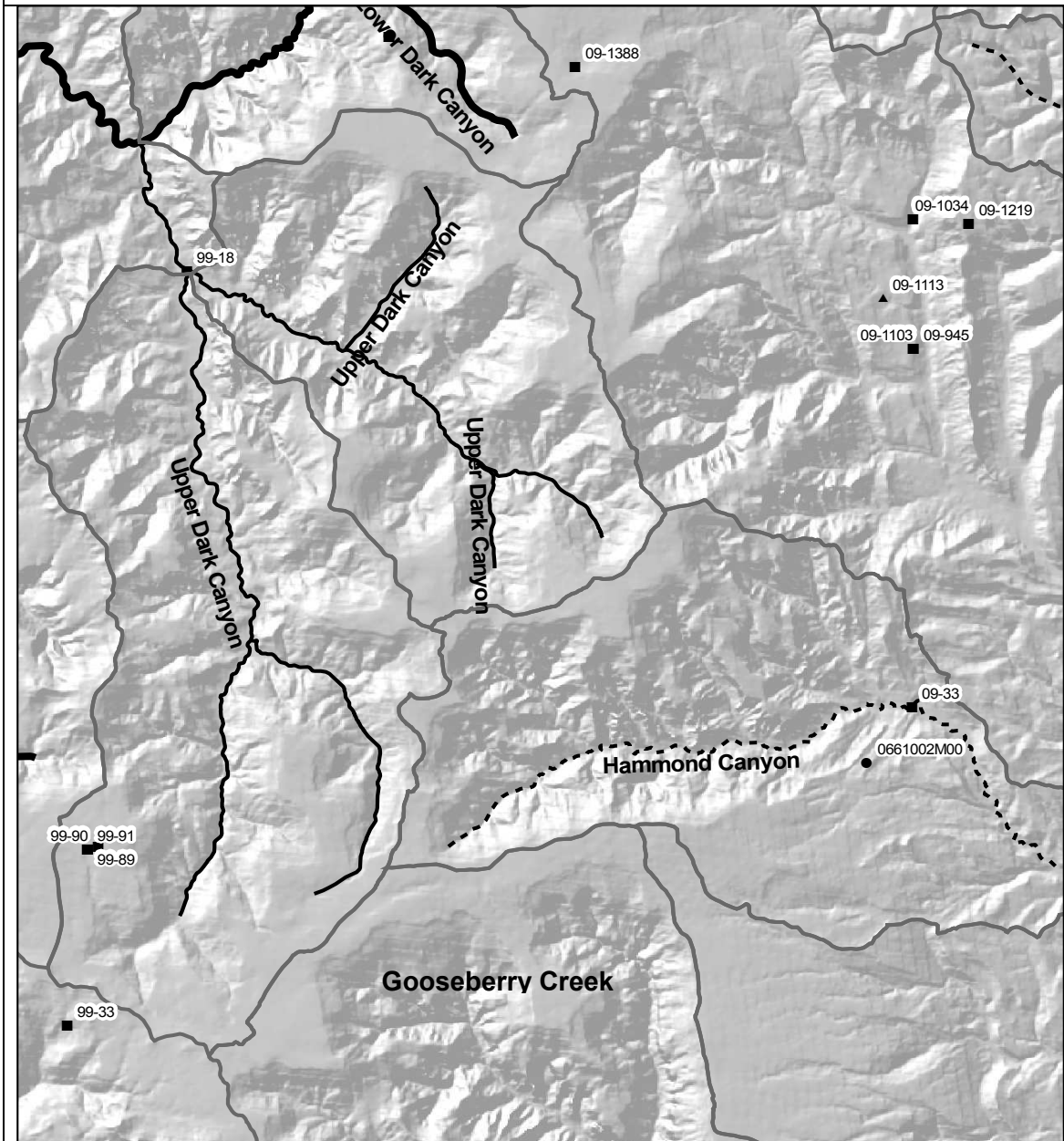


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

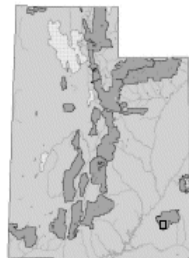


Hammond Canyon and Upper Dark Canyon

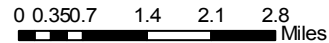
Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
 - Point to Point
 - Surface
 - Underground
- WSR Segments Classification
 - Recreational
 - Scenic
 - Wild

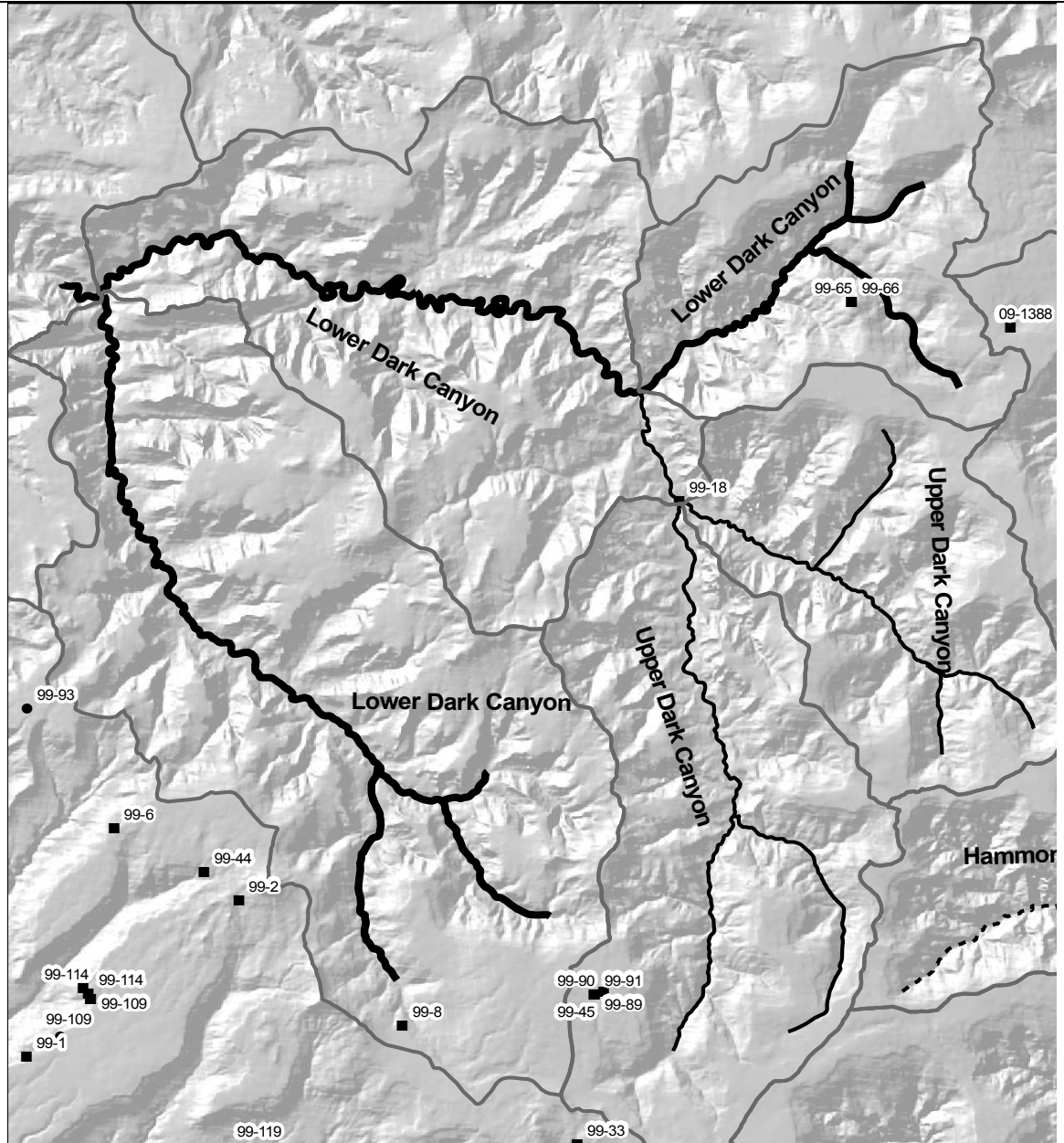


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.



Lower Dark Canyon and Upper Dark Canyon

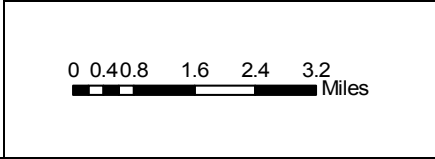
Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District



Watersheds
 Point to Point
 Surface
 Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 Recreational
 Scenic
 Wild

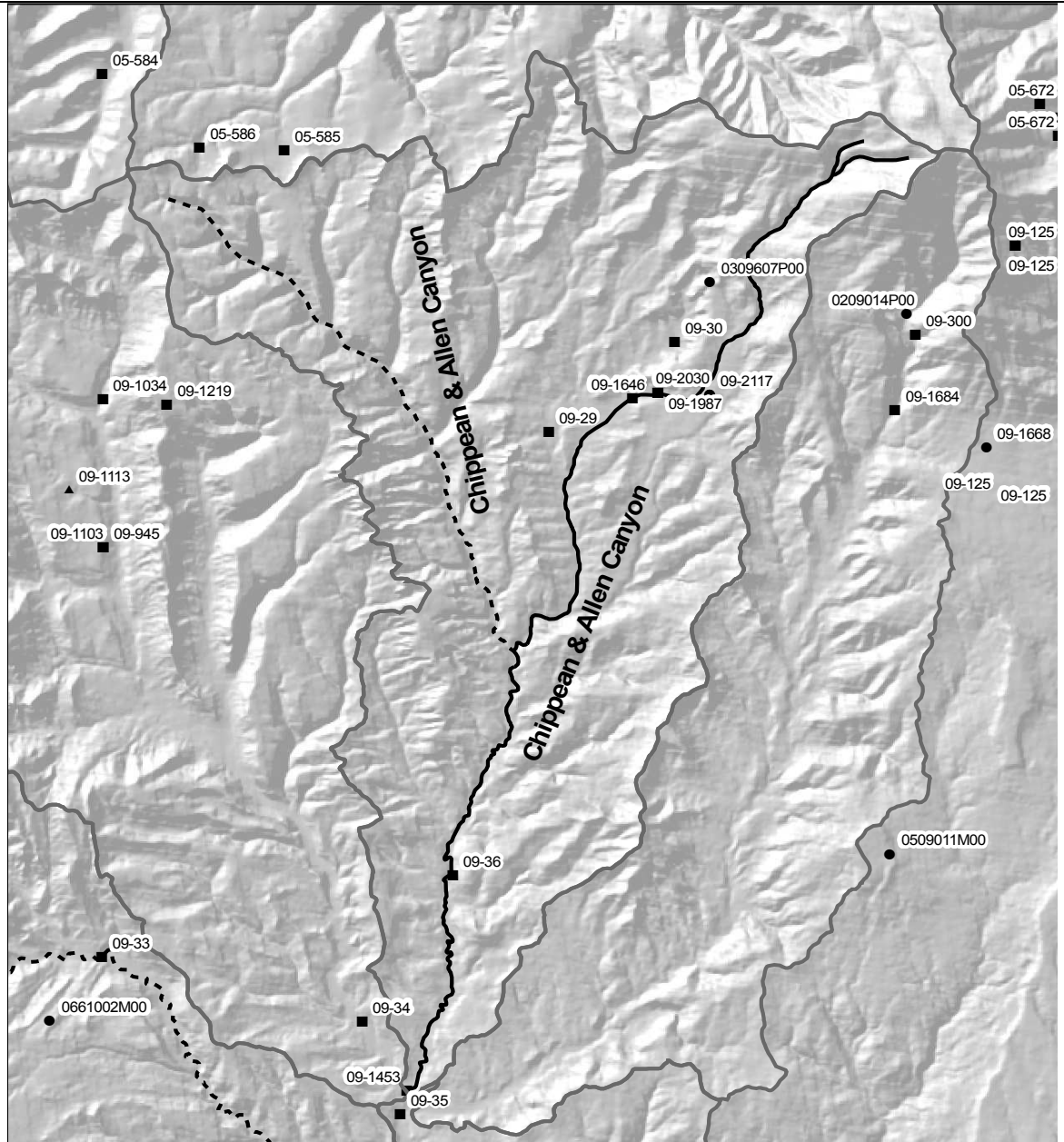


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

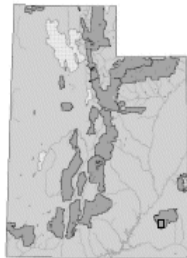


Chippean and Allen Canyons

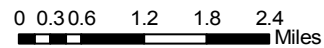
Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground
- WSR Segments
- Classification
- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

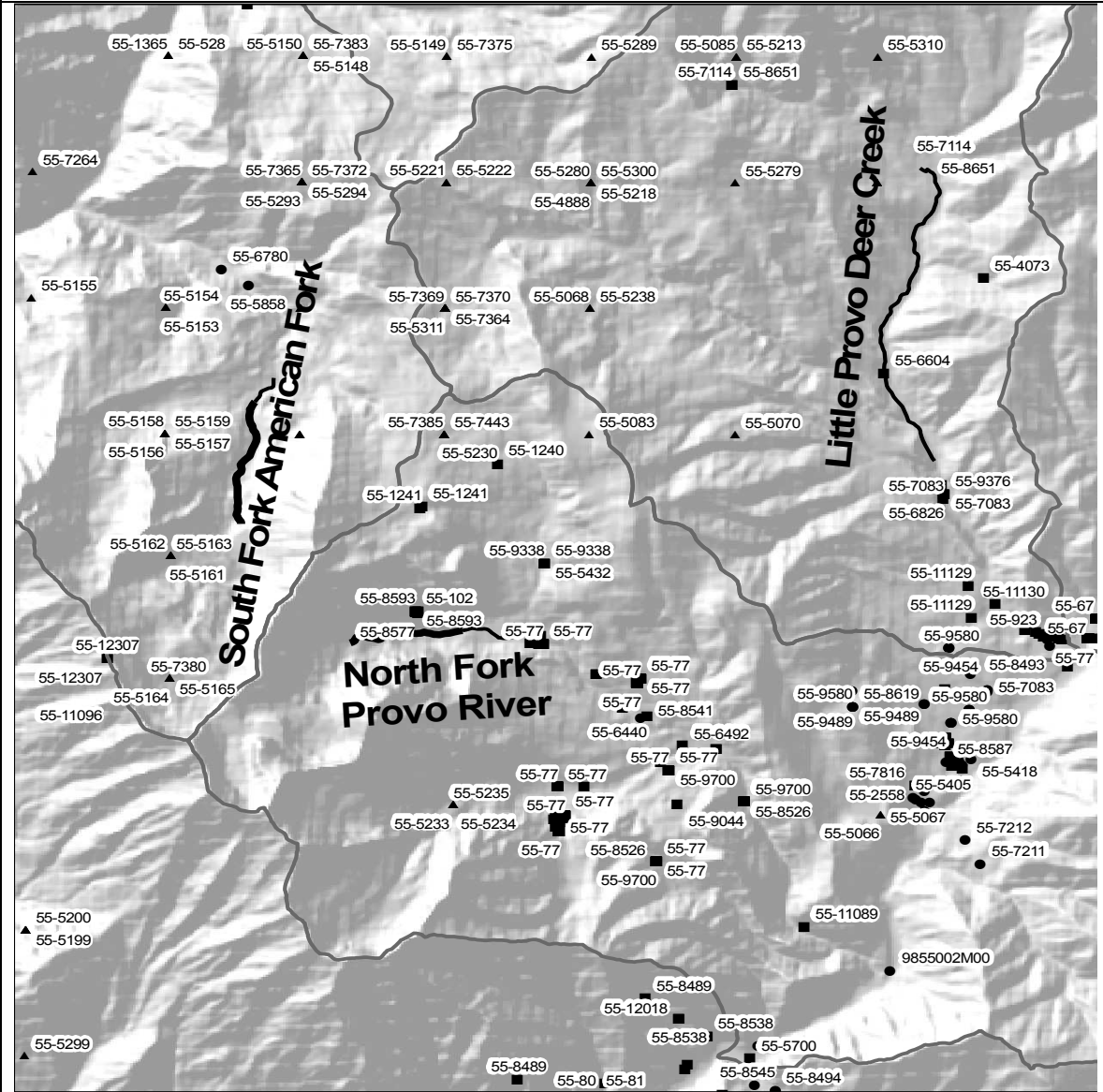


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.



North Fork Provo, South Fork American Fork and Little Provo Deer Creek

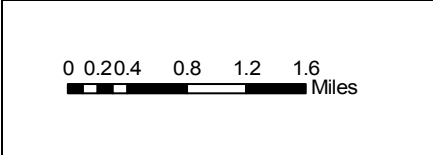
Uinta National Forest, Pleasant Grove Ranger District



Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 Point to Point
 Surface
 Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 Recreational
 Scenic
 Wild

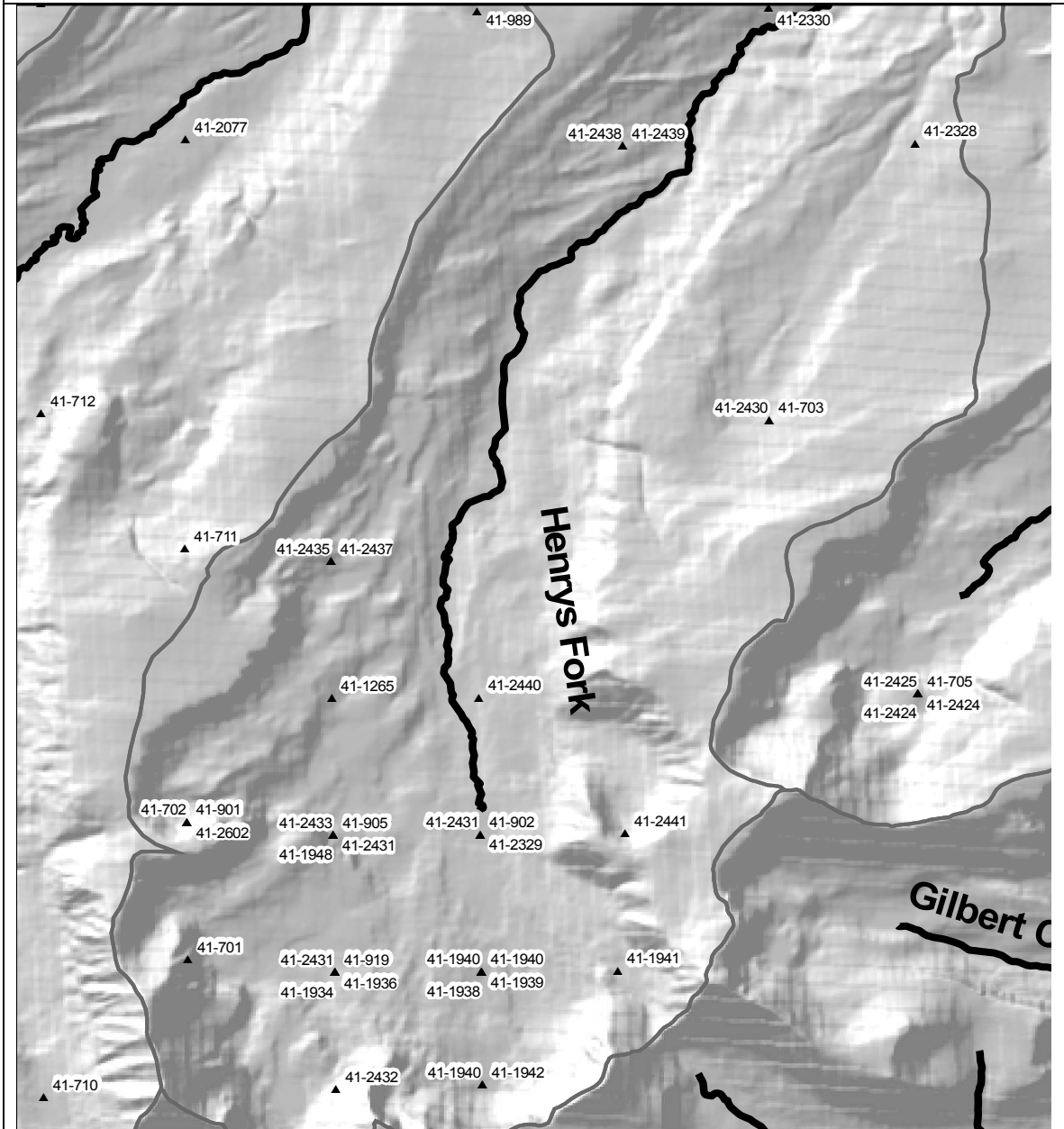


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.



Henry's Fork

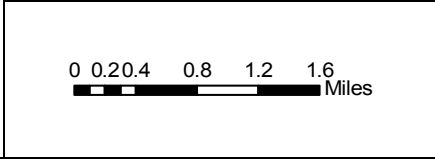
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District



Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 Point to Point
 Surface
 Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 Recreational
 Scenic
 Wild

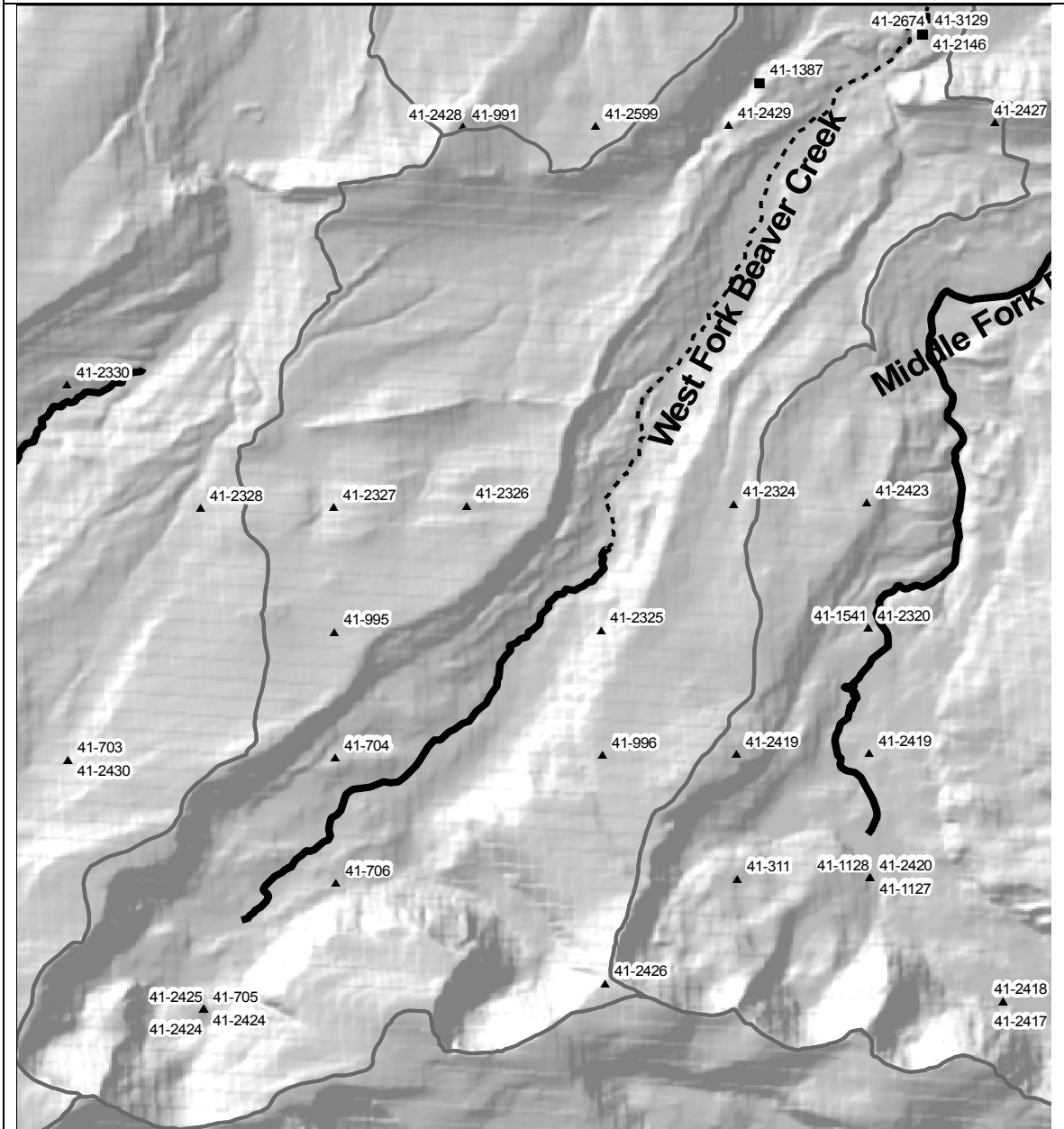


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.



West Fork Beaver Creek

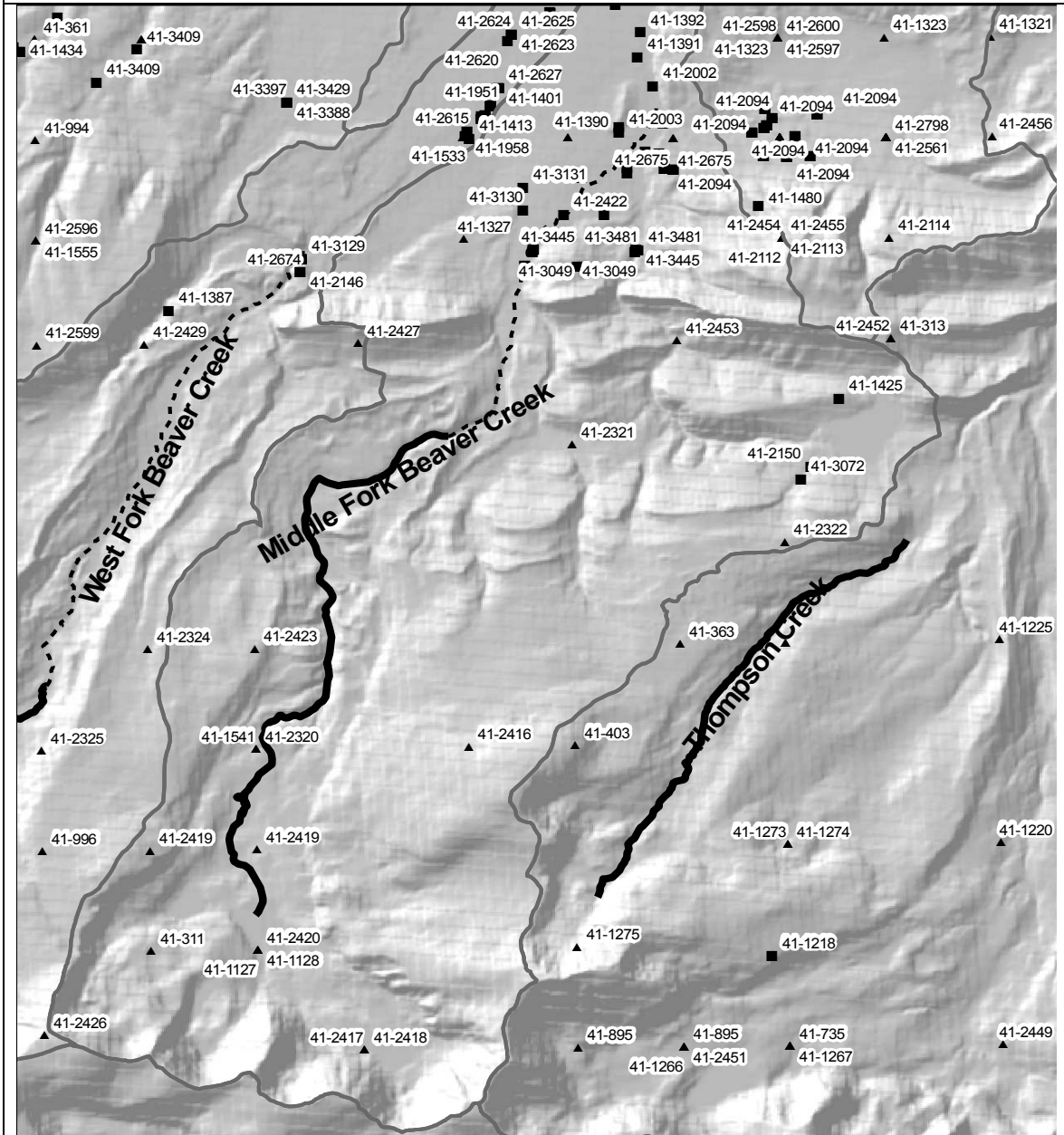
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District



<p> Watersheds Points of Diversion Point to Point Surface Underground WSR Segments Classification Recreational Scenic Wild </p>		<p>This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.</p>	

Middle Fork Beaver Creek and Thompson Creek

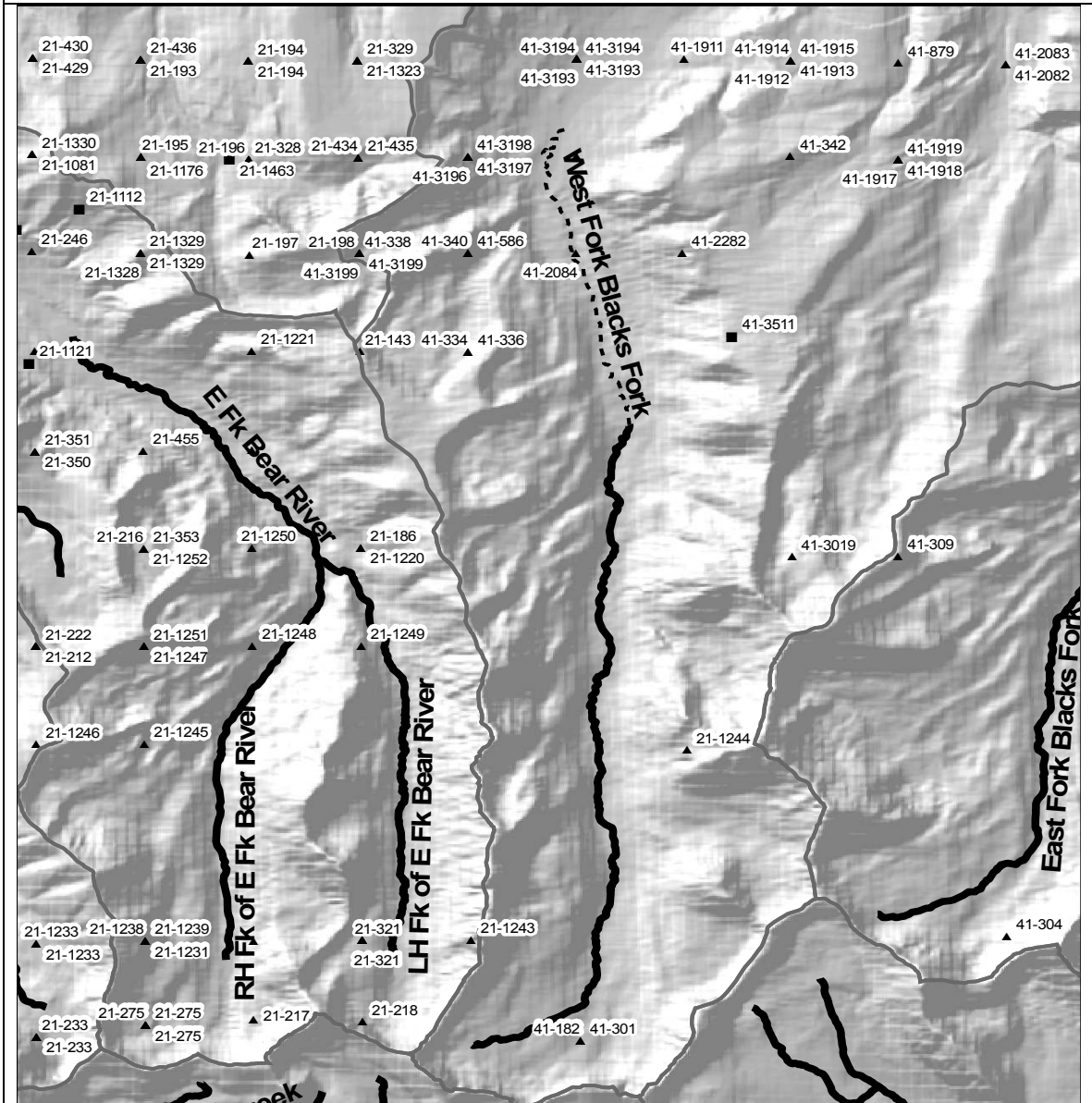
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District



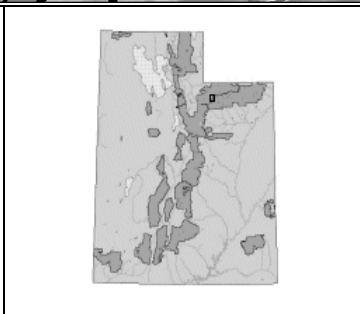
<p> Watersheds</p> <p>Points of Diversion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Point to Point Surface Underground <p>WSR Segments Classification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recreational Scenic Wild 		<p>This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.</p>	

West Fork Blacks Fork, and the Left, Right and East Fork Bear River

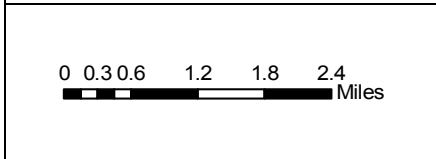
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District



Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 ▲ Point to Point
 ■ Surface
 ● Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 — Recreational
 - - - Scenic
 — Wild

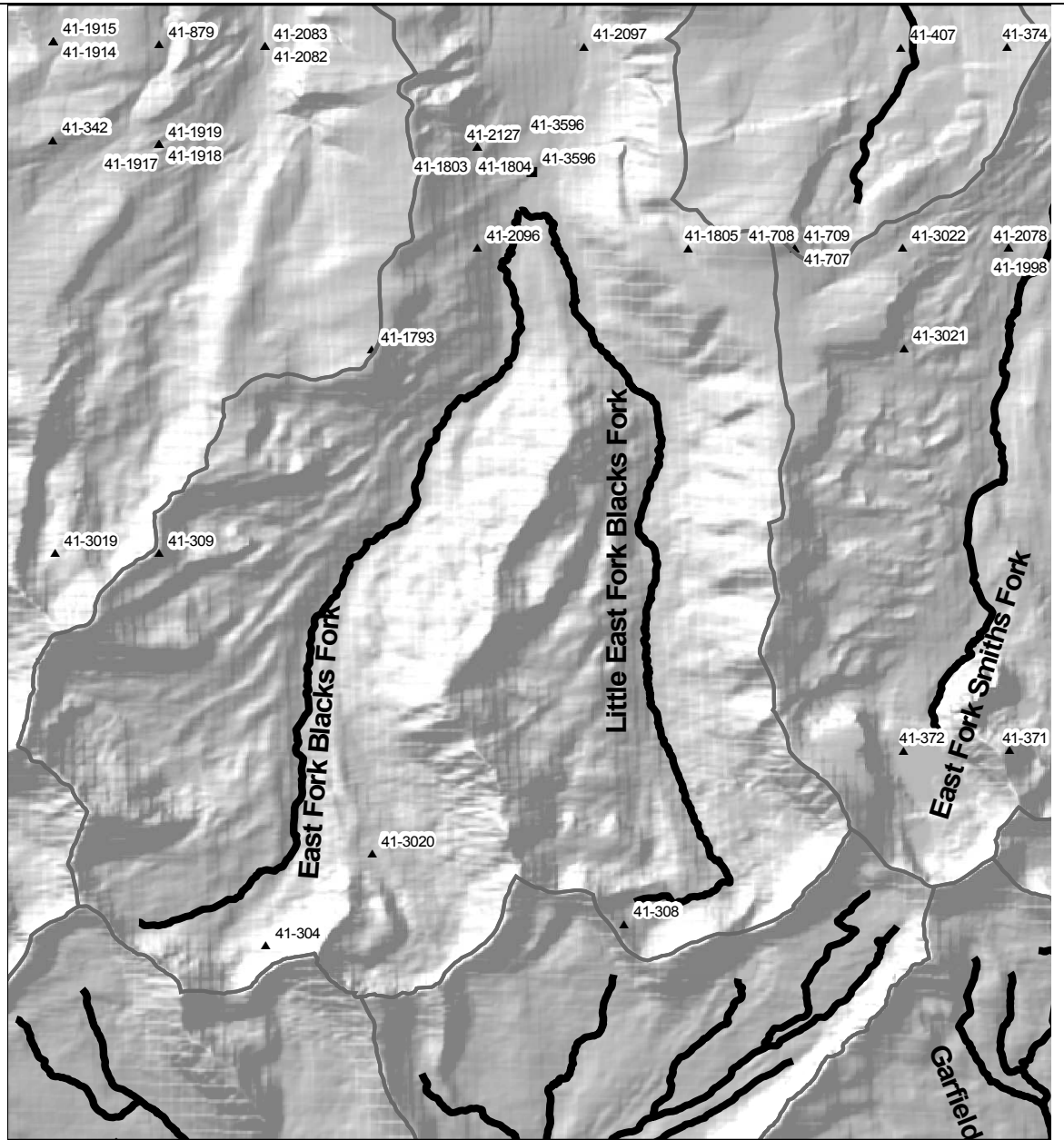










This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

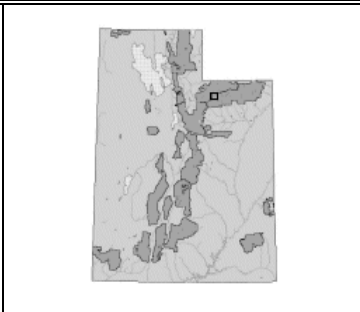


East Fork Blacks Fork and Little East Fork

Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District



 Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 Point to Point
 Surface
 Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 Recreational
 Scenic
 Wild



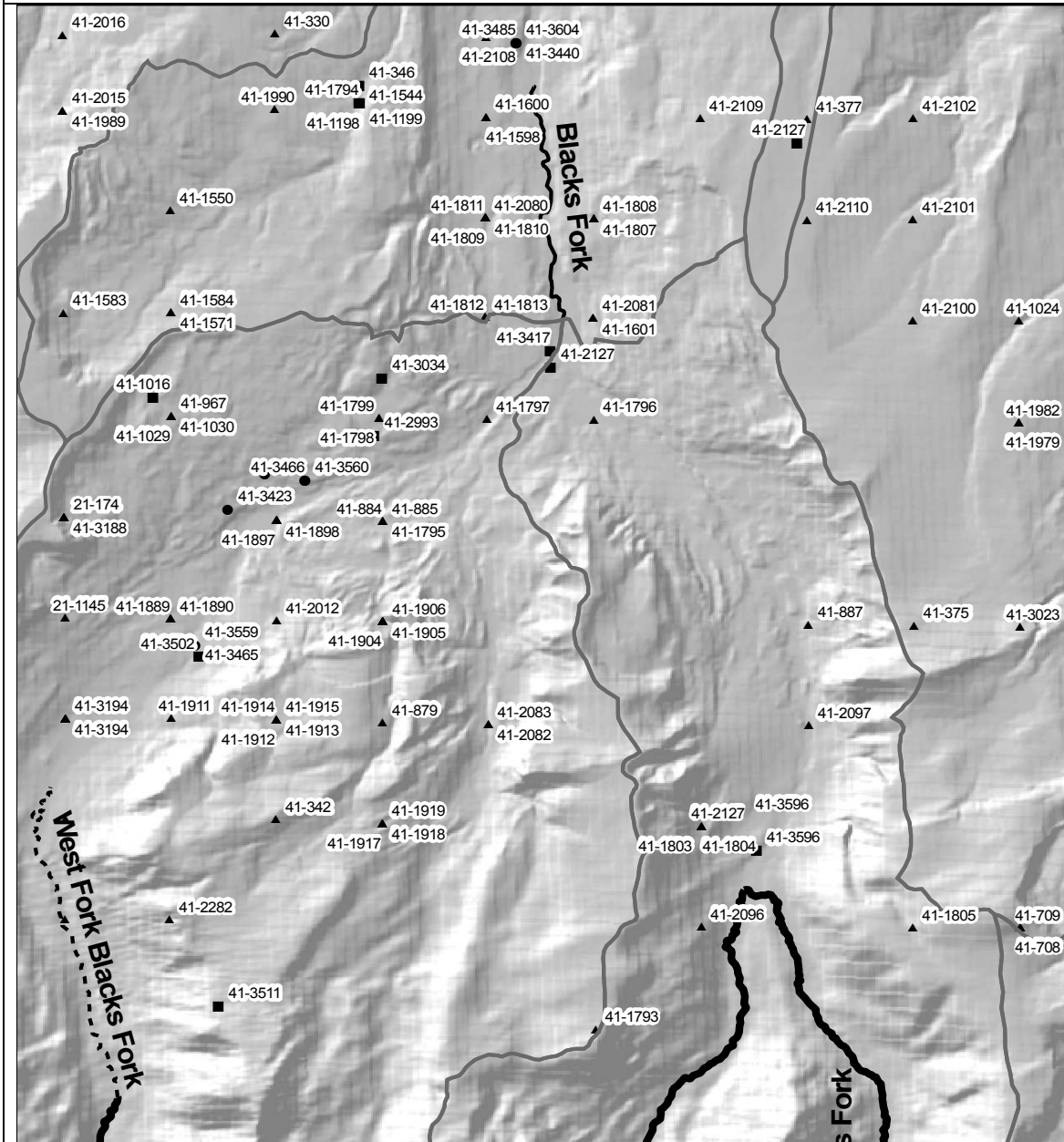
This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 Miles

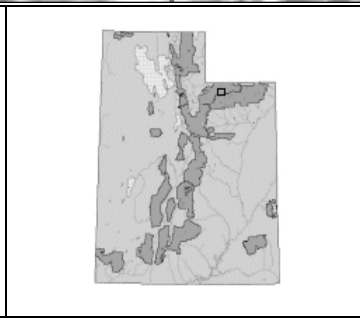


Blacks Fork

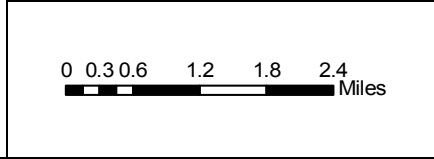
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
- Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground
- WSR Segments Classification
- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

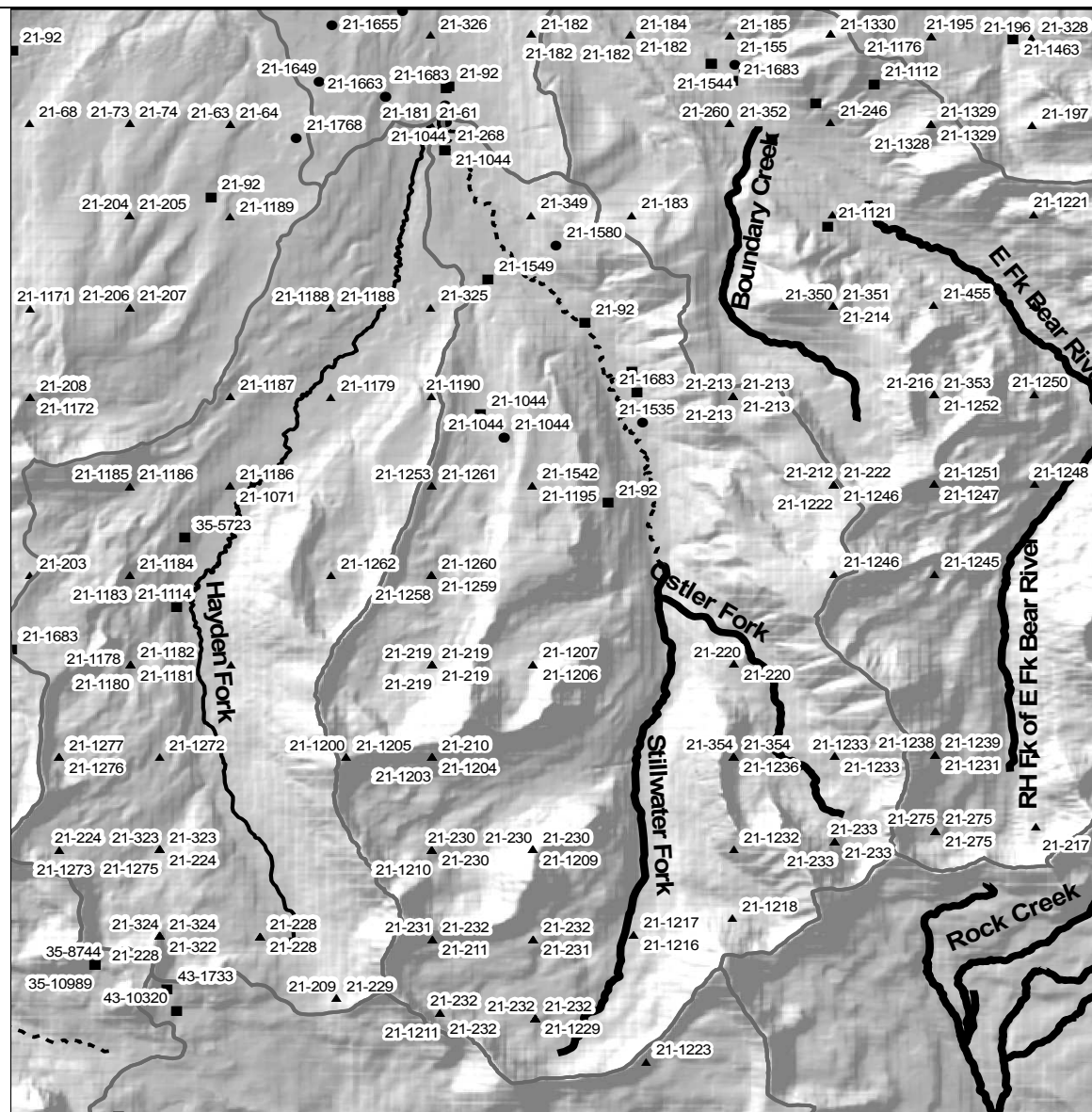


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

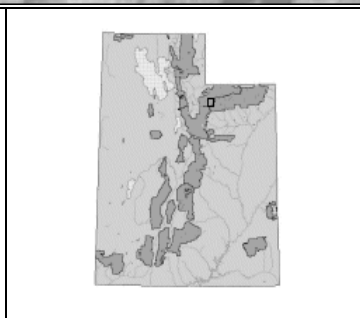


Hayden Fork, Stillwater Fork, Ostler Fork and Boundary Creek

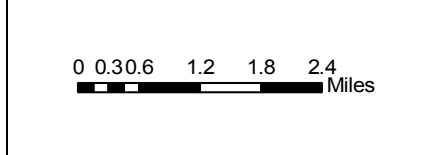
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
- ▲ Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground
- WSR Segments
- Classification
- Recreational
- - - Scenic
- Wild

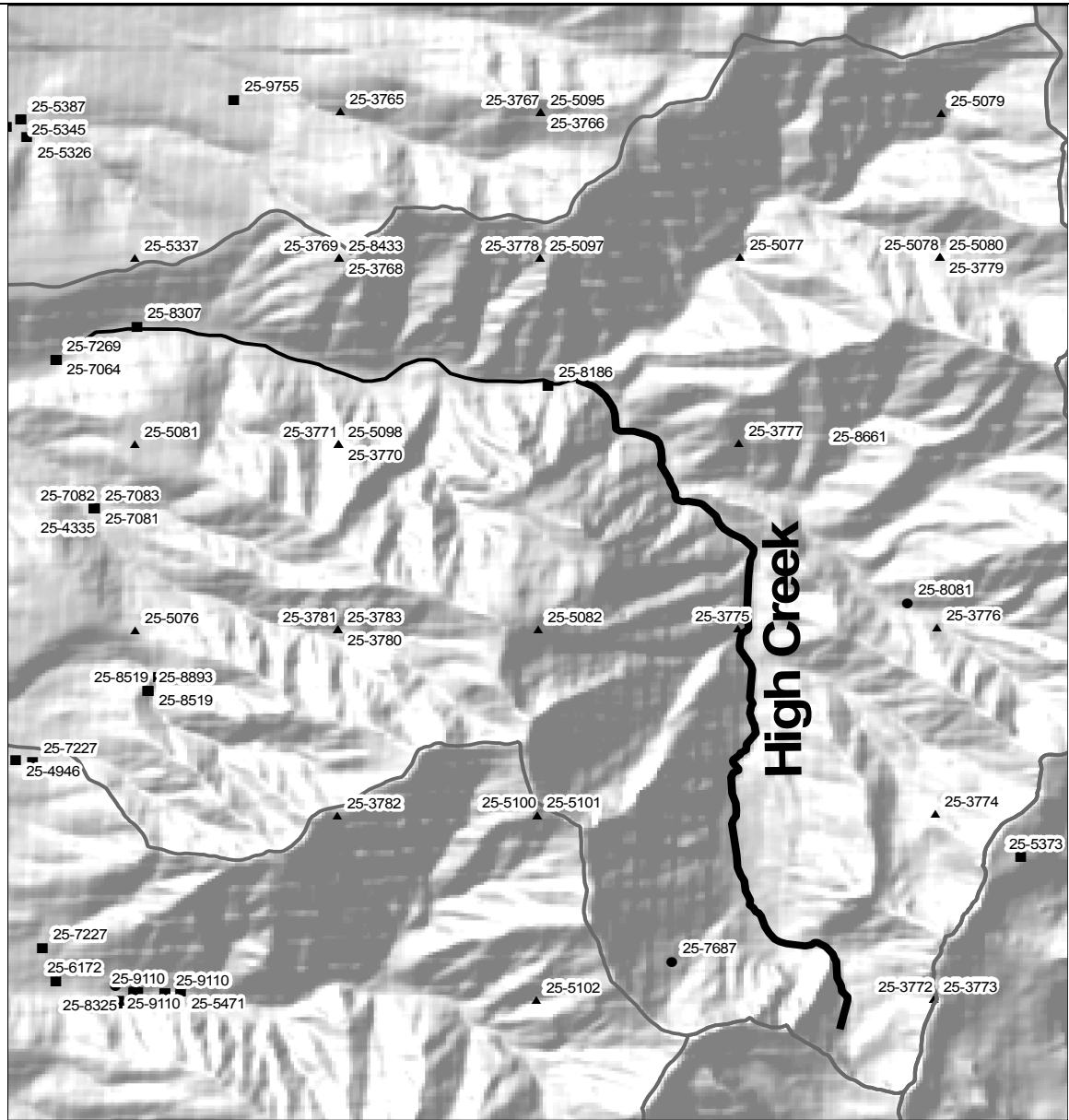


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

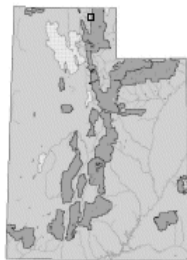


High Creek

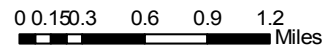
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
 - Point to Point
 - Surface
 - Underground
- WSR Segments Classification
 - Recreational
 - Scenic
 - Wild

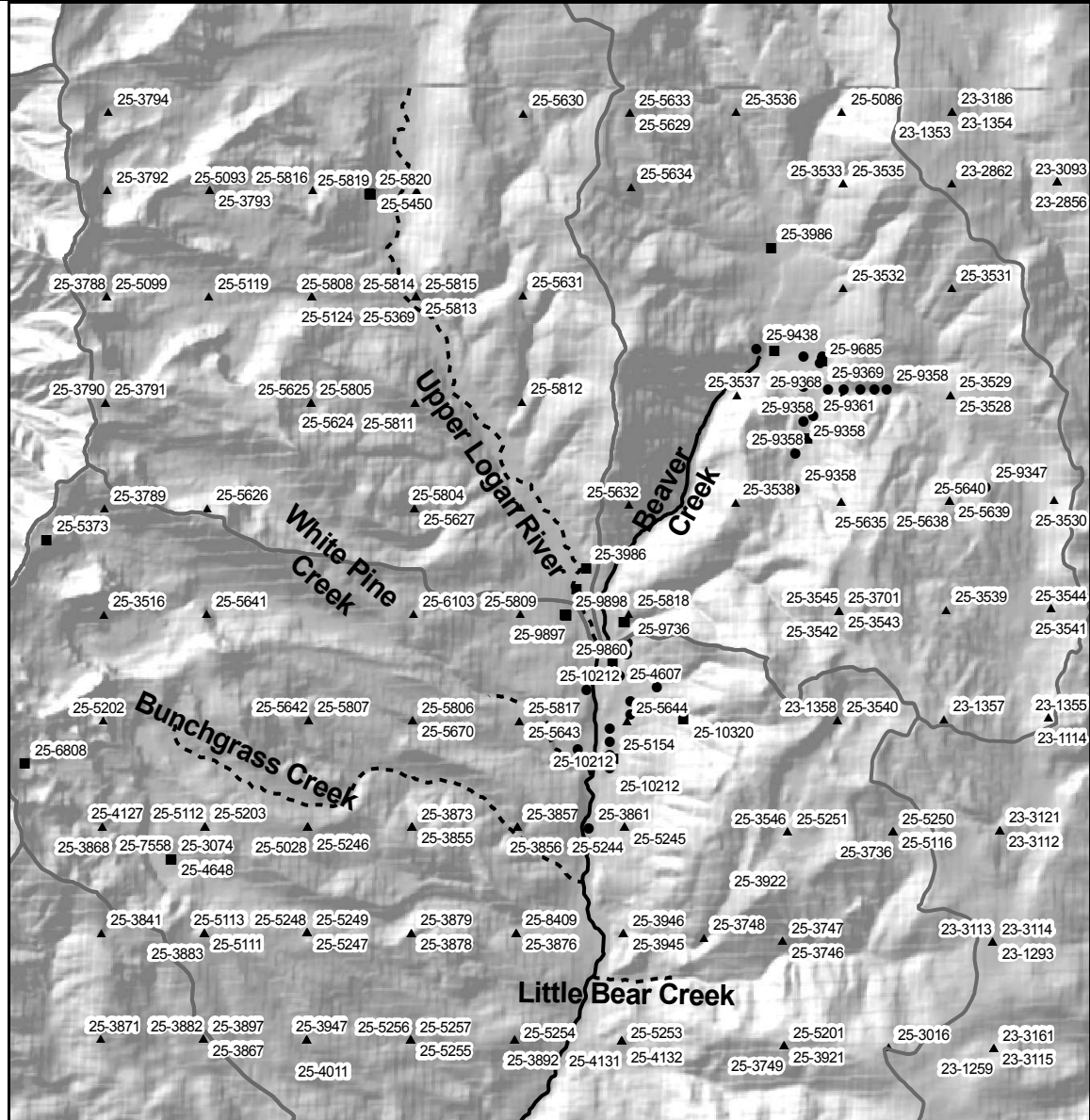


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

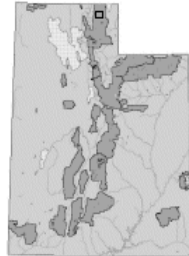


Logan River (upper), Beaver Creek, White Pine, Bunchgrass, and Little Bear Creeks

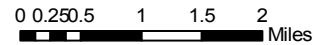
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
- Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground
- WSR Segments Classification
- Recreational
- Scenic
- Wild

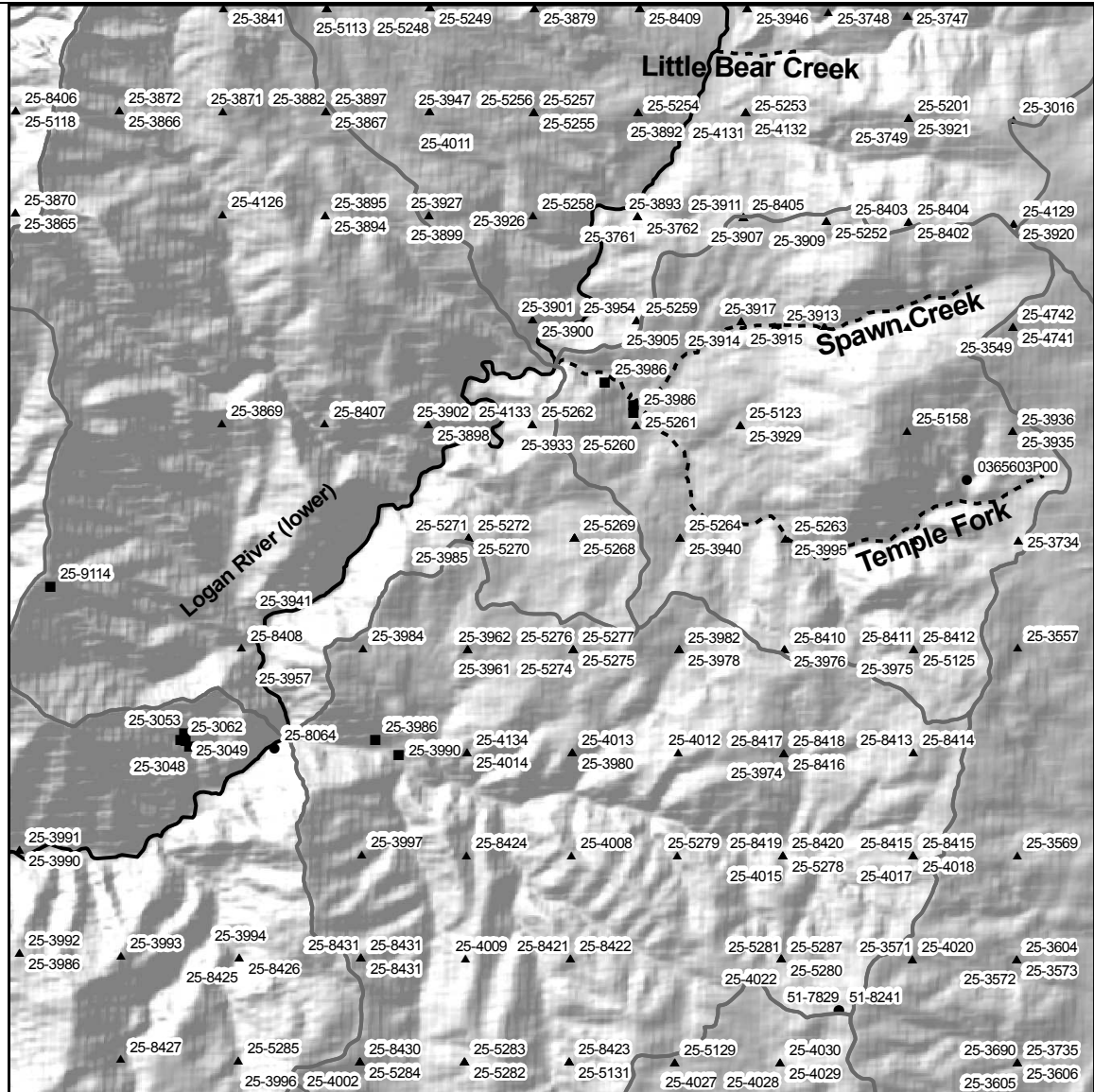


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.



Logan River (lower), Little Bear, Temple Fork, and Spawn Creek

Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District



Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 ▲ Point to Point
 ■ Surface
 ● Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 — Recreational
 - - - Scenic
 — Wild

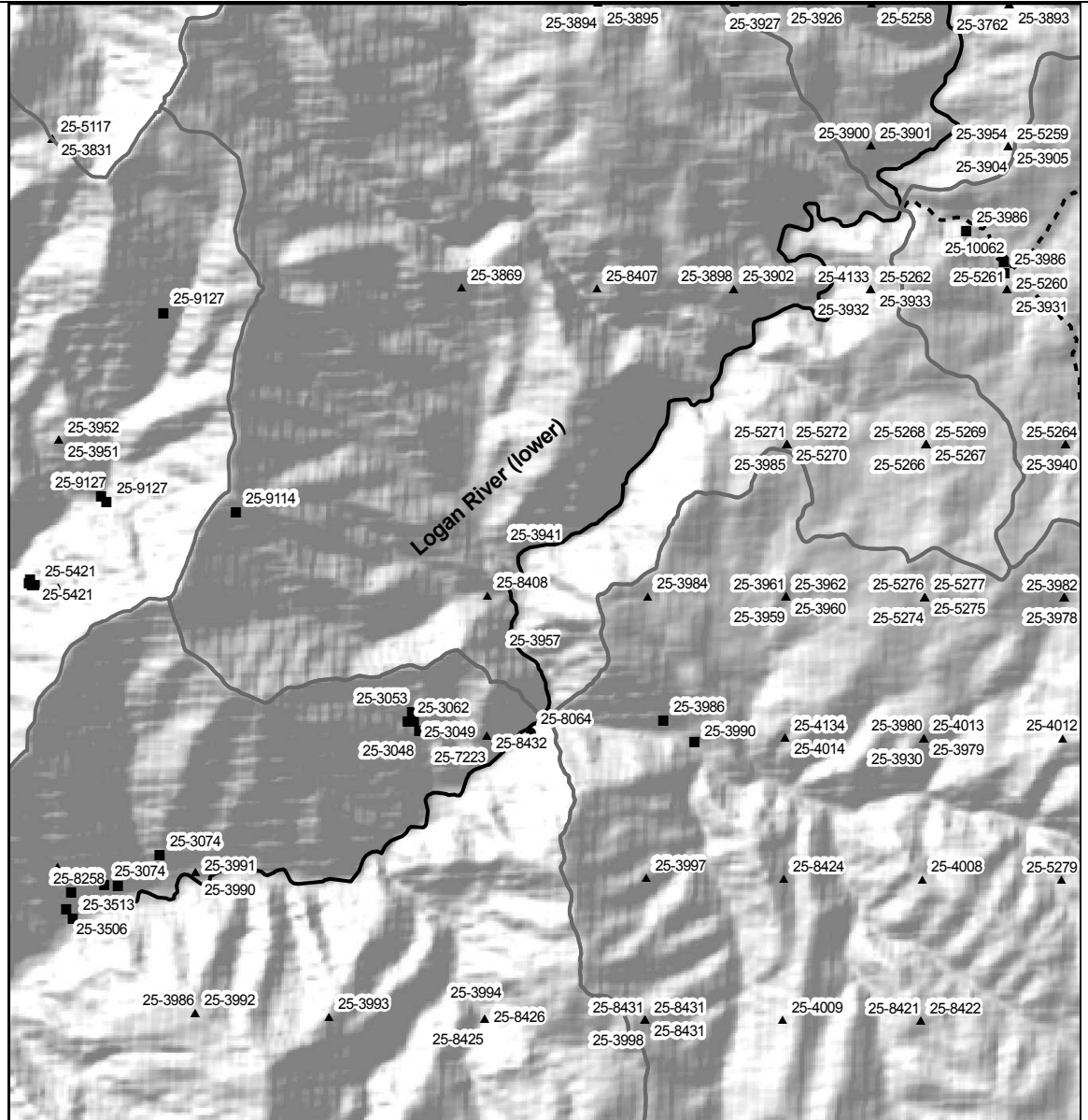
This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.


0 0.250.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

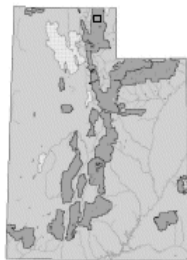


Logan River (lower)

Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District

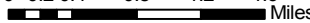


-  Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
- ▲ Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground
- WSR Segments
- Classification
- Recreational
- - - Scenic
- ▬ Wild



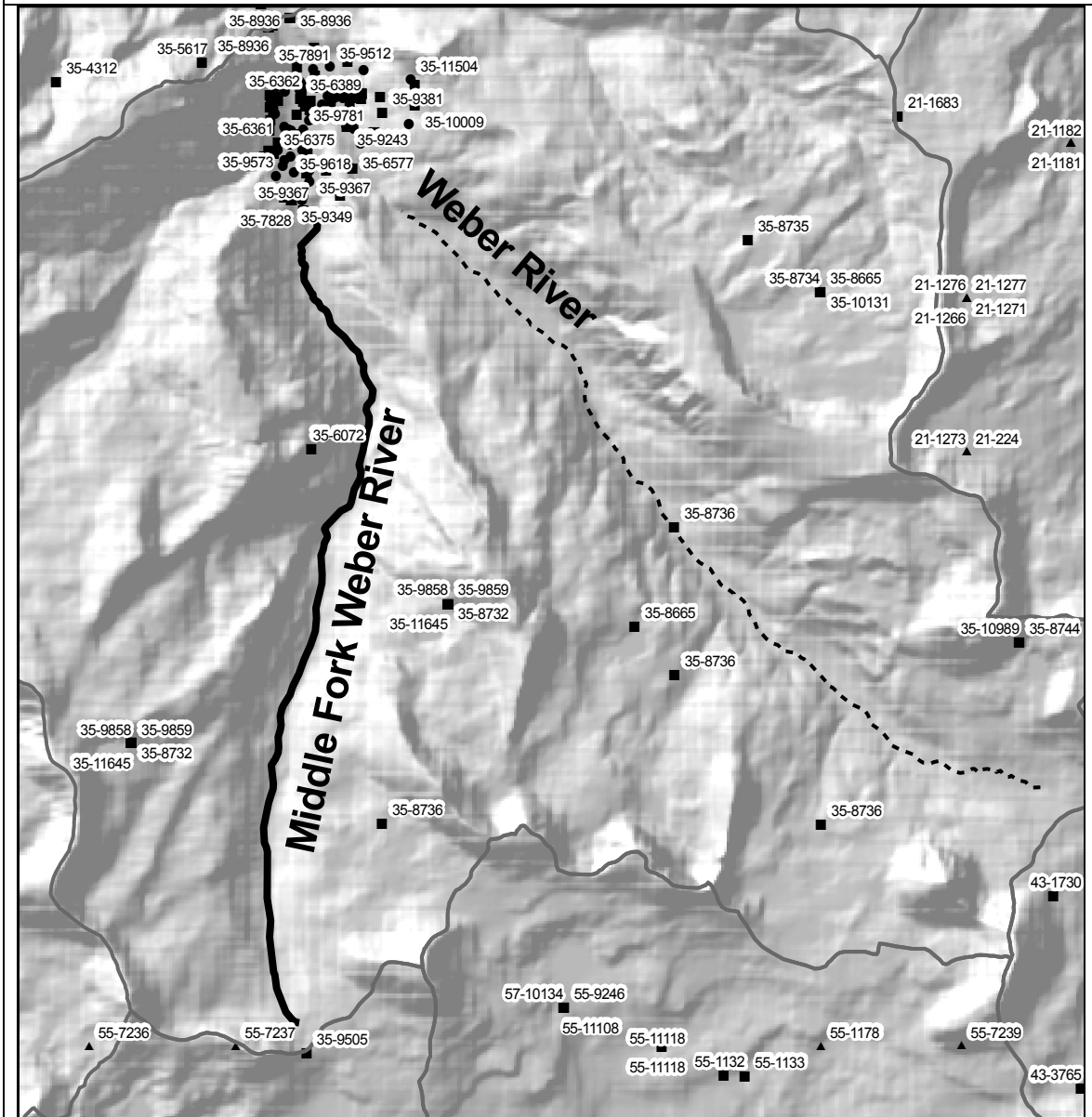
This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.6 Miles

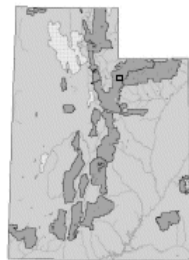



Main and Middle Fork Weber Rivers

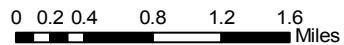
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Kamas Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
 - Point to Point
 - Surface
 - Underground
- WSR Segments Classification
 - Recreational
 - Scenic
 - Wild

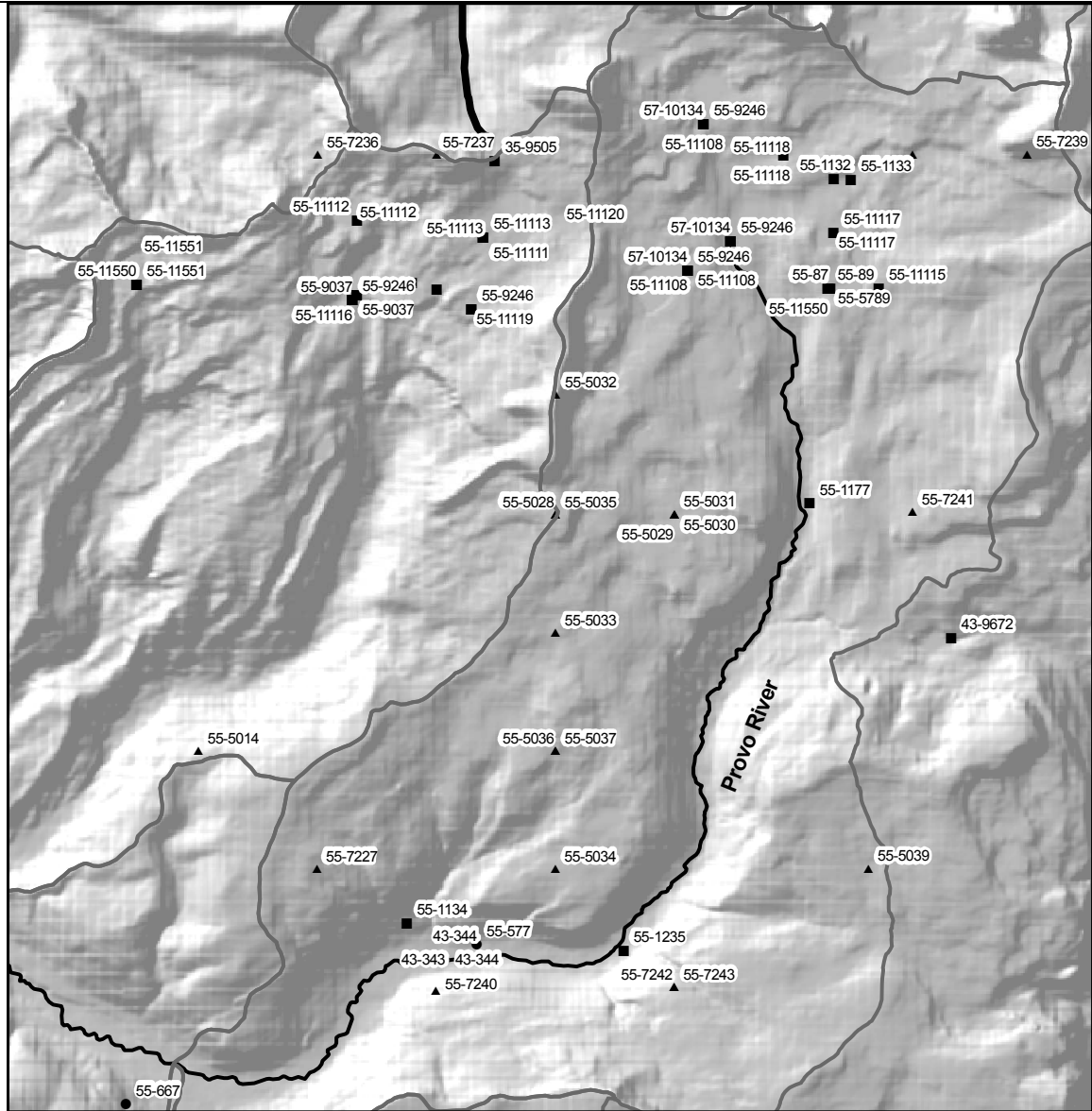


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

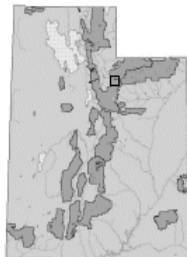


Provo River (upper)

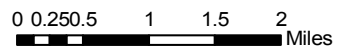
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Kamas Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
 - Point to Point
 - Surface
 - Underground
- WSR Segments Classification
 - Recreational
 - Scenic
 - Wild

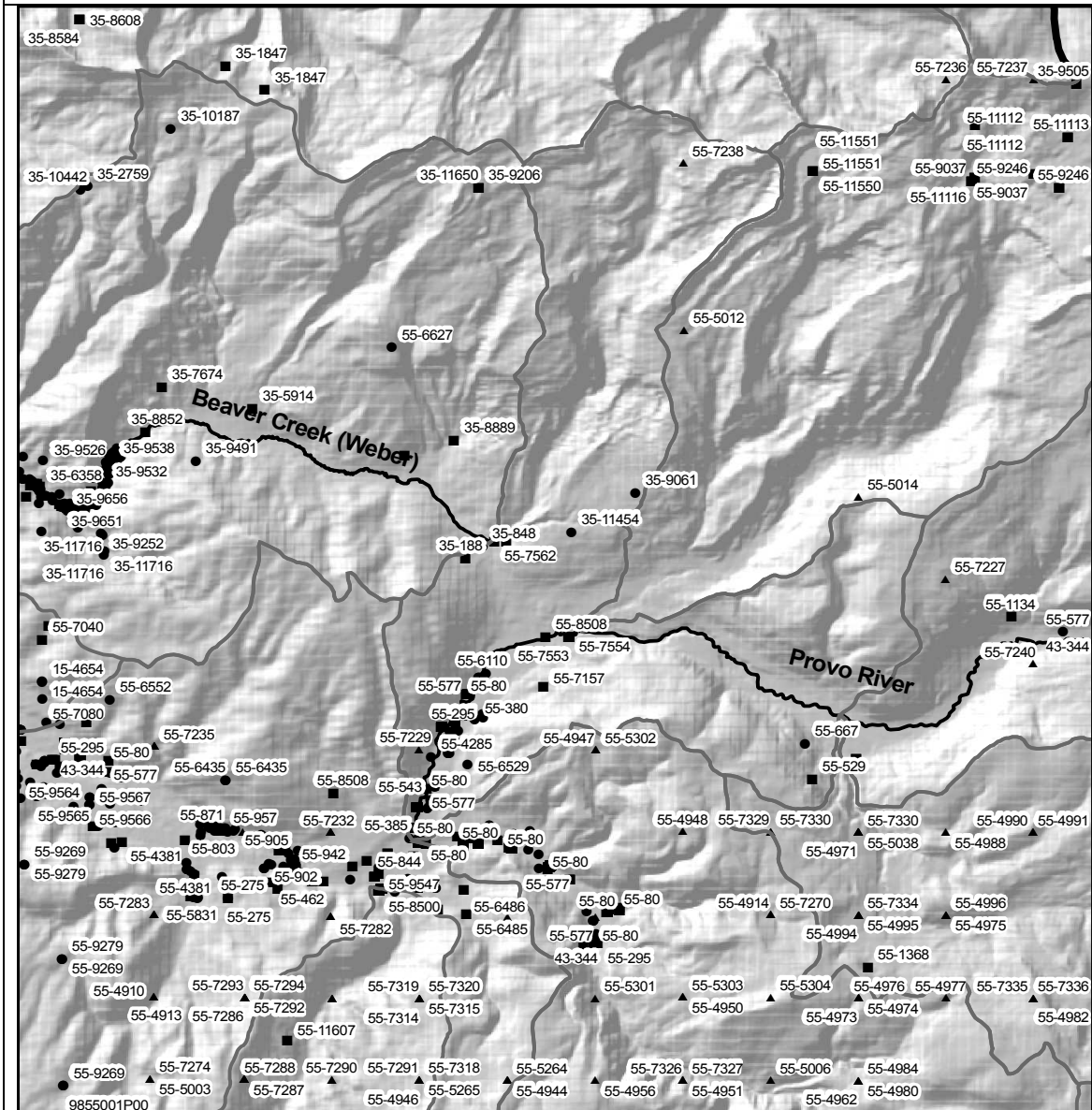









This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

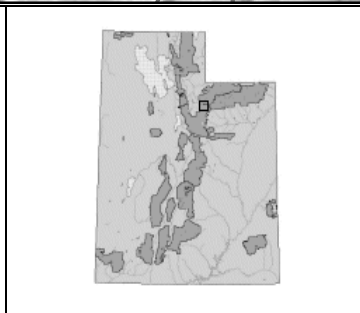


Provo River (lower) and Beaver Creek

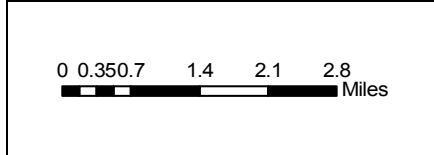
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Kamas Ranger District



 Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 Point to Point
 Surface
 Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 Recreational
 Scenic
 Wild

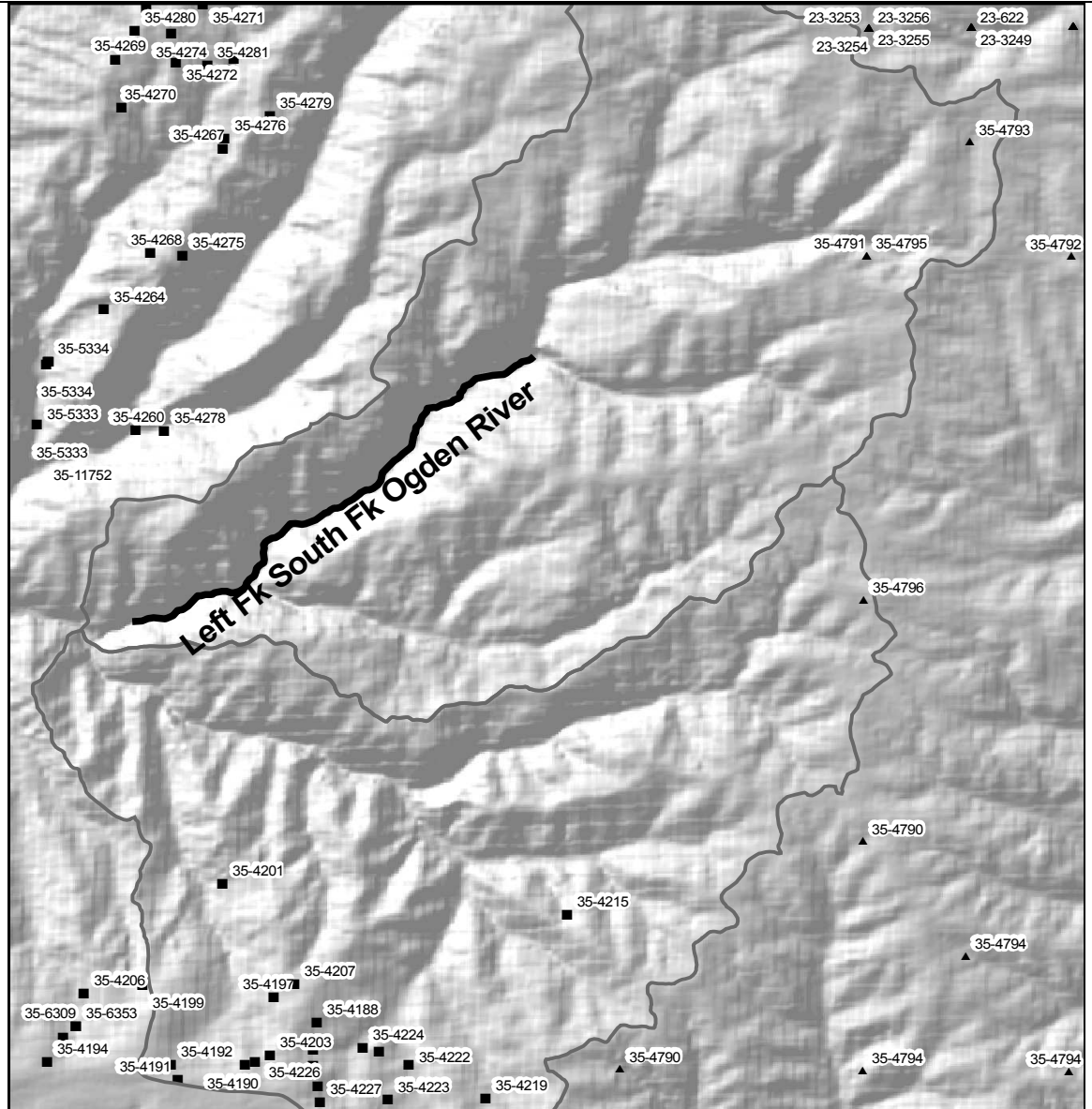









This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.



Left Fork South Fork Ogden River

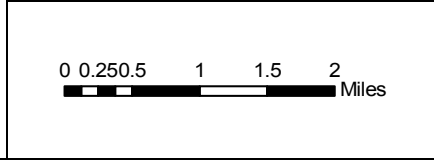
Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Ogden Ranger District



 Watersheds
 Points of Diversion
 Point to Point
 Surface
 Underground
 WSR Segments
 Classification
 Recreational
 Scenic
 Wild

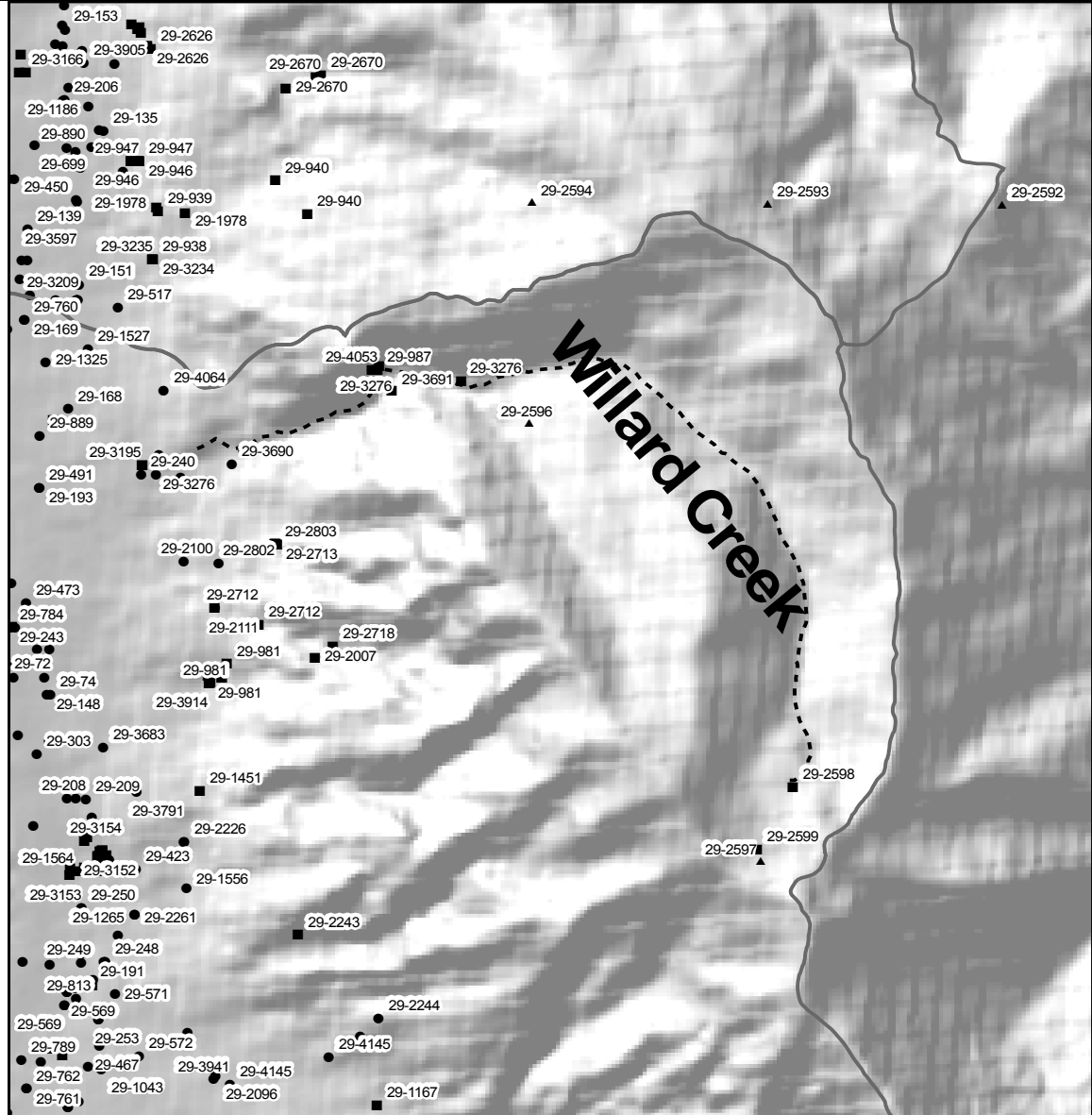


This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.



Willard Creek

Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Ogden Ranger District



- Watersheds
- Points of Diversion
- ▲ Point to Point
- Surface
- Underground
- WSR Segments Classification
- Recreational
- - - Scenic
- ▬ Wild



This map was created with Point of Diversion data (WRPOD) retrieved on 9/29/2007, from the Utah Division of Water Rights.

