

## **CHAPTER 2**

---

### **DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES**

# Changes in Chapter 2 between Draft and Final EIS

## **Section 2.2 – Alternatives Considered in Detail.**

**River segments in Alternatives 3 and 4 have been modified** due to the clarification of the definition of a reasonably foreseeable water project and updates from information submitted during the DEIS comment period. The difference between the two alternatives was that Alternative 3 contained those river segments that did not have existing or reasonably foreseeable water projects or other developmental activities and Alternative 4 contained segments that could have been adversely affected by existing or reasonably foreseeable future water resource projects or other developmental activities. In the Draft EIS, river segments in Alternatives 3 and 4 included the best representation of outstanding remarkable values and were based on the best available information about potential projects at the Draft EIS release. Between the Draft and Final EIS, new information was found or presented about reasonably foreseeable developments that caused shifting of rivers between Alternatives 3 and 4.

**A description of Alternative 7 has been added.** Alternative 7 was developed based on the key issues described in Chapter 1, comments received during public open houses and over 2,500 written comments from DEIS reviewers, and an assessment of factors documented in the Suitability Evaluation Reports (Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports).

**Section 2.4 – Comparison of Alternatives has been updated.**

**Section 2.5 – Preferred Alternative changed from Alternative 3 in the Draft EIS to Alternative 7 in the Final EIS.**

**Section 2.5 – Environmentally Preferred Alternative was added.**

# CHAPTER 2. DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

## 2.1 Introduction

---

This chapter describes and compares seven alternative groupings of eligible river segments to recommend for wild and scenic river designation. It includes a map and list of rivers for each action alternative considered. It also describes alternatives considered, but dismissed from detailed study.

Section 2.4 of this chapter summarizes the environmental effects presented in Chapter 3 and presents the alternatives in comparative form, sharply defining the differences between each alternative and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision makers and the public. Some of the information used to compare the alternatives is based upon the design of the alternative and some of the information is based upon the environmental effects of implementing each alternative.

## 2.2 Alternatives Considered in Detail

---

The Forest Service developed seven alternatives, including the no action and the six action alternatives, in response to issues raised by the public during the scoping process and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) comment period. Action alternatives range from an alternative with no river segments, to one with three river segments (45 miles), to an alternative with 50 river segments (530 miles) that are found suitable for designation in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System). The no action alternative maintains the eligibility of all 86 rivers and continues interim management protections, but does not make a suitability determination at this time. Section 2.2 describes the alternatives considered in detail.

Following release of the DEIS, river segments in Alternatives 3 and 4 have been modified due to the clarification of the definition of a reasonably foreseeable water project and updates from information submitted during the DEIS comment period. The difference between the two alternatives was that Alternative 3 contained those river segments that did not have existing or reasonably foreseeable water projects or other developmental activities and Alternative 4 contained segments that could have been adversely affected by existing or reasonably foreseeable future water resource projects or other developmental activities. In the Draft EIS, river segments in Alternatives 3 and 4 included the best representation of outstanding remarkable values and were based on the best available information about potential projects at the Draft EIS release. Between the Draft and Final EIS, new information was found or presented about reasonably foreseeable developments that caused shifting of rivers between Alternatives 3 and 4.

Following the release of the DEIS, Alternative 7 was developed based on the key issues described in Chapter 1, comments received during public open houses and over 2,500 written comments from DEIS reviewers, and an assessment of factors documented in the Suitability Evaluation Reports (Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports).

### **Alternative 1 – No action, maintain eligibility of all river segments.**

In the no action alternative suitability findings would be deferred and current management practices would continue. All 86 river segments (a total of 840 miles) would continue to be managed as “eligible” for their potential inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System), and the Forest Service would continue to use its existing authorities to protect free flow, water quality, ORVs, and recommended tentative classifications (interim management outlined in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80 - Wild

and Scenic River Evaluation). Management would continue to be in accordance with existing laws and regulations and land and resource management plans. No amendments to Forest Plans would be necessary as this alternative maintains the status quo.

For a complete list of all 86 river segments, see Chapter 3, Table 3.2.1.

**Immediate Actions:**

- Suitability study would not be completed.
- All 86 river segments would continue to be considered “eligible” for designation.
- Continue existing interim protection of free flow, ORVs and recommended classification as provided by direction in Forest Plans, and existing laws and regulations.
- Use conflicts between eligible river segments and other proposed actions would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

**Alternative 2 – No rivers recommended.**

In this alternative, all 86 river segments would be determined “not suitable” for designation. Consequently, none of the river segments would be recommended for inclusion in the National System, and interim protection as potential wild and scenic rivers would be removed. Protection of river values would revert to the direction provided in the underlying land and resource management plans for the area. Forest Plan amendments would be made as necessary to remove any specific interim protections as eligible river segments.

For a complete list of all 86 river segments, see Chapter 3, Table 3.2.1.

**Immediate Actions:**

- All river segments would be found not suitable.
- No rivers would be recommended for designation.
- All 86 river segments would have no wild and scenic river status.
- Forest Plans would be amended to remove any wild and scenic eligible river interim measures to protect free flow, ORVs, and recommended classification, for river segments in this study.
- These river segments would be managed under remaining Forest Plan direction, regulations and law.

**Alternative 3 – Recommend rivers that best represent Utah ORVs while having the least affect on existing or reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects and other developmental activities.**

In this alternative, a suitable determination would be made for 43 river segments including 179 miles classified as Wild, 98 miles classified as Scenic, and 94 miles classified as Recreational, that best represent Utah ORVs while having the least impact to future planned development. The Forest Supervisors chose river segments that would contribute regional uniqueness to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System that would also have the least affect on reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects (dam, diversion, and other modification of the waterway (WSR ACT 16B)) or other activities (e.g., potential road building projects, mining, etc.) that would result in an irretrievable commitment or loss of ORVs. This alternative contributes to the diversity of the National System while having the least adverse economic effect to the State of Utah.

**Criteria:**

- 1) Recognized those segments that contribute uniqueness and/or diversity of ORVs to a National System as represented by the best examples on the National Forests in Utah.

- 2) Reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects include those dams, diversions, or other modification of waterways that have completed and approved plans, project documents that are in the final stages of the NEPA process (e.g., final or draft environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment), or projects that are documented as approved and ready to implement.

Definitions: Other activities include reasonably foreseeable future road building projects, mining, incompatible withdrawals, that would result in an irretrievable commitment of ORVs. Reasonably foreseeable future projects has been defined as those Federal or Non-Federal projects not yet undertaken that are based on information presented to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Interdisciplinary Team which includes: completed and approved plans, project documents that are in the final stages of the NEPA process (e.g., final or draft environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment), or projects that are documented as approved and ready to implement.

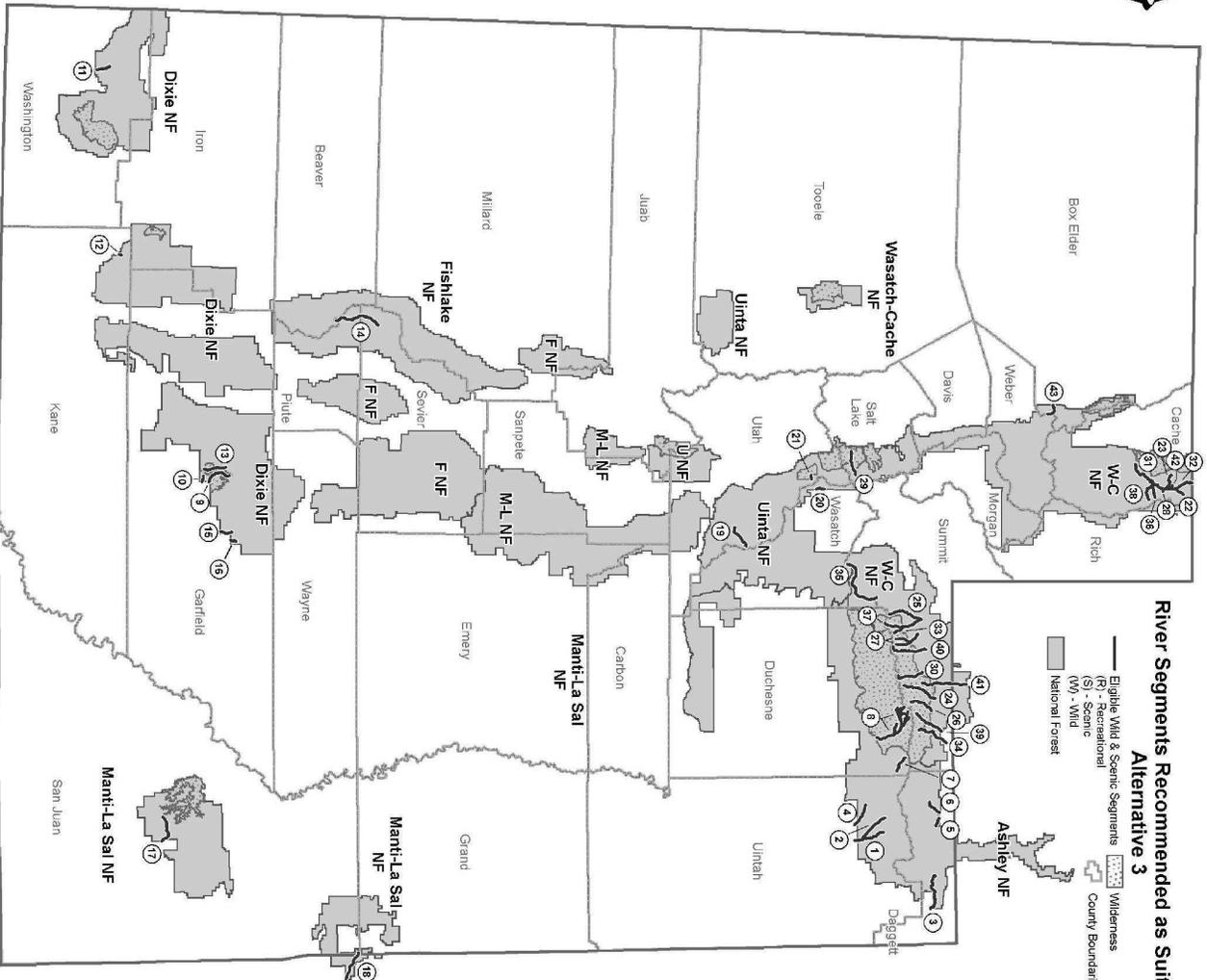
**Immediate Actions:**

- 43 river segments totaling 370 miles would be determined suitable.
- 43 river segments including 179 miles classified as Wild, 98 miles classified as Scenic, and 94 miles classified as Recreational would be recommended for designation.
- Forest Plans would be amended, as needed, to provide interim measures to protect free flow, ORVs, and recommended classification for these 43 river segments as provided in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 82.5.
- 43 river segments would not be recommended for inclusion in the National System, and interim protection as potential wild and scenic rivers would be removed. Protection of river values would revert to the direction provided in the underlying land and resource management plans for the area. Forest Plan amendments would be made as necessary to remove any specific interim protections as eligible river segments.

**Table 2.2.1. River segments included in Alternative 3.**

<b>Alternative 3 – River Segments</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>
<b>Ashley National Forest</b>		
Ashley Gorge Creek	10	Wild
Black Canyon	10	Wild
Green River	13	Scenic
Lower Dry Fork Creek	7	Recreational
Lower Main Sheep Creek	4	Recreational
Middle Main Sheep Creek	5	Recreational
Reader Creek	6	Scenic
Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Painter Draw	40	Wild
<b>Dixie National Forest</b>		
Death Hollow Creek	10	Wild
Mamie Creek	2	Wild
Moody Wash	5	Wild
North Fork Virgin River	1	Scenic
Pine Creek	8	Wild
<b>Fishlake National Forest</b>		
Fish Creek	15	Wild - Upper (4.3 mi.); Recreational - Lower (10.5 mi.)
Steep Creek – Only 4 miles is recommended as suitable under this alternative. (This segment is located on the Dixie NF, but is administered by the Fishlake NF.)	4	Wild
The Gulch (This segment is located on the Dixie NF, but is administered by the Fishlake NF.)	2	Recreational
<b>Manti-La Sal National Forest</b>		
Hammond Canyon	10	Scenic
Roc Creek	9	Wild

Alternative 3 – River Segments	Miles	Classification
<b>Uinta National Forest</b>		
Fifth Water Creek	8	Scenic
Little Provo Deer Creek	3	Recreational
North Fork Provo River	1	Wild within Wilderness (0.9 mi.); Recreational below Wilderness (0.4 mi.)
<b>Wasatch-Cache National Forest</b>		
Beaver Creek: South Boundary of State Land to Mouth	3	Recreational
Bunchgrass Creek: Source to Mouth	5	Scenic
East Fork Smiths Fork: Red Castle Lake to Trailhead	12	Wild
Hayden Fork: Source to Mouth	12	Recreational
Henry's Fork: Henry's Fork Lake to Trailhead	8	Wild
Left, Right, and East Forks Bear River: Alsop Lake and Norice Lake to near Trailhead	13	Wild
Little Bear Creek: Little Bear Spring to Mouth	1	Scenic
Little Cottonwood Creek: Source to Murray City Diversion	8	Recreational
Little East Fork: Source to Mouth	9	Wild
Logan River: Confluence with Beaver Creek to Bridge at Guinavah-Malibu Campground	19	Recreational
Logan River: Idaho State line to confluence with Beaver Creek	7	Scenic
Ostler Fork: Source to Mouth	4	Wild
Middle Fork Beaver Creek: Beaver Lake to Confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek	11	Wild in Wilderness (6.9 mi.); Scenic below wilderness (4.2 mi.)
Provo River: Trial Lake to U35 Bridge	20	Recreational
Spawn Creek: Source to Mouth	4	Scenic
Stillwater Fork: Source to Mouth	14	Wild within Wilderness (6 mi.); Scenic below Wilderness (8 mi.)
Temple Fork: Source to Mouth	6	Scenic
West Fork Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	10	Wild in Wilderness (4.6 mi.); Scenic below wilderness (5.5 mi.)
West Fork Blacks Fork: Source to Trailhead	12	Wild in Wilderness (8.0 mi.); Scenic below Wilderness (3.9 mi.)
West Fork Smiths Fork: Source to Forest Boundary	14	Wild (4 mi.); Scenic (10 mi.)
White Pine Creek: Source to Mouth	1	Scenic
Willard Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	4	Scenic
<b>Total</b>	370 miles	21 Wild classifications (178.7 miles) 17 Scenic classifications (97.6 miles) 12 Recreational classifications (93.9 miles)



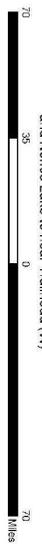
**River Segments Recommended as Suitable  
Alternative 3**

- Eligible Wild & Scenic Segments
- (R) - Recreational
- (S) - Scenic
- (W) - Wild
- ▭ National Forest
- ▭ Wilderness
- ▭ County Boundaries

- ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST**
- 1 Ashley Gorge Creek (W)
  - 2 Black Canyon (W)
  - 3 Green River (S)
  - 4 Lower Dry Fork Creek (R)
  - 5 Lower Main Sheep Creek (R)
  - 6 Middle Main Sheep Creek (R)
  - 7 Reader Creek (S)
  - 8 Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Painter Draw (W)
- DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST**
- 9 Death Hollow Creek (W)
  - 10 Mamie Creek (W)
  - 11 Moody Wash (W)
  - 12 North Fork Virgin River (S)
  - 13 Pine Creek (W)

- FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST**
- 14 Fish Creek (W) - Upper, (R) - Lower
  - 15 Sleep Creek (W) - only 4 miles recommended under Alt. 3
  - 16 The Gulch (R)
- MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST**
- 17 Hammond Canyon (S)
  - 18 Roc Creek (W)
- UINTA NATIONAL FOREST**
- 19 Fifth Water Creek (S)
  - 20 Little Provo Deer Creek (R)
  - 21 North Fork Provo River (W) in wilderness, (R) below
- WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST**
- 22 Beaver Creek, South Boundary of State Land to Mouth (R)
  - 23 Bunchgrass Creek, Source to Mouth (S)
  - 24 East Fork Smiths Fork, Red Castle Lake to Trailhead (W)
  - 25 Hayden Fork, Source to Mouth (R)
  - 26 Henrys Fork, Henry's Fork Lake to Trailhead (W)
  - 27 Left, Right, and Forks of Bear River, Asop Lake and Notice Lake to near Trailhead (W)

- 28 Little Bear Creek, Little Bear Spring to Mouth (S)
- 29 Little Cottonwood Creek, Source to Murray City Diversion (R)
- 30 Little East Fork, Source to Mouth (W)
- 31 Logan River, Confluence with Beaver Creek to Bridge at Gunnarvan Malibu Campground (R)
- 32 Logan River, Idaho State line to confluence with Beaver Creek (S)
- 33 Ostler Fork, Source to Mouth (W)
- 34 Middle Fork Beaver Creek, Beaver Lake to Confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek (W) in Wilderness, (S) below
- 35 Provo River, Trail Lake to UT-35 bridge (R)
- 36 Spavin Creek, Source to Mouth (S)
- 37 Stillwater Fork (W) in Wilderness, (S) below
- 38 Temple Fork, Source to Mouth (S)
- 39 West Fork Beaver Creek, Source to Forest Boundary (W) in Wilderness, (S) below
- 40 West Fork Blacks Fork, Source to Trailhead (W) in wilderness, (S) below
- 41 West Fork Smiths Fork, Source to Forest Boundary (W) in wilderness, (S) below
- 42 White Pine Creek, Source to Mouth (S)
- 43 Willard Creek, Source to Forest Boundary (S)



## **Alternative 4 – Recommend rivers that best represent Utah ORVs that could be adversely affected by existing or reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects and other developmental activities.**

In this alternative, a suitable determination would be made for three river segments including no miles classified as Wild, 22 miles classified as Scenic, and 23 miles classified as Recreational, that best represent Utah ORVs that are also most at risk of future planned development. The Forest Supervisors chose river segments that would contribute regional uniqueness to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System that would also be potentially adversely affected by reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects (dam, diversion, and other modification of the waterway (WSR ACT 16B)) or other activities (e.g., potential road building projects, mining, etc.) that would result in an irretrievable commitment or loss of ORVs. This alternative would protect the unique river values that are representative of Utah that are most in danger of being developed in the reasonably foreseeable future.

### **Criteria:**

- 1) Recognized those segments that contribute uniqueness and/or diversity of values and features to a National System as represented by the best examples on the National Forests in Utah.
- 2) Reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects include those dams, diversions, or other modification of waterways that have completed and approved plans, project documents that are in the final stages of the NEPA process (e.g., final or draft environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment), or projects that are documented as approved and ready to implement.

Definitions: Other activities include reasonably foreseeable future road building projects, mining, incompatible withdrawals, that would result in an irretrievable commitment of ORVs. Reasonably foreseeable future projects has been defined as those Federal or Non-Federal projects not yet undertaken that are based on information presented to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Interdisciplinary Team which includes: completed and approved plans, project documents that are in the final stages of the NEPA process (e.g., final or draft environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment), or projects that are documented as approved and ready to implement.

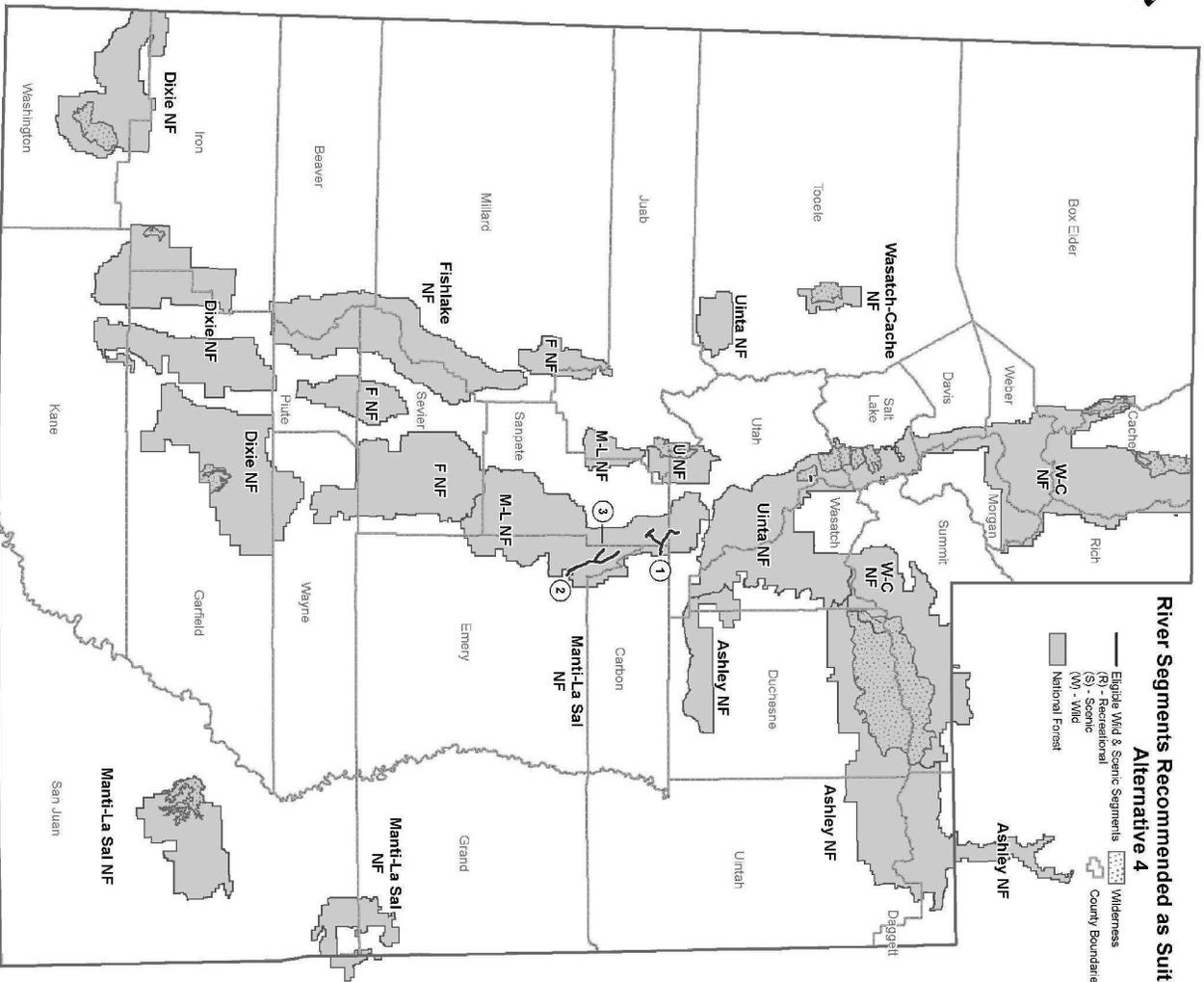
### **Immediate Actions:**

- 3 river segments totaling 45 miles would be determined suitable.
- 3 river segments including no miles classified as Wild, 22 miles classified as Scenic, and 23 miles classified as Recreational, would be recommended for designation.
- Forest Plans would be amended, as needed, to provide interim measures to protect free flow, ORVs, and recommended classification for these 3 river segments as provided in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 82.5.
- 83 river segments would not be recommended for inclusion in the National System, and interim protection as potential wild and scenic rivers would be removed. Protection of river values would revert to the direction provided in the underlying land and resource management plans for the area. Forest Plan amendments would be made as necessary to remove any specific interim protections as eligible river segments.

**Table 2.2.2. River segments included in Alternative 4.**

<b>Alternative 4 – River Segments</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>
<b>Ashley National Forest</b>		
No segments	0	N/A
<b>Dixie National Forest</b>		
No Segments.	0	N/A.
<b>Fishlake National Forest</b>		
No Segments.	0	N/A

<b>Alternative 4 – River Segments</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>
<b>Manti-La Sal National Forest</b>		
Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek	21	Scenic – Upper Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry (17.05 miles); Recreational Fish Creek (3.6 miles)
Huntington Creek	19	Recreational
Lower Left Fork of Huntington	5	Scenic
<b>Uinta National Forest</b>		
No Segments	0	N/A
<b>Wasatch-Cache National Forest</b>		
No Segments	0	N/A
<b>Total</b>	45 miles	0 Wild classifications (0 miles) 2 Scenic classifications (22.05 miles) 2 Recreational classifications (22.6 miles)



**River Segments Recommended as Suitable  
Alternative 4**

- Eligible Wild & Scenic Segments
- (R) - Recreational
- (S) - Scenic
- (W) - Wild
- ▨ Wilderness
- ▭ County Boundaries
- ▭ National Forest

- ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST**  
No Segments
- DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST**  
No Segments
- FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST**  
No Segments

- MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST**
  - ① Fish and Gooseberry Creek (S) Upper Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry, (R) Fish Creek
  - ② Huntington Creek (R)
  - ③ Lower Left Fork of Huntington (S)

- UINTA NATIONAL FOREST**  
No Segments
- WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST**  
No Segments



WCA19F-SIS-ELAS-07003

## **Alternative 5 – Recommend rivers with low cost for management that are consistent with other Federal wild and scenic studies and which have limited negative impact to community economic development.**

In this alternative, a suitable determination would be made for 50 river segments including 394 miles classified as Wild, 89 miles classified as Scenic, and 48 miles classified as Recreational, that have low management costs if designated and that are compatible with other Federal agency wild and scenic river studies and recommendations. Forest Supervisors selected segments they thought would have limited negative impact to community economic development and might have the potential to stimulate tourism and related economic growth through designation. Rather than focusing on highlighting Utah’s diversity of river values, this alternative would recommend rivers where management costs are perceived to be low and that the impacts to community development would be limited or positive.

### **Criteria:**

- 1) Other Federal agencies include, but are not limited to: the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 2) Low cost for management includes those segments that would be relatively inexpensive for the administering agency to manage. For example, another agency already assists with management of the area or protection is already partially accomplished by another designation such as Wilderness or administrative management areas with protective restrictions. Monitoring would already be in place or compatible with existing efforts.
- 3) Include segments that will have limited negative impact to community economic development and/or would have the potential for economic growth and tourism development through designation.

### **Immediate Actions**

- 50 river segments totaling 530 miles would be determined suitable.
- 50 river segments including 394 miles classified as Wild, 89 miles classified as Scenic and 48 miles classified as Recreational, would be recommended for designation.
- Forest Plans would be amended, as needed, to provide interim measures to protect free flow, ORVs, and recommended classification for these 50 river segments as provided in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 82.5.
- 36 river segments would not be recommended for inclusion in the National System, and interim protection as potential wild and scenic rivers would be removed. Protection of river values would revert to the direction provided in the underlying land and resource management plans for the area. Forest Plan amendments would be made as necessary to remove any specific interim protections as eligible river segments.

**Table 2.2.3. River segments included in Alternative 5.**

<b>Alternative 5 – River Segments</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>
<b>Ashley National Forest</b>		
Black Canyon	10	Wild
Cart Creek Proper	10	Scenic
Carter Creek	16	Scenic
Garfield Creek	17	Wild
Green River	13	Scenic
Lower Main Sheep Creek	4	Recreational
Middle Main Sheep Creek	5	Recreational
Pipe Creek	6	Scenic
Reader Creek	6	Scenic

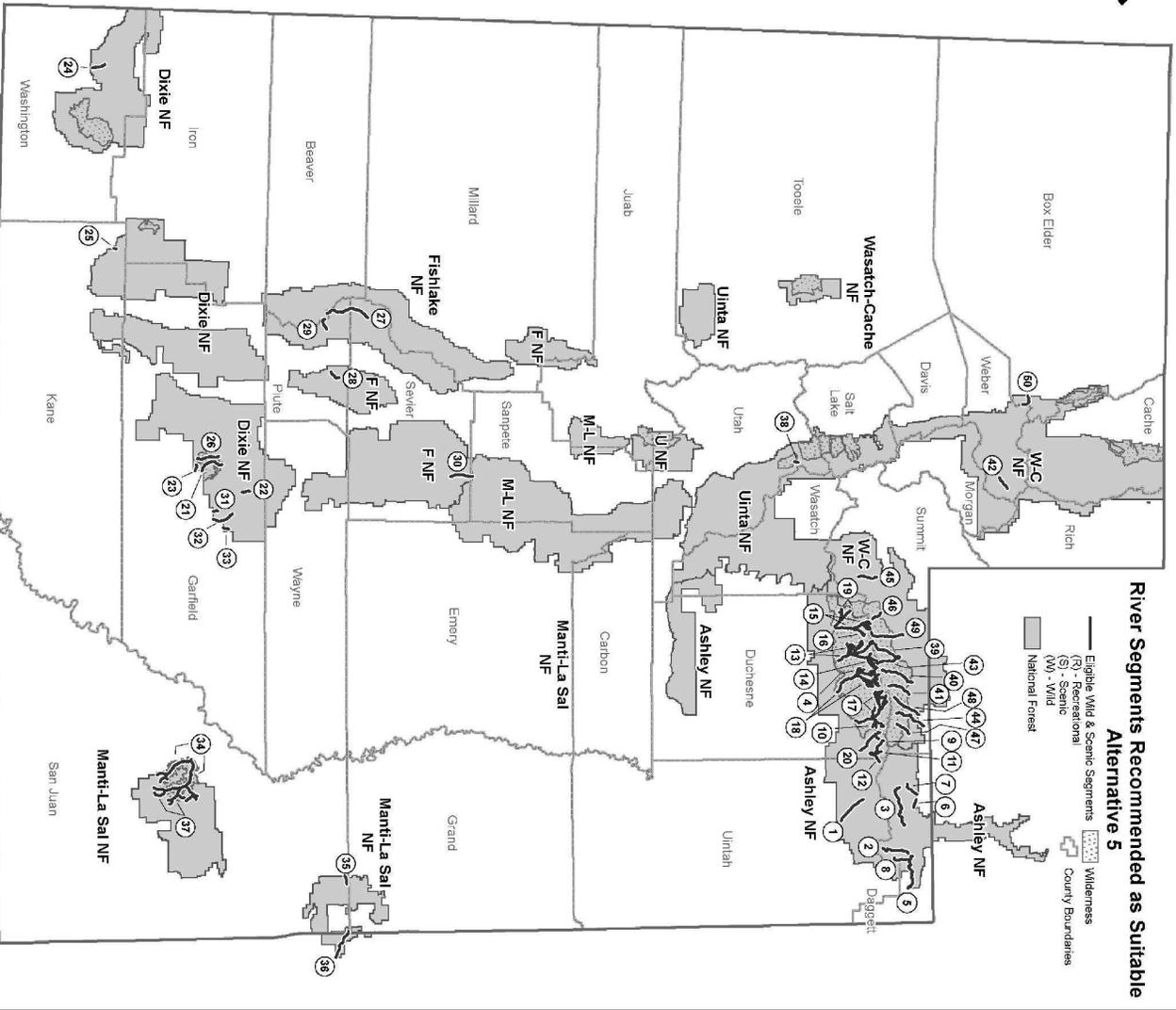
<b>Alternative 5 – River Segments</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>
Shale Creek and Tributaries	10	Wild
Upper Whiterocks River and ----- East Fork Whiterocks River (Upper and East Fork discussed together in SER)	4 4	Scenic Scenic
Upper Lake Fork River, including Ottoson and East Basin Creeks and ----- Oweep Creek (Upper Lake Fork and Oweep discussed together in SER)	35 20	Wild Wild
Upper Rock Creek and ----- Fall Creek (Upper Rock and Fall Creek discussed together in SER)	21 6	Wild Wild
Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Painter Draw	40	Wild
Upper Yellowstone Creek, including Milk Creek	33	Wild
West Fork Rock Creek, including Fish Creek	13	Wild
West Fork Whiterocks River	11	Scenic
<b>Dixie National Forest</b>		
Death Hollow Creek	10	Wild
East Fork Boulder Creek	3	Wild
Mamie Creek	2	Wild
Moody Wash	5	Wild
North Fork Virgin River	1	Scenic
Pine Creek	8	Wild
<b>Fishlake National Forest</b>		
Fish Creek	15	Wild - Upper (4.3 mi.); Recreational - Lower (10.5 mi.)
Manning Creek	4	Wild
Pine Creek / Bullion Falls	4	Wild
Salina Creek	7	Wild
Slickrock (This segment is located on the Dixie NF, but is administered by the Fishlake NF.)	2	Wild
Steep Creek (This segment is located on the Dixie NF, but is administered by the Fishlake NF.)	7	Wild
The Gulch (This segment is located on the Dixie NF, but is administered by the Fishlake NF.)	2	Recreational
<b>Manti-La Sal National Forest</b>		
Lower Dark Canyon, including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon, Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons	41	Wild
Mill Creek Gorge	3	Wild
Roc Creek	9	Wild
Upper Dark, Horse Pasture, Peavine & Kigalia Canyons in Upper Dark Canyon	26	Recreational
<b>Uinta National Forest</b>		
South Fork American Fork	1	Wild within Wilderness (1.1 mi.); Recreational below Wilderness (0.3 mi.)
<b>Wasatch-Cache National Forest</b>		
East Fork Blacks Fork: Headwaters to confluence with Little East Fork	10	Wild
East Fork Smiths Fork: Red Castle Lake to Trailhead	12	Wild
Henry's Fork: Henry's Fork Lake to Trailhead	8	Wild
Left Fork South Fork Ogden River: Frost Canyon/Bear Canyon Confluence to Causey	5	Wild
Little East Fork: Source to Mouth	9	Wild
Middle Fork Beaver Creek: Beaver Lake to Confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek	11	Wild within Wilderness (6.9 mi.); Scenic below Wilderness (4.2 mi.)
Middle Fork Weber River: Source to Forest Boundary	6	Wild

<b>Alternative 5 – River Segments</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>
Ostler Fork: Source to Mouth	4	Wild
Thompson Creek: Source to Hoop Lake Diversion	5	Wild
West Fork Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	10	Wild within Wilderness (4.6 mi.); Scenic below Wilderness (5.5 mi.)
West Fork Blacks Fork: Source to Trailhead	12	Wild within Wilderness (8.0 mi.); Scenic below Wilderness (3.9 mi.)
Willard Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	4	Scenic
<b>Total</b>	530	36 Wild classifications (393.9 miles)
		13 Scenic classifications (88.6 miles)
		6 Recreational classifications (47.8 miles)



### River Segments Recommended as Suitable Alternative 5

- Elipble Wild & Scenic Segments
- (R) - Recreational
- (S) - Scenic
- (W) - Wild
- ▭ Wilderness
- ▭ County Boundaries
- ▭ National Forest



#### ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST

- 1 Black Canyon (W)
- 2 Cart Creek Proper (S)
- 3 Carter Creek (S)
- 4 Garfield Creek (W)
- 5 Green River (S)
- 6 Lower Main Sheep Creek (R)
- 7 Middle Main Sheep Creek (R)
- 8 Pipe Creek (S)
- 9 Reader Creek (S)
- 10 Shale Creek and Tibularias (W)
- 11 Upper Whitebriars River (S)
- 12 East Fork Whitebriars River (S)
- 13 Upper Lake Fork River, including Ottosen and East Basin Creeks (W)
- 14 Oweep Creek (W)
- 15 Upper Rock Creek (W)
- 16 Fall Creek (W)
- 17 Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Carter Fork, and Painter Draw (W)

#### DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST

- 18 Upper Yellowstone Creek, including Mike Creek (W)
- 19 West Fork Fish Creek (W)
- 20 West Fork Whitebriars River (S)
- 21 Death Hollow Creek (W)
- 22 East Fork Boulder Creek (W)
- 23 Mamie Creek (W)
- 24 Moody Wash (W)
- 25 North Fork Virgin River (S)
- 26 Pine Creek (W)
- 27 Fish Creek (W) - Upper, (R) - Lower
- 28 Manning Creek (W)
- 29 Pine Creek - Bullion Falls (W)
- 30 Salina Creek (W)
- 31 Slidrock (W)
- 32 Sleep Creek (W)
- 33 The Gulch (R)

#### FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST

- 34 Upper Yellowstone Creek, including Mike Creek (W)
- 35 West Fork Fish Creek (W)
- 36 West Fork Whitebriars River (S)

#### MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST

- 37 Lower Dark Canyon, including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon, Woodenshove and Cherry Canyons (W)
- 38 Mill Creek Gorge (W)
- 39 Rocc Creek (W)
- 40 Upper Dark, Horse Pasture, Peavine & Kigalia Canyons in Upper Dark Canyon (R)
- 41 South Fork American Fork (W) in wilderness, (R) below

#### UINTA NATIONAL FOREST

- 42 East Fork Blacks Fork, Headwaters to confluence with Little East Fork (W)
- 43 East Fork Smiths Fork, Red Castle Lake to Trailhead (W)
- 44 Henry's Fork, Henry's Fork Lake to Trailhead (W)
- 45 Left Fork South Fork Ogden River, Frost Canyon/Bear Canyon Confluence to Canyon (W)
- 46 Little East Fork, Source to Mouth (W)
- 47 Middle Fork Beaver Creek, Beaver Lake to Confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek (W) in wilderness, (S) below
- 48 Middle Fork Weber River, Source to Forest Boundary (W)
- 49 Ostler Fork, Source to Mouth (W)
- 50 Thompson Creek, Source to Hoop Lake Diversion (W)
- 51 West Fork Beaver Creek, Source to Forest Boundary (W) in wilderness, (S) below
- 52 West Fork Blacks Fork, Source to Trailhead (W) in wilderness, (S) below
- 53 Willard Creek, Source to Forest Boundary (S)

#### WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST

- 42 East Fork Blacks Fork, Headwaters to confluence with Little East Fork (W)
- 43 East Fork Smiths Fork, Red Castle Lake to Trailhead (W)
- 44 Henry's Fork, Henry's Fork Lake to Trailhead (W)
- 45 Left Fork South Fork Ogden River, Frost Canyon/Bear Canyon Confluence to Canyon (W)
- 46 Little East Fork, Source to Mouth (W)
- 47 Middle Fork Beaver Creek, Beaver Lake to Confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek (W) in wilderness, (S) below
- 48 Middle Fork Weber River, Source to Forest Boundary (W)
- 49 Ostler Fork, Source to Mouth (W)
- 50 Thompson Creek, Source to Hoop Lake Diversion (W)
- 51 West Fork Beaver Creek, Source to Forest Boundary (W) in wilderness, (S) below
- 52 West Fork Blacks Fork, Source to Trailhead (W) in wilderness, (S) below
- 53 Willard Creek, Source to Forest Boundary (S)



WCS-10-035-100-102300

## Alternative 6 – Recommend river segments recognized by public groups that represent a diversity of river systems in Utah and those that face future threats.

Alternative 6 was submitted by a coalition of environmental groups, including Utah Rivers Council, Utah Environmental Congress, and Grand Canyon Trust in response to scoping. In this alternative, a suitable determination would be made for 40 river segments including 216 miles classified as Wild, 113 miles classified as Scenic, and 112 miles classified as Recreational to protect the most outstanding river segments that represent the diversity of river systems in Utah and those segments that face future threats to development as recognized by these groups. This alternative represents the viewpoint of conservation groups interested in wild and scenic river designations.

### Criteria:

- 1) The conservation groups ranked each river based on the identified ORVs. They ranked some ORV values heavier than others and acknowledged the importance of multiple ORVs.
- 2) The conservation groups considered current and future development threats to each river segment based on published sources.
- 3) The conservation groups considered possible public support for protection.
- 4) The conservation groups considered representation of different riparian systems and areas with special status (e.g., rare habitat for a species, wilderness areas).
- 5) The conservation groups considered additional values provided by protecting multiple pieces of a system (such as a headwaters area or upstream/downstream stretches).

### Immediate Actions:

- 40 river segments totaling 441 miles would be determined suitable.
- 40 river segments including 216 miles classified as Wild, 113 miles classified as Scenic, and 112 miles classified as Recreational, would be recommended for designation.
- Forest Plans would be amended, as needed, to provide interim measures to protect free flow, ORVs, and recommended classification for these 40 river segments as provided in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 82.5.
- 46 river segments would not be recommended for inclusion in the National System, and interim protection as potential wild and scenic rivers would be removed. Protection of river values would revert to the direction provided in the underlying land and resource management plans for the area. Forest Plan amendments would be made as necessary to remove any specific interim protections as eligible river segments.

**Table 2.2.4. River segments included in Alternative 6.**

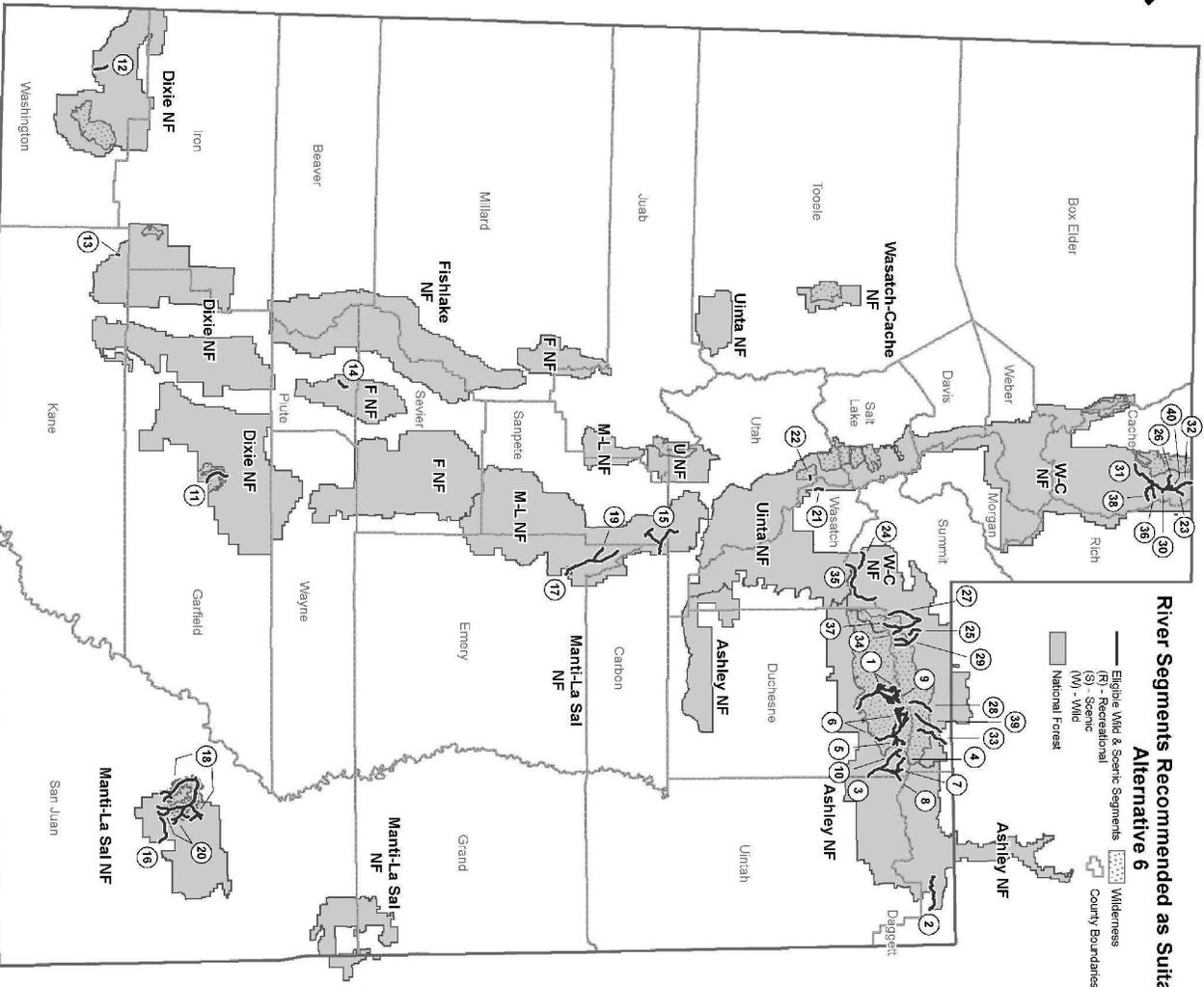
Alternative 6 – River Segments	Miles	Classification
<b>Ashley National Forest</b>		
Garfield Creek	17	Wild
Green River	13	Scenic
Middle Whiterocks River	9	Wild
Reader Creek	6	Scenic
Shale Creek and Tributaries	10	Wild
Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork and Painter Draw	40	Wild
Upper Whiterocks River and ----- East Fork Whiterocks River (Upper and East Fork Whiterocks discussed together in SER)	4 4	Scenic Scenic
Upper Yellowstone Creek, including Milk Creek	33	Wild
West Fork Whiterocks River	11	Scenic

<b>Alternative 6 – River Segments</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>
<b>Dixie National Forest</b>		
Death Hollow Creek	10	Wild
Moody Wash	5	Wild
North Fork Virgin River	1	Scenic*
<b>Fishlake National Forest</b>		
Manning Creek	4	Wild
<b>Manti-La Sal National Forest</b>		
Fish and Gooseberry Creek	21	Scenic – Upper Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry (17.05 miles); Recreational – Fish Creek (3.6 miles)
Hammond Canyon	10	Scenic
Huntington Creek	19	Recreational
Lower Dark Canyon, including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon, Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons	41	Wild
Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek	5	Scenic
Upper Dark, Horse Pasture, Peavine & Kigalia Canyons in Upper Dark Canyon	26	Recreational
<b>Uinta National Forest</b>		
Little Provo Deer Creek	3	Recreational
North Fork Provo River	1	Wild within wilderness (0.9 miles); Recreational below Wilderness (0.4 miles)
<b>Wasatch-Cache National Forest</b>		
Beaver Creek: South Boundary of State Land to Mouth	3	Recreational
Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	6	Recreational
Boundary Creek: Source to Confluence with East Fork Bear River	4	Wild
Bunchgrass Creek: Source to Mouth	5	Scenic
Hayden Fork: Source to Mouth	12	Recreational
Henry's Fork: Henry's Fork Lake to Trailhead	8	Wild
Left, Right, and Forks of Bear River: Alsop Lake and Norice Lake to near Trailhead	13	Wild
Little Bear Creek: Little Bear Spring to Mouth	1	Scenic
Logan River: Confluence with Beaver Creek to Bridge at Guinavah-Malibu Campground	19	Recreational
Logan River: Idaho State Line to Confluence with Beaver Creek	7	Scenic
Middle Fork Beaver Creek: Beaver Lake to Confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek	11	Wild within Wilderness (6.9 miles); Scenic below Wilderness (4.2 miles)
Ostler Fork: Source to Mouth	4	Wild
Provo River: Trial Lake to UT-35 bridge	20	Recreational
Spawn Creek: Source to Mouth	4	Scenic
Stillwater Fork	14	Wild within Wilderness (6 miles); Scenic below Wilderness (8 miles)
Temple Fork: Source to Mouth	6	Scenic

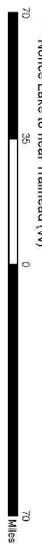
<b>Alternative 6 – River Segments</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>
West Fork Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	10	Wild within Wilderness (4.6 miles); Scenic below Wilderness (5.5 miles)
White Pine Creek: Source to Mouth	1	Scenic
<b>Total</b>	<b>441 Miles</b>	<b>17 Wild classifications (216.4 miles)</b>
		<b>18 Scenic classifications (112.75 miles)</b>
		<b>10 Recreational classifications (112 miles)</b>



### River Segments Recommended as Suitable Alternative 6



- ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST**
- 1 Garfield Creek (W)
  - 2 Green River (S)
  - 3 Middle Whiteforks River (W)
  - 4 Reader Creek (S)
  - 5 Shale Creek and Tribularies (W)
  - 6 Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork and Partner Draw (W)
  - 7 Upper Whiteforks River (S)
  - 8 East Fork Whiteforks River (S)
  - 9 Upper Yellowstone Creek, including Milk Creek (W)
  - 10 West Fork Whiteforks River (S)
- DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST**
- 11 Death Hollow Creek (W)
  - 12 Moody Wash (W)
  - 13 North Fork Virgin River (S)
  - 14 Manning Creek (W)
- FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST**
- 15 Fish and Gooseberry Creek (S) Upper Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry (R) Fish Creek
  - 16 Hammond Canyon (S)
  - 17 Huntington Creek (R)
  - 18 Lower Dark Canyon, including Frison Canyon, Deadman Canyon, Woodstrife and Cherry Canyons (W)
  - 19 Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek (S)
  - 20 Upper Dark, Horse Pasture, Peavine & Kigalia Canyons in Upper Dark Canyon (R)
- UINTA NATIONAL FOREST**
- 21 Little Provo Deer Creek (R)
  - 22 North Fork Provo River (W) in Wilderness (R) below
- WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST**
- 23 Beaver Creek: South Boundary of State Land to Mouth (R)
  - 24 Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary (R)
  - 25 Boundary Creek: Source to Confluence with East Fork Bear River (W)
  - 26 Bunchgrass Creek: Source to Mouth (S)
  - 27 Hayden Fork: Source to Mouth (R)
  - 28 Henrys Fork: Henry's Fork Lake to Trailhead (W)
  - 29 Left, Right, and Forks of Bear River: Alsop Lake and Notice Lake to near Trailhead (W)
- MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST**
- 30 Little Bear Creek: Little Bear Spring to Mouth (S)
  - 31 Logan River: Confluence with Beaver Creek to Bridge at Gunnawan-Malibu Campground (R)
  - 32 Logan River: Idano State Line to Confluence with Beaver Creek (S)
  - 33 Middle Fork Beaver Creek: Beaver Lake to Confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek (W) in Wilderness (S) below
  - 34 Foster Fork: Source to Mouth (W)
  - 35 Provo River: Trial Lake to UT-35 bridge (R)
  - 36 Spawm Creek: Source to Mouth (S)
  - 37 Stillwater Fork (W) in Wilderness (S) below
  - 38 Temple Fork: Source to Mouth (S)
  - 39 West Fork Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary (W) in Wilderness (S) below
  - 40 White Pine Creek: Source to Mouth (S)



WAC NF EIS, June 10/2007

## **Alternative 7 - Recommend river segments that reflect the broad range of public comments and emphasize specific suitability factors.**

In this alternative, a suitable determination would be made for 10 river segments including 74 miles classified as Wild, 22 miles classified as Scenic, and 12 miles classified as Recreational. Alternative 7 was developed based on comments received during public open houses and over 2,500 written comments from Draft EIS reviewers and on an assessment of factors documented in the Suitability Evaluation Reports (Final EIS and Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports). The significant issues described in Chapter 1 of the Draft and Final EIS were also used in the development of this alternative. These rivers would make a significant contribution to the National Wild and Scenic River System. The key suitability criteria the Forest Supervisors considered in developing this alternative include the following:

### **Criteria:**

- 1) The river segment contains multiple ORVs, ORVs underrepresented in the National System, or significant nationally. This factor helped determine river segments with ORVs or a combination of ORVs significant at a national scale.
- 2) The river segment contains multiple ORVs, ORVs underrepresented in the study segments, or significant within Utah’s five National Forests. This factor helped design an alternative with representative rivers across the five National Forests in Utah.
- 3) The river segment(s) contribute to a river system. This factor recognizes the importance of managing some rivers at a watershed scale to best protect values.
- 4) The river segment would be best managed through designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This alternative contains those segments where the river’s free-flowing condition, water quality and ORVs would be best protected if designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
- 5) Designation of the river segment would be compatible with, or will enhance other federal agency wild and scenic river plans and recommendations, will complement other national forest management activities, and has potential to stimulate tourism and related economic growth if designated.
- 6) Support from a broad range of public entities (federal agencies, state, local and tribal governments; and national and local publics). Through this factor river segments were included if supported by all parties, or with only limited opposition. This factor helped identify those segments that generally have a broad base of support.

### **Immediate Actions:**

- 10 river segments totaling 108 miles would be determined suitable.
- 10 river segments including 74 miles classified as Wild, 22 miles classified as Scenic, and 12 miles classified as Recreational would be recommended for designation.
- Forest Plans would be amended, as needed, to provide interim measures to protect free flow, ORVs, and recommended classification for these 10 river segments as provided in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 82.5.
- 76 river segments would not be recommended for inclusion in the National System, and interim protection as potential wild and scenic rivers would be removed. Protection of river values would revert to the direction provided in the underlying land and resource management plans for the area. Forest Plan amendments would be made as necessary to remove any specific interim protections as eligible river segments.

**Table 2.2.5. River segments included in Alternative 7.**

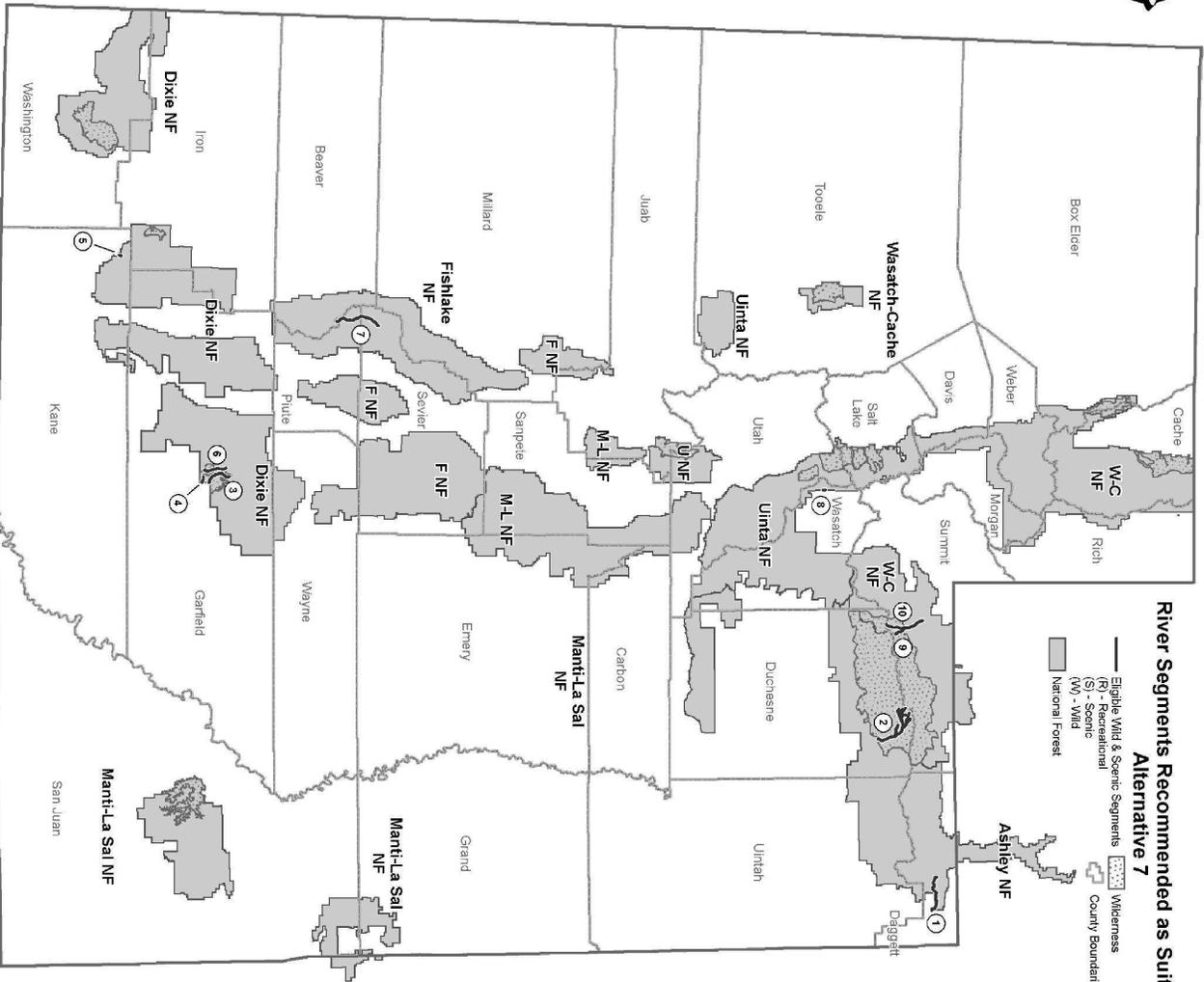
<b>Alternative 7 – River Segments</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>
<b>Ashley National Forest</b>		
Green River	13	Scenic

<b>Alternative 7 – River Segments</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>
Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Painter Draw	40	Wild
<b>Dixie National Forest</b>		
Death Hollow Creek	10	Wild
Mamie Creek	2	Wild
North Fork Virgin River	1	Scenic
Pine Creek	8	Wild
<b>Fishlake National Forest</b>		
Fish Creek	15	Wild - Upper (4.3 mi.); Recreational - Lower (10.5 mi.)
<b>Manti-La Sal National Forest</b>		
No segments.	0	N/A
<b>Uinta National Forest</b>		
Little Provo Deer Creek – Only 1 mile is recommended as suitable under this alternative.	1	Recreational
<b>Wasatch-Cache National Forest</b>		
Ostler Fork: Source to Mouth	4	Wild
Stillwater Fork: Source to Mouth	14	Wild within Wilderness (6 mi.); Scenic below Wilderness (8 mi.)
<b>Total</b>	108 miles	7 Wild classifications (74.3 miles)
		3 Scenic classifications (22 miles)
		2 Recreational classifications (11.5 miles)



### River Segments Recommended as Suitable Alternative 7

- Eligible Wild & Scenic Segments
- (R) - Recreational
- (S) - Scenic
- (W) - Wild
- ▨ Wilderness
- ▭ County Boundaries
- ▭ National Forest



- ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST**
  - ① Green River (S)
  - ② Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Palmer Draw (W)
- DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST**
  - ③ Death Hollow Creek (W)
  - ④ Mamie Creek (W)
  - ⑤ North Fork Virgin River (S)
  - ⑥ Pine Creek (W)
- FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST**
  - ⑦ Fish Creek (W) - Upper, (R) - Lower
- MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST**
  - No Segments
- UINTA NATIONAL FOREST**
  - ⑧ Little Pioxo Deer Creek (R) - only 1 mile recommended under Alt. 7
- WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST**
  - ⑨ Oatler Fork, Source to Mouth (W)
  - ⑩ Stillwater Fork (W) in Wilderness (S) below



W-C NF 035, Last 09/17/06

### **Future Actions Associated with Interim Protection Direction (Alternatives 1, 3 through 7)**

For all action alternatives suitable river segments will be protected to preserve the opportunity for designation by Congress. Specific interim protection direction varies by activity and is described in detail in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 82.5. This direction is intended to protect the free-flowing character of each river from modification, to protect outstanding remarkable values, and to ensure maintenance of the existing classification (setting and development scale, e.g., Wild, Scenic, or Recreational).

### **Future Actions Associated with Designation (Alternatives 3 through 7)**

For all action alternatives there are specific consequences associated with recommending and then designating river segments. 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)*. A synopsis of effects associated with designation is described in Appendix D – Effects of Managing a River as a Component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System v. 042607 which is a distillation of the Council paper by the Forest Service. These two documents describe the effects of managing a river as a component of the National System, based on the direction in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

## **2.3 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study**

---

Federal agencies are required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives and to briefly discuss the reasons for eliminating any alternatives that were not developed in detail (40 CFR 1502.14). Public comments received in response to the Proposed Action provided suggestions for alternative methods for achieving the purpose and need. Some of these alternatives may have been outside the scope of project, duplicative of the alternatives considered in detail, or determined to have components that would cause unnecessary environmental harm. Therefore, a number of alternatives were considered, but dismissed from detailed consideration for reasons summarized below.

### **Find suitable all river segments that were determined to be eligible.**

In this alternative, all of the 86 river segments would be recommended for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System. This would protect all of the eligible rivers and their outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). It forecloses impoundment of these rivers for water supply or other uses. Native and sensitive aquatic species which require free-flowing water for their survival would be protected. Sensitive plant species and habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife species would also be protected. All of the inventoried river classifications would be represented under this alternative.

This alternative was dismissed from detailed study because it is too expensive and not practical. This alternative assumes all the costs, while not recognizing competing trade-offs for other planned development and uses on these river segments. It fails to recognize the differing levels of support that exist for and against designation.

From a strictly cost standpoint, if a river is designated by Congress, “the Federal agency charged with the administration of each component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall prepare a comprehensive management plan for such river segment...3 full fiscal years after the date of designation.” (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 3(d)(1)). Based on 2001 data (which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data), 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, it would cost the Forest Service around \$9.1 million dollars annually to administer 100 rivers or around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. The actual cost of preparing the comprehensive management plans for 86 segments would range from \$100,000 to \$300,000 over a two to three year period, dependent on complexity of issues. As an example, using an average of \$200,000 per plan, it would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years to develop comprehensive management plans. This cost far exceeds funding available for this task. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104).

**Find suitable those segments with existing and potential water resource projects that also have underrepresented outstandingly remarkable values in the National System.**

In this alternative a determination is made that all river segments with existing and potential water resource projects (dam, diversion, and other modification of the waterway) that also have underrepresented ORVs in the National System are suitable.

This alternative was dismissed from detailed study because threats from reasonably foreseeable water resources projects are covered under Alternative 4. Unique Utah river values are also adequately covered in Alternatives 3, 4, 6, and 7.

**Find suitable those segments with underrepresented outstandingly remarkable values when compared with the National System of rivers.**

Under this alternative, a determination is made that all segments with ORV values that are underrepresented in the National System are suitable. This alternative would include river segments with ORVs that are not currently represented, or those with only a minimal number of similar ORVs represented on rivers currently in the National System.

This alternative was dismissed from detailed study because unique Utah ORV values that might be underrepresented nationally were thoroughly considered in Alternatives 3, 4, 6, and 7.

**Find suitable those segments within specific geographic areas of the State.**

In this alternative, a determination is made that all segments within certain geographic areas are suitable.

This alternative was dismissed because it did not produce results much different than the other action alternatives. Alternatives 3 through 7 consider river segments from different geographic areas while also representing the uniqueness of the State of Utah.

**Find suitable those segments located within designated Wilderness.**

In this alternative, a determination is made that all river segments located within designated Wilderness areas are suitable.

This alternative was dismissed from detailed study because some river segments and ORVs do not end at the Wilderness boundary. By ending a river segment at a boundary on a map, this alternative may compromise the integrity and value of finding suitable a complete river segment or system. In addition, this alternative would exclude segments located outside of Wilderness boundaries that might make a worthy addition to the system.

River segments located within Wilderness areas were considered in Alternatives 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. More specifically, one of the criteria used for Alternative 5 was to consider river segments with a low cost for

management, i.e., those segments that would be relatively inexpensive for the administering agency to manage.

**Find suitable those segments located within an inventoried roadless area.**

In this alternative, a determination is made that all river segments located within an inventoried roadless area are suitable.

This alternative was dismissed from detailed study because some river segments and ORVs do not end at an inventoried roadless area boundary. By ending a river segment at a boundary, this alternative may compromise the integrity and value of the river system. In addition, this alternative would exclude segments located outside of roadless area boundaries that might make a worthy addition to the system.

River segments located in inventoried roadless areas were considered in Alternatives 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. More specifically, one of the criteria used for Alternative 5 was to consider river segments with a low cost for management, i.e., those segments that would be relatively inexpensive for the administering agency to manage.

**Find suitable those segments that are not wholly or partially protected by Congressional designation or agency designated Research Natural Areas (RNAs).**

In this alternative, a determination is made that all river segments not partially or wholly protected by Congressional designation or agency designated RNAs are suitable.

This alternative was dismissed from detailed study because it represented all segments under some type of threat which is covered by Alternatives 4 and 6. This alternative was dismissed from detailed study because some river segments and ORVs do not begin at these administrative boundaries. This alternative may arbitrarily compromise the integrity and value of the river system. In addition, this alternative would exclude segments located inside of a Congressional designation or RNA that might make a worthy addition to the system.

**Find suitable those river segments that could receive support from the State of Utah.**

In this alternative, a determination is made that all river segments that could receive support from the State of Utah are found suitable.

This alternative was based on comments regarding consistency with Utah State Law Codified at Section 63-38d-401(a and b). This alternative was dismissed from detailed study because there is not enough information at this time to determine which river segments are supported by the State of Utah. The Team also dismissed this alternative because two segments are located in Wyoming and Colorado.

**Find suitable all river segments with public support.**

This alternative was dismissed from detailed study because it is highly variable. Responses to scoping ranged from finding suitable no river segments to all river segments, and many combinations in between. Alternatives 3 through 7 capture river segments with some degree of public support.

**Find suitable river segments with the highest number of outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs).**

This alternative was suggested by the Utah Rivers Council and Center for Biological Diversity because it would provide priority for protection to segments where protection would deliver the most diverse values (by one measure – number of ORVs) to the American public. This alternative was dismissed from detailed study because it would eliminate those river segments that may have only one ORV, but which could be a worthy addition to the National System. This alternative is partially covered by Alternatives 3 through 7 which have river segments with multiple ORVs.

## 2.4 Comparison of Alternatives

This section provides a summary of the effects of implementing each alternative. Information in the table is focused on activities and effects where different levels of effects can be distinguished quantitatively or qualitatively among alternatives. Table 2.4.1 compares the totals and number of segments found suitable and number of rivers by classification for each of the alternatives.

**Table 2.4.1. Comparison of Segments Found Suitable by Alternatives.**

		Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt. 3	Alt. 4	Alt. 5	Alt. 6	Alt. 7
Number of Classifications*	Wild	0	0	21	0	36	17	7
	Scenic	0	0	17	2	13	18	3
	Recreational	0	0	12	2	6	10	2
Total Number of River Segments*		0	0	43	3	50	40	10
Miles of River Segment by Classification	Wild	0	0	178.7	0	393.9	216.4	74.3
	Scenic	0	0	97.6	22.05	88.6	112.75	22
	Recreational	0	0	93.9	22.6	47.8	112	11.5
Total Miles of River Segments		0	0	370	45	530	441	108

\* Some river segments have more than one classification (e.g., a portion of the river segment is classified as Scenic and a portion is classified as Recreational, etc.)

**Table 2.4.2. Comparison of Environmental Effects by Alternative.**

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Alternative 1</b>	<b>Alternative 2</b>	<b>Alternative 3</b>	<b>Alternative 4</b>	<b>Alternative 5</b>	<b>Alternative 6</b>	<b>Alternative 7</b>
<b>General Alternative Comparison</b>	Suitability decisions deferred on 840 miles of stream.  River's free-flowing, ORVs, and preliminary classification protected to the extent of Forest Service's authority; these values will not be protected under the WSR Act.	All 840 miles of stream determined not suitable.  No miles determined suitable and recommended for inclusion in the National System.  Forest Plans would be amended to remove any WSR interim protection measures.	370 miles determined suitable for designation; these river's free-flowing, ORVs, and recommended classifications will be protected to the extent of the Forest Service's authority; these river values are not protected under the WSR act until designation.  470 miles determined not suitable and interim protection is removed.  Forest Plans would be amended to provide for/or remove interim protection.	45 miles determined suitable for designation; these river's free-flowing, ORVs, and recommended classifications will be protected to the extent of the Forest Service's authority; these river values are not protected under the WSR act until designation.  795 miles determined not suitable and interim protection is removed.  Forest Plans would be amended to provide for/or remove interim protection.	530 miles determined suitable for designation; these river's free-flowing, ORVs, and recommended classifications will be protected to the extent of the Forest Service's authority; these river values are not protected under the WSR act until designation.  310 miles determined not suitable and interim protection is removed.  Forest Plans would be amended to provide for/or remove interim protection.	441 miles determined suitable for designation; these river's free-flowing, ORVs, and recommended classifications will be protected to the extent of the Forest Service's authority; these river values are not protected under the WSR act until designation.  399 miles determined not suitable and interim protection is removed.  Forest Plans would be amended to provide for/or remove interim protection.	108 miles determined suitable for designation; these river's free-flowing, ORVs, and recommended classifications will be protected to the extent of the Forest Service's authority; these river values are not protected under the WSR act until designation.  732 miles determined not suitable and interim protection is removed.  Forest Plans would be amended to provide for/or remove interim protection.
<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Scenic Value (Section 3.3a)</b>	458 miles of stream with Scenic ORV would remain eligible for potential inclusion in the National System.	No long-term protection for 458 miles of stream with Scenic ORVs; streams would be managed to existing laws, regulations and Forest Plans.	220 miles of Scenic ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 238 miles of stream with Scenic ORVs.	24 miles of Scenic ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 434 miles of stream with Scenic ORVs.	290 miles of Scenic ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 168 miles of stream with Scenic ORVs.	212 miles of Scenic ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 246 miles of stream with Scenic ORVs.	43 miles of Scenic ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 415 miles of stream with Scenic ORVs.
<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Recreational Value (Section 3.3b)</b>	180 miles of stream with Recreational ORVs would remain eligible for potential inclusion in the National System.	No long-term protection for 180 miles of stream with Recreational ORVs; streams would be managed to	120 miles of Recreational ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection	19 miles of Recreational ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR	104 miles of Recreational ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR	117 miles of Recreational ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR	34 miles of Recreational ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR

Resource Category	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6	Alternative 7
		existing laws, regulations and Forest Plans.	for 60 miles of stream with Recreational ORVs.	protection for 161 miles of stream with Recreational ORVs.	protection for 76 miles of stream with Recreational ORVs.	protection for 63 miles of stream with Recreational ORVs.	protection for 146 miles of stream with Recreational ORVs.
<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Fish and Aquatic Habitat Values</b> (Section 3.3c)	100 miles of stream with Fish ORVs would remain eligible for potential inclusion in the National System.	No long-term protection for 100 miles of stream with Fish ORVs; streams would be managed to existing laws, regulations and Forest Plans.	89 miles of Fish ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 11 miles of stream with Fish ORVs.	0 miles of Fish ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 100 miles of stream with Fish ORVs.	54 miles of Fish ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 46 miles of stream with Fish ORVs.	74 miles of Fish ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 26 miles of stream with Fish ORVs.	28 miles of Fish ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 72 miles of stream with Fish ORVs.
<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Wildlife Value</b> (Section 3.3d)	233 miles of stream with Wildlife ORVs would remain eligible for potential inclusion in the National System.  Wildlife resources within segments are protected by existing laws. However, designation would add additional protection to 19 segments containing Wildlife ORVs due to increased protection from development.	No long-term protection for 233 miles of stream with Wildlife ORVs; streams would be managed to existing laws, regulations and Forest Plans.	156 miles of Wildlife ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 78 miles of stream with Wildlife ORVs.  Wildlife resources within segments are protected by existing laws. However, designation would add additional protection to 14 segments containing Wildlife ORVs due to increased protection from development.	21 miles of Wildlife ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 212 miles of stream with Wildlife ORVs.  Wildlife resources within segments are protected by existing laws. However, designation would add additional protection to 1 segment containing Wildlife ORVs due to increased protection from development.	180 miles of Wildlife ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 53 miles of stream with Wildlife ORVs.  Wildlife resources within segments are protected by existing laws. However, designation would add additional protection to 15 segments containing Wildlife ORVs due to increased protection from development.	142 miles of Wildlife ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 91 miles of stream with Wildlife ORVs.  Wildlife resources within segments are protected by existing laws. However, designation would add additional protection to 8 segments containing Wildlife ORVs due to increased protection from development.	68 miles of Wildlife ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 165 miles of stream with Wildlife ORVs.  Wildlife resources within segments are protected by existing laws. However, designation would add additional protection to 3 segments containing Wildlife ORVs due to increased protection from development.
<b>Outstandingly Remarkable</b>	244 miles of stream with	No long-term protection for 244	71 miles of Historical/Cultural	0 miles of Historical/Cultural	171 miles of Historical/Cultural	117 miles of Historical/Cultural	28 miles of Historical/Cultural

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Alternative 1</b>	<b>Alternative 2</b>	<b>Alternative 3</b>	<b>Alternative 4</b>	<b>Alternative 5</b>	<b>Alternative 6</b>	<b>Alternative 7</b>
<b>Historic and Cultural Values</b> (Section 3.3e)	Historical/Cultural ORVs would remain eligible for potential inclusion in the National System.  Cultural resources within segments are protected by existing laws. However, designation would add additional protection to 20 segments containing cultural resources due to increased protection from development.	miles of stream with Historic/Cultural ORVs; streams would be managed to existing laws, regulations and Forest Plans.	ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 173 miles of stream with Historical/ Cultural ORVs.  Cultural resources within segments are protected by existing laws. However, designation would add additional protection to 7 segments containing cultural resources due to increased protection from development.	ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 244 miles of stream with Historical/ Cultural ORVs.  Cultural resources within segments are protected by existing laws. However, designation would add additional protection to 0 segments containing cultural resources due to increased protection from development.	ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 73 miles of stream with Historical/ Cultural ORVs.  Cultural resources within segments are protected by existing laws. However, designation would add additional protection to 12 segments containing cultural resources due to increased protection from development.	ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 127 miles of stream with Historical/ Cultural ORVs.  Cultural resources within segments are protected by existing laws. However, designation would add additional protection to 6 segments containing cultural resources due to increased protection from development.	ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 216 miles of stream with Historical/ Cultural ORVs.  Cultural resources within segments are protected by existing laws. However, designation would add additional protection to 7 segments containing cultural resources due to increased protection from development.
<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Geologic and Hydrologic Values</b> (Section 3.3f)	231 miles of stream with Geologic/ Hydrologic ORVs would remain eligible for potential inclusion in the National System.	No long-term protection for 231 miles of stream with Geologic/Hydrologic ORVs; streams would be managed to existing laws, regulations and Forest Plans.	154 miles of Geological/ Hydrological ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 77 miles of stream with Geological/ Hydrological ORVs.	0 miles of Geological/ Hydrological ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 231 miles of stream with Geological/ Hydrological ORVs.	146 miles of Geological/ Hydrological ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 85 miles of stream with Geological/ Hydrological ORVs.	156 miles of Geological/ Hydrological ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 75 miles of stream with Geological/ Hydrological ORVs.	50 miles of Geological/ Hydrological ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System; no WSR protection for 181 miles of stream with Geological/ Hydrological ORVs.
<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Ecological Values</b> (Section 3.3g)	223 miles of stream with Ecological ORVs would remain eligible for potential inclusion in the	No long-term protection for 223 miles of stream with Ecological ORVs; streams would be managed to	190 miles of Ecological ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National System;	0 miles of Ecological ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National	130 miles of Ecological ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National	110 miles of Ecological ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National	44 miles of Ecological ORVs will have interim protection and are determined suitable for designation into the National

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Alternative 1</b>	<b>Alternative 2</b>	<b>Alternative 3</b>	<b>Alternative 4</b>	<b>Alternative 5</b>	<b>Alternative 6</b>	<b>Alternative 7</b>
	National System.	existing laws, regulations and Forest Plans.	no WSR protection for 33 miles of stream with Ecological ORVs.	System; no WSR protection for 223 miles of stream with Ecological ORVs.	System; no WSR protection for 93 miles of stream with Ecological ORVs.	System; no WSR protection for 113 miles of stream with Ecological ORVs.	System; no WSR protection for 179 miles of stream with Ecological ORVs.
<b>Botanical Resources</b> (Section 3.4)	No ground disturbing activities. No impacts to management indicator species (MIS), endangered (E), threatened (T), candidate (C), or Forest Service sensitive (S) plants and habitat protected by existing Forest Plans and laws and regulations.	No impacts to management indicator species (MIS), endangered (E), threatened (T), candidate (C), or Forest Service sensitive (S) plants and habitat protected by existing Forest Plans and laws and regulations.	No ground disturbing activities. No impact to MIS or TESC plant species or habitat. Designation could give additional protection to plants on 370 miles of stream beyond existing laws such as ESA and Forest Plans through development of comprehensive river management plans.	Same as Alternative 3. However, would protect the least (45 miles) of stream.	Same as Alternative 3. However, would protect the most (530 miles) of stream.	Same as Alternative 3. However, would protect more (441 miles) of stream.	Same as Alternative 3. However, would protect less (108 miles) of stream.
<b>Fish and Other Aquatic Species</b> (Section 3.5)	No ground disturbing activities. Provides protection for the most (840) miles of stream and related aquatic resources and offer protection above what exists in Forest Plans and laws and regulations.	No streams found suitable; No long-term protection for 840 miles of stream; streams would be managed to existing laws, regulations and Forest Plans.	No ground disturbing activities. No impact to MIS or TESC fish or other aquatic species or habitat. Designation could give additional protection to aquatic species beyond existing laws such as ESA and Forest Plans through development of comprehensive river management plans. However, would protect 370 miles of stream.	Same as Alternative 3. However, would protect less (45 miles) of stream.	Same as Alternative 3. However, would protect the most (530 miles) of stream.	Same as Alternative 3. However, would protect more (441 miles) of stream.	Same as Alternative 3. However, would protect less (108 miles) of stream.
<b>Mineral Resources</b> (Section 3.6)	All segments receive interim management, using current tools to limit	No streams found suitable, No long-term protection for 840 miles of stream;	52 river miles classified as Wild and their corridors would be additionally	0 river miles classified as Wild and their corridors would be additionally	78 river miles classified as Wild and their corridors would be additionally	26 river miles classified as Wild and their corridors would be additionally	4.3 river miles classified as Wild and their corridors would be additionally

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Alternative 1</b>	<b>Alternative 2</b>	<b>Alternative 3</b>	<b>Alternative 4</b>	<b>Alternative 5</b>	<b>Alternative 6</b>	<b>Alternative 7</b>
	impact of mineral development. No additional miles would be withdrawn from mineral entry.	streams would be managed to existing laws, regulations and Forest Plans.  No additional restrictions on mining.	withdrawn from mineral entry if designated.  159 river miles with active mineral development would be found suitable.	withdrawn from mineral entry if designated.  45 river miles with active mineral development would be found suitable.	withdrawn from mineral entry if designated.  32 river miles with active mineral development would be found suitable.	withdrawn from mineral entry if designated.  83 river miles with active mineral development would be found suitable.	withdrawn from mineral entry if designated.  16 river miles with active mineral development would be found suitable.
<b>Range</b> (Section 3.7)	Grazing practices continue in accordance with allotment management plans and Forest Plans and existing laws and regulations. No impact to grazing practices or activities on 727 miles of stream.	Same as Alternative 1.	No impact to grazing on 320 river miles. Grazing would be reviewed during comprehensive river management plan. If activities are inconsistent with protecting and enhancing ORVs, then changes to livestock and / or grazing practices may be required.	No impact to grazing on 45 river miles. Grazing would be reviewed during comprehensive river management plan. If activities are inconsistent with protecting and enhancing ORVs, then changes to livestock and / or grazing practices may be required.	No impact to grazing on 458 river miles. Grazing would be reviewed during comprehensive river management plan. If activities are inconsistent with protecting and enhancing ORVs, then changes to livestock and / or grazing practices may be required.	No impact to grazing on 386 river miles. Grazing would be reviewed during comprehensive river management plan. If activities are inconsistent with protecting and enhancing ORVs, then changes to livestock and / or grazing practices may be required.	No impact to grazing on 96 river miles. Grazing would be reviewed during comprehensive river management plan. If activities are inconsistent with protecting and enhancing ORVs, then changes to livestock and / or grazing practices may be required.
<b>Recreation</b> (Section 3.8)	Recreation would continue to be managed in accordance with Forest Plans and existing laws and regulations.	Recreation would continue to be managed in accordance with Forest Plans and existing laws and regulations.	Would allow full range of recreation opportunities, and developments from primitive to facilities with boat ramps and roads. This Alternative would provide long-term protection to one blue ribbon fishery.	Would allow reduced range of recreation opportunities. This Alternative would provide long-term protection for two blue ribbon fisheries.	Would allow most opportunity for a variety of recreation opportunities in the widest range of landscapes, and developments from primitive to facilities with boat ramps and roads. This Alternative would provide long-term protection for one blue ribbon fishery.	Would allow a range of recreation opportunities, landscapes, and developments from primitive to facilities with boat ramps and roads. This Alternative would provide long-term protection for four blue ribbon fisheries.	Would allow a range of recreation opportunities, landscapes, and developments from primitive to facilities with boat ramps and roads. This Alternative would provide long-term protection for one blue ribbon fishery.
<b>Roads/ Rights of Way</b> (Section 3.9)	No new roadways would be built in corridors classified as Wild under Forest Service authority.	No streams found suitable, No long-term protection for 840 miles of stream; streams would be managed to existing laws,	45 river miles and their corridors classified as Wild not located in a designated Wilderness or Research Natural Area would have	0 river miles and their corridors classified as Wild not located in a designated Wilderness or Research Natural Area would have	68 river miles and their corridors classified as Wild not located in a designated Wilderness or Research Natural Area would have	26 river miles and their corridors classified as Wild not located in a designated Wilderness or Research Natural Area would have	0 river miles and their corridors classified as Wild not located in a designated Wilderness or Research Natural Area would have

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Alternative 1</b>	<b>Alternative 2</b>	<b>Alternative 3</b>	<b>Alternative 4</b>	<b>Alternative 5</b>	<b>Alternative 6</b>	<b>Alternative 7</b>
	No withdrawal or comprehensive management plans would be created allowing rights of way and easements to occur in accordance with Forest Plans and existing laws and regulations.	regulations and Forest Plans.  No additional restrictions on road construction or rights of way except on ~400 miles of stream corridor are already in areas which restrict road development, or rights of way authorization.	road restrictions if designated.	road restrictions if designated.	road restrictions if designated.	road restrictions if designated.	road restrictions if designated.
<b>Social and Economic Resources</b> (Section 3.10)	No change in social or economic effects from the current management situation is projected. No additional costs for designation or river management plans would occur.	Same as Alternative 1.	Minimal social and economic impacts due to segments not containing reasonably foreseeable projects. Possible positive economic impacts from tourism or higher property values.	Most potential for social and economic impacts, due to several reasonably foreseeable projects. Modest social and economic impacts due to tourism.	Same as Alternative 3.	Similar to Alternative 4.	Same as Alternative 3.
<b>Timber Harvest</b> (Section 3.11)	Timber harvesting could not impact the ORVs on 281 river miles with reasonably foreseeable timber projects. River corridors would continue to be protected by Forest Plans, and existing laws and regulations to protect riparian zones and	Same as Alternative 1.	Same as Alternative 1, only on 12 segments (107 miles).	Same as Alternative 1, only on 2 segments (24 miles).	Same as Alternative 1, only on 14 segments (127 miles).	Same as Alternative 1, only on 14 segments (131 miles).	Same as Alternative 1, only on 1 segment (1 mile).

Resource Category	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5	Alternative 6	Alternative 7
	wetlands.						
<b>Water Resources</b> (Section 3.12)							
Free-flowing Stream	840 miles of free-flowing stream would remain eligible for potential inclusion in the National System.  840 miles of free-flowing stream is protected to the extent of the Forest Service's authority; the free-flowing value will not be protected under the WSR Act.	No long-term protection for free-flowing conditions for 840 miles of stream.	370 miles of free-flowing stream is protected to the extent of the Forest Service's authority; the free-flowing value will not be protected under the WSR Act until designated.  470 miles of free-flowing stream would not be protected under the WSR Act.	45 miles of free-flowing stream is protected to the extent of the Forest Service's authority; the free-flowing value will not be protected under the WSR Act until designated.  795 miles of free-flowing stream would not be protected under the WSR Act.	530 miles of free-flowing stream is protected to the extent of the Forest Service's authority; the free-flowing value will not be protected under the WSR Act until designated.  310 miles of free-flowing stream would not be protected under the WSR Act.	441 miles of free-flowing stream is protected to the extent of the Forest Service's authority; the free-flowing value will not be protected under the WSR Act until designated.  399 miles of free-flowing stream would not be protected under the WSR Act.	108 miles of free-flowing stream is protected to the extent of the Forest Service's authority; the free-flowing value will not be protected under the WSR Act until designated.  732 miles of free-flowing stream would not be protected under the WSR Act.
Existing Water Developments	May be restrictions to management of existing water developments to maintain free-flowing condition on 540 miles of stream.	No restrictions to management of existing water developments to maintain free-flowing condition on 540 miles of stream.	May be restrictions to management of existing water developments on 214 miles of stream. No restrictions to management on 326 miles of stream.	May be restrictions to management of existing water developments on 45 miles of stream. No restrictions to management on 495 miles of stream.	May be restrictions to management of existing water developments on 343 miles of stream. No restrictions to management on 197 miles of stream.	May be restrictions to management of existing water developments on 274 miles of stream. No restrictions to management on 266 miles of stream.	May be restrictions to management of existing water developments on 54 miles of stream. No restrictions to management on 486 miles of stream.
Reasonably Foreseeable Water Developments	May preclude reasonably foreseeable water development projects on 45 miles of stream.	No restrictions to maintain free-flowing condition on 45 miles of stream, reasonably foreseeable projects could be	Would not preclude reasonably foreseeable projects on 45 miles of stream, reasonably foreseeable projects could be built if feasible.	May preclude reasonably foreseeable projects on 45 miles of stream, reasonably foreseeable projects could not	Same as Alternative 3.	Same as Alternative 4.	Same as Alternative 3.

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Alternative 1</b>	<b>Alternative 2</b>	<b>Alternative 3</b>	<b>Alternative 4</b>	<b>Alternative 5</b>	<b>Alternative 6</b>	<b>Alternative 7</b>
		built if feasible.		be built.			
<b>Wildlife Resources</b> (Section 3.13)	Provides protection for the most miles of stream and related wildlife resources and offer protection above what exists in Forest Plans and laws and regulations.	Provides no additional protection for wildlife resources above what exists in Forest Plans and laws and regulations on 840 miles of stream.	No impact to MIS or TESC wildlife species or habitat. Designation could give additional protection to wildlife species beyond existing laws such as ESA and Forest Plans through development of comprehensive river management plans. Would protect 370 miles of stream.	Same as Alternative 3. However, would protect the least (45 miles) of stream.	Same as Alternative 3. However, would protect the most (530 miles) of stream.	Same as Alternative 3. However, would protect more (441 miles) of stream.	Same as Alternative 3. However, would protect less (108 miles) of stream.

## 2.5 Preferred Alternative

---

The Preferred Alternative is Alternative 7 – Recommend river segments that reflect the broad range of public comments and emphasize specific suitability factors.

This alternative was developed based on comments received during public open houses and over 2,500 written comments from Draft EIS reviewers, an assessment of factors documented in the Suitability Evaluation Reports (Final EIS and Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports), and the issues analyzed in depth described in Chapter 1, Section 1.11 – Issues. The Forest Supervisor’s feel this alternative will reflect a broad range of public comment and they considered the following when determining which rivers fit into Alternative 7:

- Recognition of multiple, nationally significant, or underrepresented ORVs that would contribute to the National Wild and Scenic River System.
- Contribution to a river system.
- Segments that would be best managed through designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
- Designation of the river segment would be compatible with, or will enhance other federal agency wild and scenic river recommendations, will complement other national forest management activities and has potential to stimulate tourism and economic growth.
- Support from a broad range of public entities (federal agencies; state, local and tribal governments; and national and local publics).

## 2.6 Environmentally Preferred Alternative

---

Alternative 1 – No action, maintain eligibility of all river segments is the environmentally preferred alternative. In this alternative suitability findings would be deferred and current management practices would continue. All 86 river segments (a total of 840 miles) would continue to be managed as “eligible” for their potential inclusion into the National System, and the Forest Service would continue to use its existing authorities to protect free flow, water quality, ORVs, and recommended tentative classifications (interim management outlined in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80 - Wild and Scenic River Evaluation). Management would continue to be in accordance with existing laws and regulations and land and resource management plans. Use conflicts between eligible river segments and other proposed actions would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.