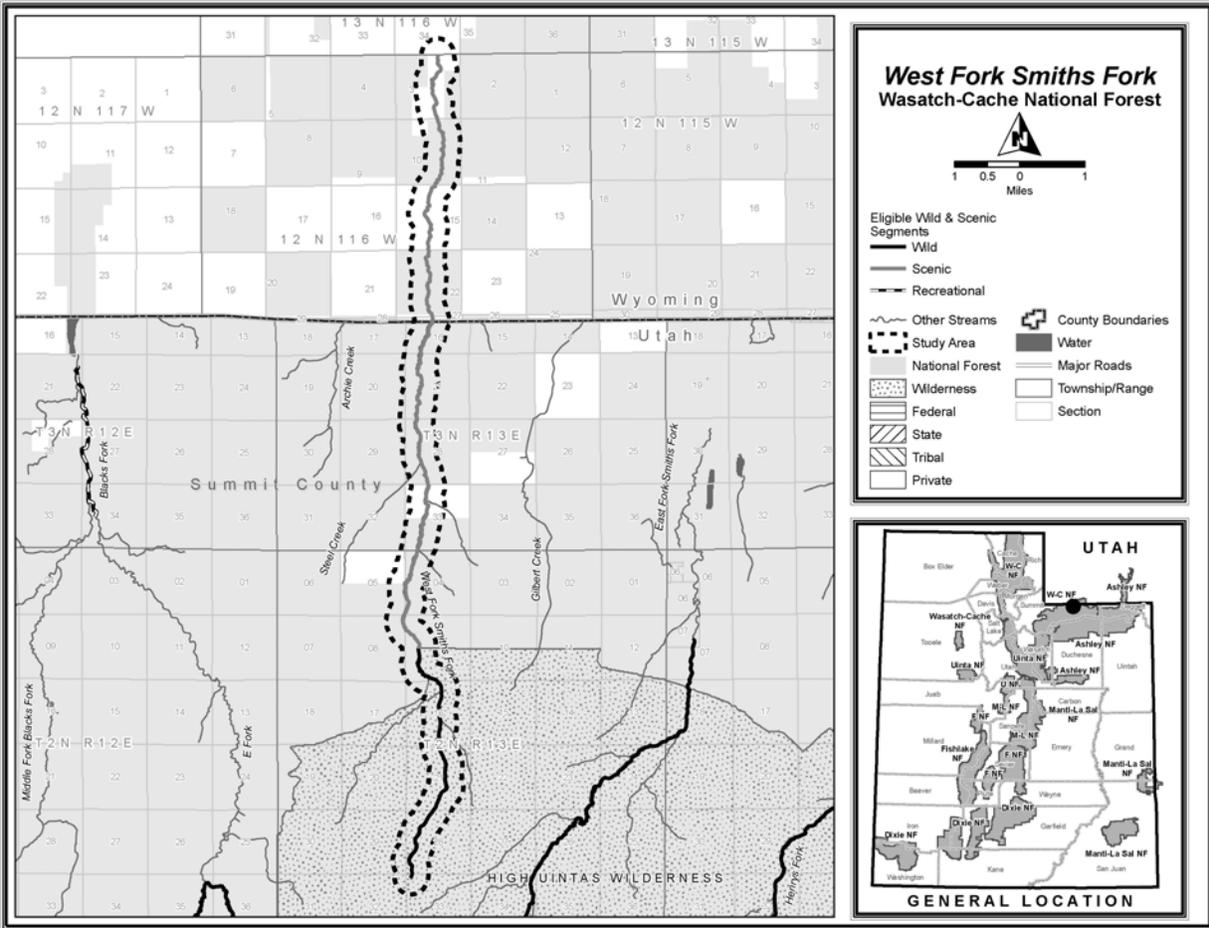


West Fork Smiths Fork Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



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
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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 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. Prior to finalization of this EIS, the actual miles of river segments recommended for designation will be calculated and the maps redrawn to exclude the private lands outside of the National Forest ownership to avoid the appearance of including these private lands in recommended river segments.

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 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, 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.

(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

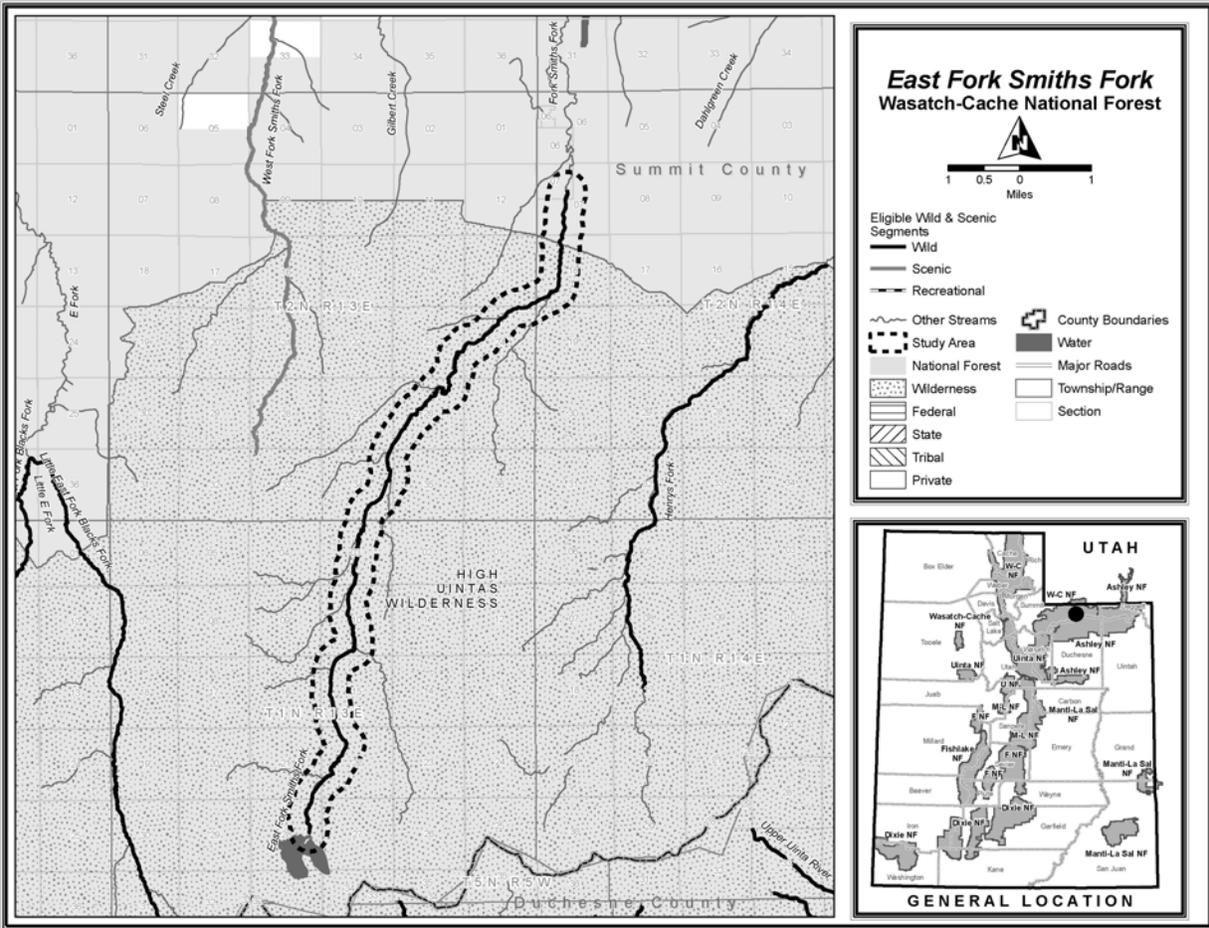
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

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 - The background views of the cirque are visually striking. The intermixing of vegetation types with the broad riparian areas bordered by conifers and tall rugged mountain peaks is diverse. It is often photographed and published on calendars and other publications. The scenic value of this segment is outstandingly remarkable. 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 allowed¹.

(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 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 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.

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.

(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.

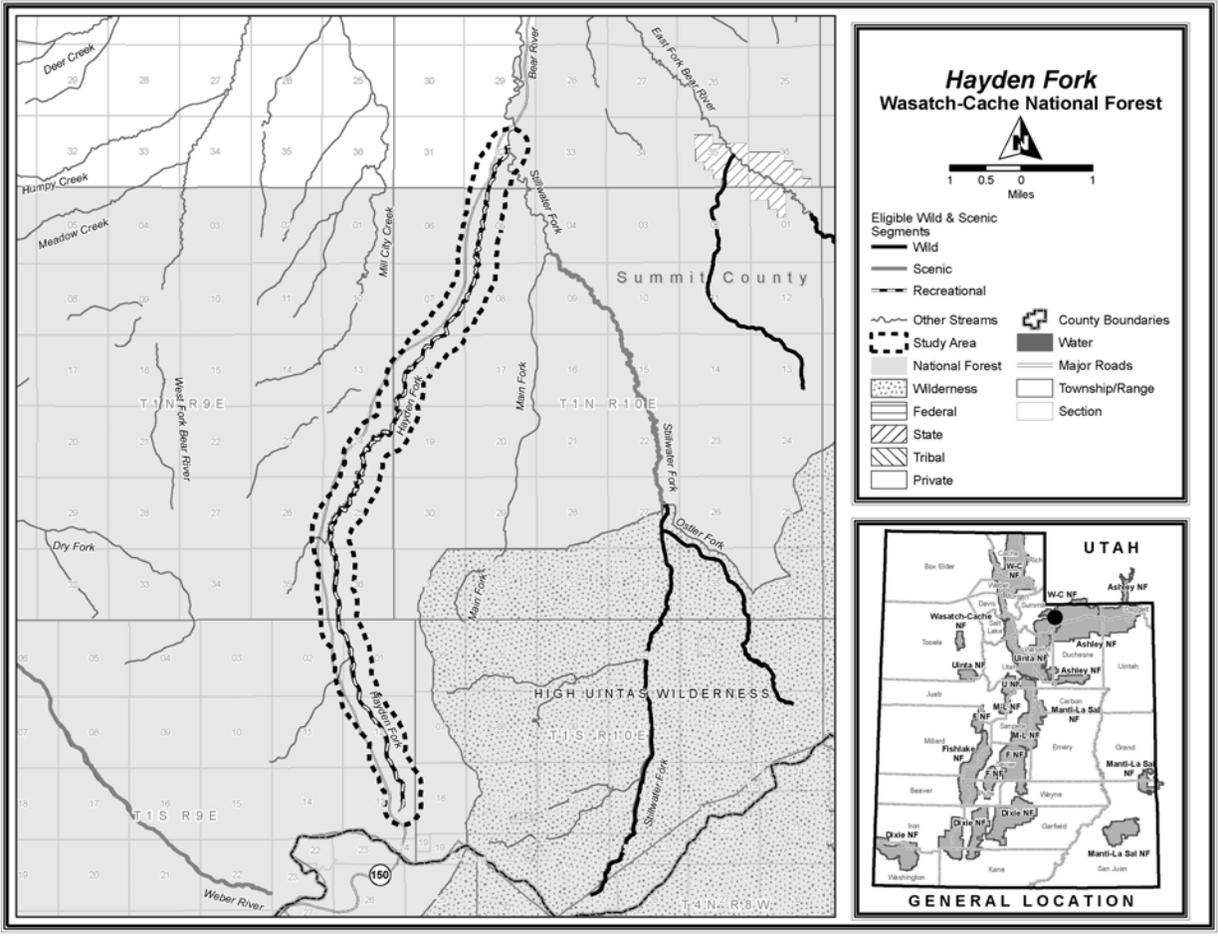
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

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 National 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 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. Prior to finalization of this EIS, the actual miles of river segments recommended for designation will be calculated and the maps redrawn to exclude the private lands outside of the National Forest ownership to avoid the appearance of including these private lands in recommended river segments.

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 National 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 National 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 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.

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 I the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System were in support of this stream designation.

(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.

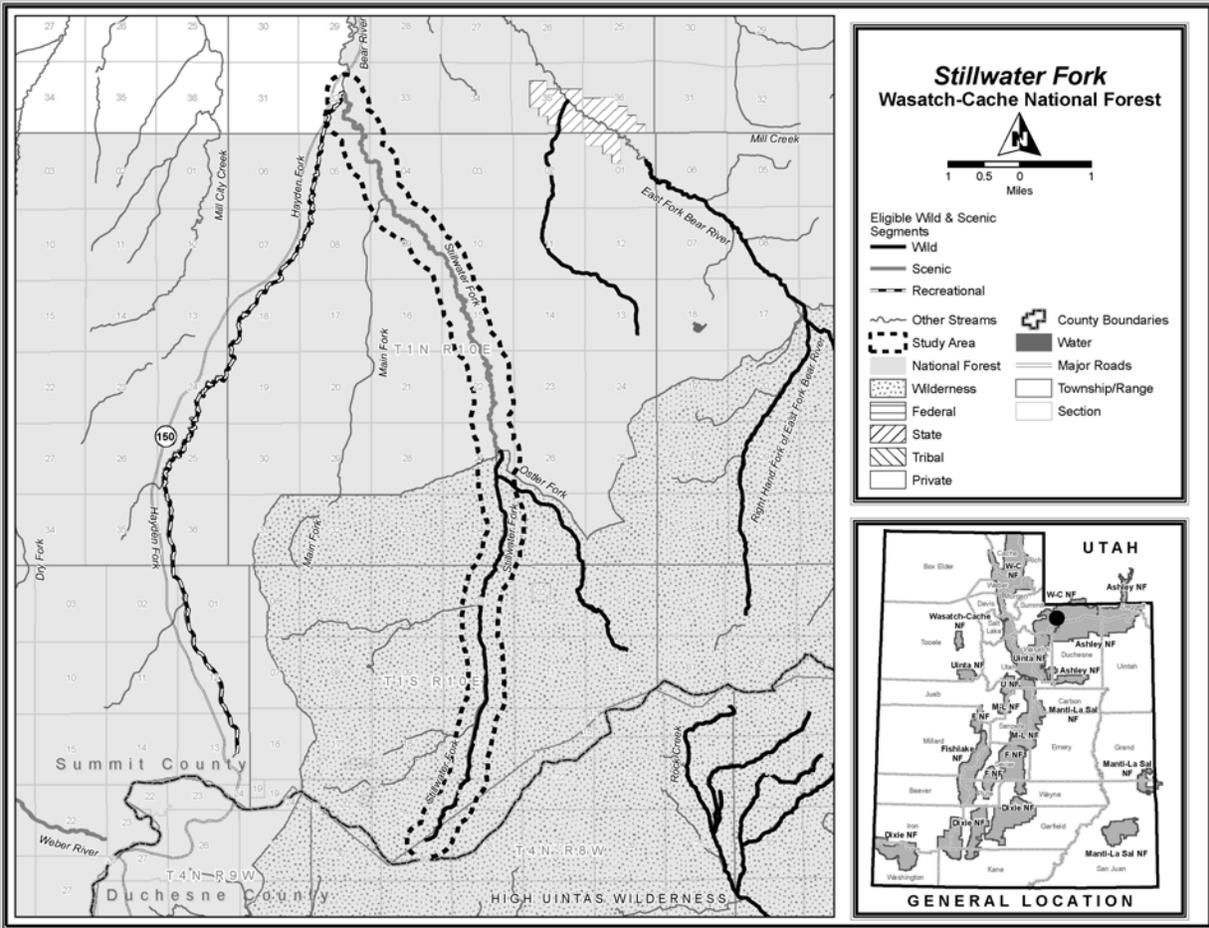
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

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
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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 scenic view from lower elevations along the Stillwater Fork provides an outstandingly remarkable opportunity to the viewer of the high elevations of the High Uintas and its surrounding landscape. This view is often painted and photographed and appears frequently in publications on Utah and the west.

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 there is an active lease below the eligible Stillwater Fork 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 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 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.

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.

(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.