

not be built and no major ecological changes, as referenced above in Alternative 3, would occur on these segments.

The 21 segments (146 miles) determined not suitable for wild and scenic designation would be released from Wild and Scenic interim protection and effects on ecological values as discussed in Alternative 2 would apply. Of the 21 segments, 14 are in Wilderness or a research natural area and ecological values would generally remain unaffected. Under this alternative, planned water projects would be able to move forward on one segment with ecological ORVs, Ashley Gorge Creek (See Table 3.12.7) and a change to outstandingly remarkable ecological values is expected.

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

Nineteen segments (142 miles) with ecological ORVs would be found suitable and recommended for designation, would continue to receive interim protection the effects of which are explained in Alternative 1 and Table 3.1.2, and could be congressionally designated. Congressional action would then require a comprehensive river management plan be developed within three years of designation. Those segments with ecological ORVs would be managed to protect ecological values.

The 10 segments (97 miles) with ecological values found not suitable for wild and scenic designation would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and effects on ecological values as discussed in Alternative 2 would apply. Of these 10 segments 5 are wholly or partially in Wilderness or research natural areas and ecological values would generally remain unaffected. Under this alternative, planned water projects would be able to move forward on six segments with ecological ORVs (See Table 3.12.8) and change in ecological values is expected.

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

In Alternative 6, 13 segments (120 miles) with ecological ORVs would be found suitable and recommended for designation, would continue to receive interim protection the effects of which are explained in Alternative 1 and Table 3.1.2, and could be congressionally designated. In this alternative few of the planned water projects and their resulting changes in ecology could move forward.

Of the 16 segments (115 miles) with ecological ORVs remaining, 12 are wholly or partially in Wilderness or research natural area and ecological values would generally remain unaffected. Under this alternative, planned water projects would be able to move forward on two segments with ecological ORVs, West Fork Blacks Fork, and Little Cottonwood Creek (See Table 3.12.9) and change in ecological values would be expected on these segments.

## **3.4 Botanical Resources**

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### **Introduction**

The botanical resources section describes the rare plants (threatened, endangered, sensitive, and watchlist), noxious weeds, and plants used as management indicator species. This section discusses the affected environment and environmental impacts of designation on botanical resources. Section 3.3g, Ecological Values describes impacts on outstandingly remarkable ecological values some of which include general descriptions of vegetation.

## Affected Environment

### Rare Plants (Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Plant Species)

Federal land-managing agencies are responsible for implementing the Endangered Species Act (ESA) within their authorities. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, efforts to promote the conservation and recovery of listed species and provisions to conserve the ecosystems upon which listed species depend. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) monitors and prescribes management for federally listed threatened and endangered plant species. The National Forest Management Act (1976) and Forest Service policy (FSH 2609.25 and FSM 2670 and FSM 2609) require that National Forest System land be managed to maintain populations of all existing native animal and plant species at or above minimum viable populations levels. A viable population is the maintenance of enough individuals throughout their range to perpetuate the existence of the species in natural, self-sustaining populations.

The USDA Forest Service, in implementing the ESA, must ensure efforts to promote the conservation and recovery of listed species and provisions to conserve the ecosystems upon which listed species depend. Table 3.4.1 provides a list of those species that have state or federal status as endangered, threatened or candidate.

**Table 3.4.1. Endangered, threatened, and candidate plant species on the six National Forests in Utah (from regional list (12/03) (technical edits 7/04). Known/suspected distribution by forest.**

Plant Species	Ashley NF	Dixie NF	Fishlake NF	Manti-La Sal NF	Uinta NF	Wasatch-Cache NF
ENDANGERED						
San Rafael cactus <i>Pediocactus despainii</i>			x			
Clay phacelia <i>Phacelia argillacea</i>				?	x	
THREATENED						
Deseret milkvetch <i>Astragalus desereticus</i>				?		
Heliotrope milkvetch <i>Astragalus montii</i>				x		
Winkler cactus <i>Pediocactus winkleri</i>				?		
Maguire's primrose <i>Primula maguirei</i>						x
Last chance townsendia <i>Townsendia aprica</i>		x	x			
Ute ladie's tresses <i>Spiranthes diluvialis</i>	?	?	?	?	x	?
CANDIDATE						
N/A.						

x = known distribution species and/or habitat

? = suspected or potential habitat

### Sensitive Species and Species at Risk

The current or proposed sensitive or plant species at risk inhabit a diverse array of habitat and vary in their distribution across the landscape. These species are faced with a variable range of threats and differ in the degree to which Forest Service management and other management may affect their status. The amount of current scientific information and distribution data available also varies greatly among species, thus often limiting the assessment of the cumulative effects of all management activities and

environmental consequences on the long-term viability of such species. Table 3.4.2 is a list of sensitive plant species and known/suspected distribution on the six National Forests in Utah.

**Table 3.4.2. Forest Service sensitive plant species on the six National Forests in Utah (from regional list (12/03) (technical edits 7/04). Known/suspected distribution by forest.**

Sensitive Plant Species	Ashley NF	Dixie NF	Fishlake NF	Manti-La Sal NF	Uinta NF	Wasatch-Cache NF
Chatterley onion <i>Allium geoyeri chatterleyi</i>				x		
Sweet-flowered rock jasmine <i>Androsace chamaejasme carinata</i>				x		
Link Trail columbine <i>Aquilegia flavescens rubicunda</i>				x		
Graham columbine <i>Aquilegia grahamii</i>	x					
Petiolate wormwood <i>Artemisia campestris petiolata</i>	x					
Bameby woody aster <i>Aster kingii var. bamebyana</i>			x		x	
Bicknell milkvetch <i>Astragalus consobrinus</i>			x	?		
Dana milkvetch <i>Astragalus henrimontanensis</i>		x				
Starvling milkvetch <i>Astragalus jejunus jejunus</i>						x
Navajo Lake milkvetch <i>Astragalus limnocharis var. limnocharis</i>		x				
Table Cliff milkvetch <i>Astragalus limnocharis var. tabulaeus</i>		x				
Guard milkvetch <i>Astragalus zionis vigulus</i>		x				
Dainty moonwort <i>Botrychium crenulatum</i>	x				x	
Paradox moonwort <i>Botrychium paradoxum</i>		x				
Slender moonwort <i>Botrychium lineare</i>	x	?	?	?	?	x
Aquarius paintbrush <i>Castilleja aquariensis</i>		x				
Tushar paintbrush <i>Castilleja parvula var. parvula</i>		x	x			
Reveal paintbrush <i>Castilleja parvula var. revealii</i>		x				
Creutzfeldt-flower cryptanth <i>Cryptantha cruetzfeldtii</i>				x		
Yellow-white catseye <i>Cryptantha ochroleuca</i>		x				
Pinnate spring-parsley <i>Cymopterus beckii</i>		x		x		
Cedar Breaks biscuitroot <i>Cymopterus minimus</i>		x				
Brownie ladyslipper <i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i>	x					x
Rockcress draba <i>Draba densifolia apiculata</i>					x	x
Maguire draba <i>Draba maguirei</i>						x
Creeping draba <i>Draba sobolifera</i>		x	x			

Sensitive Plant Species	Ashley NF	Dixie NF	Fishlake NF	Manti-La Sal NF	Uinta NF	Wasatch-Cache NF
Abajo daisy <i>Erigeron abajoensis</i>				x		
Carrington daisy <i>Erigeron carringtonae</i>				x		
Cronquist daisy <i>Erigeron cronquistii</i>						x
Kachina daisy <i>Erigeron kachinensis</i>				x		
Maguire daisy <i>Erigeron maguirei</i>			x			
LaSal daisy <i>Erigeron mancus</i>				x		
Untermann daisy <i>Eriogonum untermannii</i>	x					
Widtsoe buckwheat <i>Eriogonum aretioides</i>		x				
Elsinore buckwheat <i>Eriogonum batemanii</i> var. <i>ostlundii</i>			x			
Logan buckwheat <i>Eriogonum brevicaulis</i> var. <i>loganum</i>						x
Wonderland Alice flower <i>Gilia caespitosa</i>		x	x			
Pine Valley goldenweed <i>Haplopappus crispus</i>		x				
Canyon sweetvetch <i>Hedysarum occidentalis</i> var. <i>canone</i>				x		
Jones goldenaster <i>Heterotheca jonesii</i>		x				
Wasatch jamesia <i>Jamesia Americana macrocalyx</i>					x	x
Zion jamesia <i>Jamesia Americana zionis</i>		x				
Neeses' peppergrass <i>Lepidium montanum</i> var. <i>neeseeae</i>		x				
Garrett bladderpod <i>Lesquerella garrettii</i>					x	x
Canyonlands lomatium <i>Lomatium latilobum</i>				x		
Goodrich stickleaf <i>Mentzelia goodrichii</i>	x					
Fish Lake naiad <i>Najas caespitosa</i>			x			
Arctic poppy <i>Papaver radicum</i> var. <i>pygmaeum</i>	x					x
Paria breadroot <i>Pedimelum pariense</i>		x				
Stemless beardtongue <i>Penstemon acaulis</i> var. <i>acaulis</i>	x					
Red Canyon beardtongue <i>Penstemon bracteatus</i>		x				
Cache beardtongue <i>Penstemon compactus</i>						x
Little penstemon <i>Penstemon parvus</i>		x	x			
Pinyon penstemon <i>Penstemon pinorum</i>		x				
Ward beardtongue <i>Penstemon wardii</i>			x			
Angell cinquefoil		x				

Sensitive Plant Species	Ashley NF	Dixie NF	Fishlake NF	Manti-La Sal NF	Uinta NF	Wasatch-Cache NF
<i>Potentilla angelliae</i>						
Cottam cinquefoil <i>Potentilla cottamii</i>						x
Arizona willow <i>Salix arizonica</i>		x	x	x		
Beaver Mountain groundsel <i>Senecio castoreus</i>			x			
Podunk groundsel <i>Senecio malmstenii</i>		x				
Musinea groundsel <i>Senecio musiniensis</i>				x		
Maguire campion <i>Silene petersonii</i>		x	?	x		
Rock-tansy <i>Sphaeromeria caplata</i>		x				
Caespitose greenthread <i>Thelesperma caespitosa</i>	x					
Uinta greenthread <i>Thelesperma pubescens</i>						x
Bicknell thelesperma <i>Thelesperma subnuda var. alpina</i>		x	x			
Sevier townsendia <i>Townsendia jonesii var. lutea</i>			x			
Smith violet <i>Viola franksmithii</i>						x

x = known distribution species and/or habitat

? = suspected or potential habitat

## Noxious Weeds

Noxious weed establishment is dependent two main factors, weed seed dispersal and potential habitat. The literature lists numerous vectors for weed seed dispersal. Humans, animals both wild and domestic, wind and water have all been identified as having the ability to transport weeds seed. Potential habitat is dependent on the type of weed and its life history. The majority of the weeds that are documented on National Forest System lands are considered “rangeland weeds” that can establish and thrive in several vegetation types. Once established, rangeland weeds can displace native vegetation altering habitat for native plants and animals. Problems created from noxious weed infestations range from reduced or eliminated recreational potential to increased erosion potential. Known to a lesser degree are aquatic weeds, which are plants that grow wholly or partially in water. They can grow in ponds, lakes streams or rivers and once established can create problems ranging from unsightly growth and nuisance odors to clogging waterways, damaging equipment, impairment of water quality and displacement of natural aquatic plants and animals.

The rate of spread and magnitude of the impacts is also variable and depends on several-site specific conditions. The characteristics of the establishing weed, health of the ecosystem, micro-climate all combine to effect the outcome.

## Management Indicator Species

Management Indicator Species (MIS) are select species that are monitored and results of which would indicate the health of the ecosystem. The only MIS plant identified and included in the Riparian guild of Management indicator species of the Fishlake National Forest is Rydberg’s milkvetch *Astragalus*

*perianus*. As outlined in the summary of the Life History and Analysis of Endangered, Threatened, Candidate, Sensitive and Management Indicator Species of the Fishlake National Forest. (Version 2.0 December 12, 2002 [[http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/fishlake/publications/Life\\_History/v2/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/fishlake/publications/Life_History/v2/index.shtml)]) The objective was to select species that through monitoring populations and habitat relationships the effects of Forest Service management activities could be measured. Trend studies annotated in the same document indicate a stable trend for Rydberg's milkvetch.

**Table 3.4.3. Plant management indicator species of the six National Forests of Utah.**

Species	Ashley NF	Dixie NF	Fishlake NF	Manti-La Sal NF	Uinta NF	Wasatch-Cache NF
Rydberg's milkvetch <i>Astragalus perianus</i>			x			

## Environmental Consequences

### General Environmental Impacts

Following designation, development of a comprehensive river management plan provides additional emphasis on inventory and protection of diverse plant communities.

### Rare Plants

The viability of rare plant species and their respective habitats will be promoted with implementation of standards and guidelines, inventory and monitoring, and adherence to Forest Service directives for threatened, endangered, proposed, and sensitive plant species and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Consistent implementation of standards and guidelines and adherence to Forest Service Management Policy across all National Forest System lands for all alternatives is mandatory for Threatened, endangered, or sensitive (TES) plant species conservation.

### Evaluation of Risk and Uncertainty

Causes of rarity can vary greatly for individual species. Species may be intrinsically rare or rare as a result of anthropogenic interference (Kruckeberg and Rabinowitz 1985). Other plant species may be rare due to their population ecology, evolutionary history, or basic reproductive biology. Historical or current anthropogenic activities may also contribute to the current distribution of these rare species.

This environmental impact study (EIS) does not directly authorize ground disturbing or habitat altering projects, the effects would be the same across all alternatives. Implementation of the preferred alternative in this EIS would not directly impact any rare plant or rare plant habitat. Designations as a wild and scenic river would provide another layer of protection should any rare plant occur, or have potential habitat, within ¼ of a mile of any one of the 86 proposed river segments.

If rivers or segments are not selected for designation, the above mentioned laws, policy and directives would still exist to protect rare plants or rare plant habitat. Should potentially ground disturbing, or habitat altering projects be proposed within the river corridor, they would have to undergo further analysis under the National Environmental Protection Act.

Sensitive species will be managed to ensure their population viability and preservation. The Forest Service management policy (FSH 2609.25, 1.25, 1988 and FSM 2670) ensures that for all TEPS plant species, the following measures will be taken: (1) biological evaluations will be written for all activities

that may impact sensitive species and their habitat; (2) “effects” of activities will be determined as similar to those for threatened, endangered, or proposed species; and (3) sensitive species must receive special management emphasis to ensure their viability and to preclude trends toward endangerment that would result in the need for federal listing. This Forest Service management policy will be employed at a species level in all alternatives to ensure its mandates are achieved and that sensitive species are conserved.

### **Noxious Weeds**

Invasive species have been identified as a significant threat to forest and rangeland ecosystems. A national strategy has been developed to guide the Forest Service as it takes on this threat. (USDA 2004) The national strategy outlines four areas of concentration when it comes to noxious weeds; Prevention, Early Detection Rapid Response, Control and Management, and Rehabilitation and Restoration. Manual direction (FSM 2080) – dictates that all units stop the spread of existing noxious weeds and prevent invasion of new sites or new noxious weeds by applying prevention and control mitigation measures where applicable and appropriate.

The risk for weed introduction and establishment exists for all alternatives. Alternatives that would favor recreation and potential ground disturbing projects would be at a higher risk due to increased vectors for weed seed distribution and increased habitat that favors weed establishment. Noxious weeds can get established in remote areas with little or no disturbance and few vectors and areas of high use and numerous ground disturbing activities can remain weed free. Management actions for noxious weeds would be similar across all alternatives with an emphasis on education and early detection and rapid response (treatment).

### **Management Indicator Species**

The only MIS plant identified and included in the Riparian guild of Management indicator species of the Fishlake National Forest is Rydberg’s milkvetch (*Astragalus perianus*). Rydberg’s milkvetch habitat as listed in A Utah Flora is described as “...often on barrens in alpine or montane sites in tundra and spruce-fir communities, but also in sagebrush stands at 2135 to 3480 m.” Trend studies completed by the Fishlake National Forest indicate a stable trend. There would be no effect to the trend of this species under any proposed alternative. Designation would provide an added layer of protection for the species should it, or its habitat, occur within the corridor of the proposed river segment. Should potentially ground disturbing, or habitat altering projects be proposed within the corridor, they would have to undergo further analysis under the National Environmental Protection Act.

## **3.5 Fish and Other Aquatic Species**

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### **Introduction**

Section 3.5 will provide a brief description of the aquatic species (including threatened, endangered, candidate, sensitive, and management indicator species) found in eligible stream segments being reviewed for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River System. The eligibility of these rivers was conducted on a forest-by-forest basis previously.

For a description of the impacts on outstandingly remarkable fish and aquatic values, refer to Section 3.3c.

This section will review the key assumptions and methodologies used in the analysis; identify existing inventories, monitoring, and research literature review used in the analysis; describe the site-specific resource conditions; discuss effects of the alternatives; and document conclusions regarding direct, indirect effects for each alternative.

### Existing Inventories, Monitoring, and Research Literature Review

Material listed in this section came from Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Report (cited as “SER”), information provided by the fish biologists on the individual forests (cited as personal communication), or other reports. If information was missing to conduct the analysis the forest biologist was contacted, the material requested, and inserted into the document.

### Affected Environment

The existing condition for species found in the segments being considered for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River System has been reviewed (Table 3.5.1). Cutthroat trout are found in most of the river segments (Table 3.5.1). Fine spotted or Snake River (Raft River Drainage), Bonneville (Bonneville Basin) and Colorado River cutthroat trout were the native trout found in the state. Yellowstone cutthroat trout have been brought into the state and used in many drainages to enhance sport fishing opportunities. Other species that have been brought into the state that compete directly with the native fish includes rainbow trout (originally from the West Coast), brook trout (originally from the eastern United States), and German brown trout (originally from Germany). These non-native species have spread through a number of the segments being reviewed (Table 3.5.1).

The native cutthroat trout is the primary species impacted by these introduction species. The Yellowstone cutthroat trout along with rainbow trout have in some cases interbred with the native trout. The primary way to distinguish between the genetically mixed stock and the pure fish is through genetic analysis. For many populations this work has not been done or done on just a very limited number of fish. Therefore streams containing cutthroat trout will just be listed as cutthroat trout and no separation of subspecies will be made (Table 3.5.1). Once tested and when the testing has been verified, one should be able to determine to which subspecies is in each individual segment be they Bonneville or Colorado River cutthroat trout.

Some of the key streams with unique fish assemblages or characteristics are listed in Table 3.5.1.

**Table 3.5.1. Stream segments identified for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System in the State of Utah, 2007. (Note: Only species verified as being present are listed in the table. Other species may be present but have not been found during surveys.)**

Eligible River Segment	Miles	TES Aquatic Species	Other Fish Species	Other Amphibian Species	Notes
<b>Ashley NF</b>					
Middle Main Sheep Creek	5	CT	RBT, BKT	BCF, LF	
Lower Main Sheep Creek	4	--	KS, RBT, BNT	BCF, LF	Major fish viewing area for Kokanee
Carter Creek	16	CT	RBT, BKT, SMB	BCF, LF	
Cart Creek Proper	10	--	RBT, SMB	BCF, LF	
Green River	13	--	RBT, MWF, BNT	BCF, LF	National Fishing Draw

Eligible River Segment	Miles	TES Aquatic Species	Other Fish Species	Other Amphibian Species	Notes
Pipe Creek	6	--	RBT, BKT	BCF, LF	
Upper Whiterocks River	4	--	RBT, BKT	BCF, LF	
East Fork Whiterocks River	4	--	RBT, BKT	BCF, LF	
West Fork Whiterocks River	11	CT	BKT	BCF, LF	Possible restoration site for CRCT
Reader Creek	6	CT	BKT	BCF, LF	Currently being treated to remove brook trout
Middle Whiterocks River	8	CT	RBT	BCF, LF	Possible restoration site for CRCT
Lower Dry Fork Creek	7	--	--	BCF, LF	
South Fork Ashley Creek	15	CT	RBT, BKT	BCF	
Black Canyon	10	CT	RBT, BKT	BCF	
Ashley Gorge Creek	10	CT	RBT, BKT	BCF	
Upper Rock Creek	21	CT	BKT, MS	BCF	
Fall Creek	6	CT	MS	BCF	
West Fork Rock Creek, including Fish Creek	13	CT	BKT, MS	BCF	
Oweep Creek	20	CT	RBT, BKT, MS	BCF	
Upper Lake Fork River, including Ottoson and East Basin Creeks	35	CT	RBT, BKT, MS	BCF	
Upper Yellowstone Creek, including Mill Creek	33	CT	RBT, BKT, MS	BCF	
Garfield Creek	17	CT	BKT	BCF	
Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork and Painter Draw	40	CT	RBT, BKT, MS	BCF	
Shale Creek and Tributaries	10	CT	RBT, BKT, MS	BCF	
<b>Dixie NF</b>					
North Fork Virgin River	2	--	--	TS, GBS	Upstream of Virgin Spindace a FWS Species of Concern
East Fork Boulder Creek	3	CT	BKT	BT	
Slickrock Canyon – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	2	--	--	GBS, WHT, BCF	
Cottonwood Canyon – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	6	--	--	GBS, WHT, BCF, RST	
The Gulch – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	2	--	--	GBS, WHT, BCF, RST	
Steep Creek – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	7	--	--	GBS, WHT, BCF	
Pine Creek	8	CT	BNT	GBS, WHT, BCF	
Mamie Creek	2	--	--	GBS, WHT, BCF, RST	
Death Hollow Creek	10	--	--	GBS, WHT, BCF, RST	

Eligible River Segment	Miles	TES Aquatic Species	Other Fish Species	Other Amphibian Species	Notes
Moody Wash	5	VS	SPD, DS	AT, RST, CTF, WHT	Virgin Spindace a FWS Species of Concern
<b>Fishlake NF</b>					
Salina Creek	7	CT	BNT, RBT, BKT	TS, BCF	
Fish Creek	15		RBT, BNT, MS, SPD, SU	LF	Planned for treatments beginning in 2008 to restore native CT.
Corn Creek	2	--	BNT, RBT	GBS	
Pine Creek / Bullion Falls	4	CT	RBT		Treated in 2007 to remove non-native CT, will be planted w/ Bonneville in fall 2008.
Manning Creek	4	CT			
<b>Manti-La Sal NF</b>					
Miners Basin (Placer Creek)	2	--	--	TS, BCF	
Mill Creek Gorge	3	--	BNT	ND	
Roc Creek	9	CT	--	ND	
Huntington Creek	19	CT	BKT, RBT, BNTxBKT, SC, MWT, SU	ND	
Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek	21	CT	RBT	ND	
Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek	5	CT	BKT, RBT, SC, SU	ND	
Hammond Canyon	10	--	--	WHT, RST, CTF, RST, GPT	
Chippean and Allen Canyons	21	--	--	ND	
Upper Dark, Horse Pasture, Peavine & Kigalia Canyons in Upper Dark Canyon	26	--	MIN	LF	
Lower Dark Canyon, including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon, and Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons	41	--	MIN, Trout	LF	
<b>Uinta NF</b>					
North Fork, Provo River	1	SPF	--	BCF, BT, GBS, TS, WHT	
South Fork, American Fork River	1	--	--	LF, TS, BGS, BT, BCF, WHT, GPT	CT downstream
Little Provo Deer Creek	3	--	MS, SPD, BNT, RBT	LF, TS, GBS, BT, BCF, WHT, GPT	
Fifth Water Creek	8	CT,	MS, SPD, BNT, RBT	LF, TS, GBS, BT, BCF, WHT, GPT, SPF	
<b>Wasatch-Cache NF</b>					

Eligible River Segment	Miles	TES Aquatic Species	Other Fish Species	Other Amphibian Species	Notes
Henry's Fork: Henry's Fork Lake to Trailhead	8	CT	SC	ND	
West Fork Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	9	CT	BKT	ND	
Middle Fork Beaver Creek: Beaver Lake to confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek	10	CT	BKT, SC	ND	
Thompson Creek: Source to Hoop Lake Diversion	5	CT	SC	ND	
West Fork Blacks Fork: Source to Trailhead	11	CT	BKT, MWF, SC	ND	
East Fork Blacks Fork: Headwaters to confluence with Little East Fork	10	CT	BK, WF	ND	
Little East Fork: Source to Mouth	9	CT	MWF	ND	
Blacks Fork: Confluence of West Fork and East Fork to Meeks Cabin Reservoir	3	CT	MWF, MS, MTS	ND	
West Fork Smiths Fork: Source to Forest Boundary	14	CT	MTS, SC	ND	Brood source for native Colorado River production
East Fork Smiths Fork: Red Castle Lake to Trailhead	12	CT	RBT, BKT, MWF, SC	ND	
Hayden Fork: Source to Mouth	12	CT	RBT, BKT, MWF, MS, MTS	BT	
Stillwater Fork: Source to Mouth	14	CT	BKT, MWF	ND	Currently stocked with sterile rainbow trout
Ostler Fork: Source to Mouth	4	CT	BKT	ND	
Left, Right, and East Forks Bear River: Alsop Lake and Norice Lake to near Trailhead	13	CT	SC	BT	A large water slide separate prevent upstream migration into the Left Hand Fork of the East Fork.
Boundary Creek: Source to Confluence with East Fork Bear River	4	CT	BKT	BT	
High Creek: High Creek Lake to Forest Boundary	7	--	RBT, BNT	ND	
Left Hand Fork Blacksmiths Fork: Source to Mouth	15	CT	BNT, BKT, SC	ND	
Logan River: Idaho State line to confluence with Beaver Creek	7	CT	SC, BNT, BKT	TS, BCF	Logan River Metapopulation cutthroat trout
Logan River: Confluence with Beaver Creek to Bridge at Guinavah-Malibu Campground	19	CT	SC, BNT, BKT, MWF, RBT	ND	Logan River Metapopulation cutthroat trout
Beaver Creek: South Boundary of State Land to Mouth	3	CT	BKT, MSC	TS, BCF	Logan River Metapopulation cutthroat trout
White Pine Creek: Source to Mouth	1	CT	--	TS, BCF	Logan River Metapopulation cutthroat trout
Temple Fork: Source to Mouth	6	CT	BNT, SC	BT, TS	Logan River Metapopulation cutthroat trout
Spawn Creek: Source to mouth.	4	CT	BKT, BNT, SC	BT, TS	Logan River Metapopulation cutthroat

Eligible River Segment	Miles	TES Aquatic Species	Other Fish Species	Other Amphibian Species	Notes
					trout
Bunchgrass Creek: Source to Mouth	5	CT	--	TS, BCF	Logan River Metapopulation cutthroat trout
Little Bear Creek: Little Bear Spring to Mouth	1	CT	BNT	TS	Logan River Metapopulation cutthroat trout
Main Fork Weber River: Source to Forest Boundary	6	ND	ND	ND	
Middle Fork Weber River: Source to Forest Boundary	6	CT	CTxRBT, BKT	ND	
Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	6	CT	MWF, MTS, SC, LND	ND	
Provo River: Trial Lake to U35 Bridge	20	CT, SPF	RBT, BKT, BNT, SC	SF	
Left Fork South Fork Ogden River: Frost Canyon/Bear Canyon Confluence to Causey	5	CT	SC	ND	
Willard Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	4	--	--	ND	
Red Butte Creek: Source to Red Butte Reservoir	3	CT, JS	--	ND	June Sucker (Endangered) in Red Butte Reservoir
Little Cottonwood Creek: Source to Murray City Diversion	8	CT	BKT, RBT	BT	

**TES:** CT=cutthroat trout identified in the table may or may not have been genetically tested to determine purity. Once tested it may be determined that these are Bonneville cutthroat trout, Colorado River cutthroat trout, Yellowstone cutthroat trout or a combination of two or three of these subspecies or have rainbow trout influence. SF=Spotted Frog, VS=Virgin Spinedace, ND=No Survey Data, -- = No TES Fish or Amphibians found during surveys

**Other Fish:** BNT=brown trout, BKT=brook trout, CTxRBT=cutthroat BNTxBKT=tiger trout, SPD=speckled dace, DS=desert sucker, MS=mottled sculpin, SC=sculpin, SU=sucker, MIN=minnows, SPD=Speckled dace, ND=No Survey Data, -- = No Fish found during surveys

**Other Amphibians:** SPF=Spotted Frog, GBS=Great Basin, spadefoot toad, WHT=woodhouse toad, BCF=boreal chorus frog, TS=tiger salamander, LF=Leopard Frog, RST=red spotted Toad, AT=Arizona Toad, CTF=Canyon Tree Frog, TS=tiger salamander, SPF=spotted Frog, GPT=Great Plains Toad, ND=No Survey Data, -- = No Amphibians found during surveys

### Aquatic Management Indicator Species

Aquatic Management Indicator Species (MIS) vary by forest and are listed in Table 3.5.2.

**Table 3.5.2. Management indicator species of the six National Forests of Utah.**

Species	Ashley NF	Dixie NF	Fishlake NF	Manti-La Sal NF	Uinta NF	Wasatch-Cache NF
Macro Invertebrates	x		x	x		

Bonneville cutthroat trout <i>Orcorhynchus clarki utah</i>		x	x		x	x
Colorado cutthroat trout <i>Orcorhynchus clarki pleuriticus</i>	x		x		x	x
Rainbow trout <i>Orcorhynchus mykiss</i>		x	x			
Cutthroat trout <i>Orcorhynchus clarki</i>		x	x			
Brown trout <i>Salmo trutta</i>		x	x			
Brook trout <i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>		x	x			
Lake trout <i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>			x			

\*The species listed in Table 3.5.2 are all found within river corridors of at least one of the 86 eligible river segments. They are all dependent on the river for survival.

### Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, Candidate, and Sensitive Species

Aquatic endangered, threatened, and Forest Service sensitive species (TES) varied by forest see Table 3.5.3. No water withdrawals or alteration of habitat is proposed with this project.

**Table 3.5.3. Six National Forests in Utah proposed, endangered, threatened and sensitive species (from regional list (12/03) (technical edits 7/04). Known/suspected distribution by forest.**

	Ashley NF	Dixie NF	Fishlake NF	Manti- La Sal NF	Uinta NF	Wasatch- Cache NF
<b>ENDANGERED</b>						
<b>Fish</b>						
June sucker <i>Chasmistes liorus</i>					o	o
Bonytail chub <i>Gila elegans</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o
Humpback chub <i>Gila cypha</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o
Colorado squawfish <i>Ptychocheilus luciys</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o
Razorback sucker <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	o	o	o	o	o	o
<b>FOREST SERVICE SENSITIVE</b>						
<b>Reptiles/Amphibians</b>						
Columbia spotted frog <i>Rana luteiventris</i>	?			x	x	x
<b>Fish</b>						
Colorado River cutthroat trout <i>Onocorhynchus clarki pleuriticus</i>	x	x		x	x	x
Bonneville cutthroat trout <i>Onocorhynchus clarki utah</i>		x	x	?	x	x

x = known distribution species and/or habitat

? = suspected or potential habitat

o = offsite impacts (e.g., downstream)

\*The species listed in Table 3.5.3 are all found within river corridors of at least one of the 86 eligible river segments. They are all dependent on the river for survival.

### Environmental Consequences

See Table 3.1.1 for restriction to activities within stream corridors based on classification. Refer to Table 3.1.2 for a list of basic assumptions.

Section 3.5 addresses one issue:

Issue 4 – Designation offers long-term protection of resource values. The measurement indicator for scenic values is miles of river by Wild, Scenic, and Recreational classification and analysis of the impacts to the ORVs by river.

To conduct this analysis segments that were given two different designations were split and treated as independent segments in the analysis. Two segments with two designations that were only 1 mile long were split and each given 1 mile of length. This increase causes the miles of streams to be increased by two miles which overall is insignificant in view of the overall range of miles of stream protected.

Each alternative was analyzed to determine the miles of stream in each category that would be protected for those identified as having ORVs of Fish and the total miles of stream protected. Its important to realize that just because a stream segment did not list fish as an ORV its selection for protection as Wild, Scenic and/or Recreational could protect the fish in that segment. For streams like the West Fork Smiths Fork where a brood sources for Colorado River cutthroat trout this protection could provide some long-term benefits for cutthroat trout conservation by protecting the brood fish that is planned to be used for creating/restoring populations across the north slope of the Uinta Mountains.

Twelve stream segments are known to be fishless (Table 3.5.4). These may still be very important to protect because they may provide habitat for other species including aquatic insects, amphibians, etc. They also provide water to downstream fish populations. One such segment is the North Fork Virgin River. The North Fork Virgin River was treated as having fish because it has the Virgin spinedace (*Lepidomeda mollispinis mollispinis*), a Federal Species of Concern (Fish and Wildlife Service 1996), downstream. These segments are spread throughout the alternatives with most being protected in Alternative 1 and 5 (Table 3.5.5).

**Table 3.5.4. Segments of stream that contain no fish species in the State of Utah that are eligible for designation as Wild, Scenic or Recreational under the Wild and Scenic River Act.**

Forest	No fish segments	Miles
Dixie	Slickrock Canyon – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	2
Dixie	Cottonwood Canyon – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	6
Dixie	The Gulch – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	2
Dixie	Steep Creek – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	7
Dixie	Mamie Creek	2
Dixie	Death Hollow Creek	10
Manti-La Sal	Miners Basin (Placer Creek)	2
Manti-La Sal	Chippean and Allen Canyons	21
Uinta	North Fork, Provo River	1
Uinta	South Fork, American Fork River	1
W-C	Willard Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	4
	Total	58

**Table 3.5.5. Stream segment and their mileages in the individual alternatives that are fishless segments in the State of Utah.**

	Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6

		Alt 1	Alt 2	Alt 3	Alt 4	Alt 5	Alt 6
Fishless Protected	Stream Segments	11	0	5	1	7	2
	Miles of Stream	58	0	22	1	28	11

### Effects Common to All Alternatives

A large variety of species probably live in all of 86 eligible river segments (840 miles) as identified in Chapter 3, Table 3.2.1. Threats to the species that inhabit these segments include not only habitat alteration from water development, grazing, timber harvest, fire, recreation, but also from competition and predation from non-native fish and other native and exotic species. Natural and human created impacts will continue to shape species composition and habitats in many of these segments with or without designation as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational. Even if a stream segment is protected this does not mean that other natural forces will not be occurring.

This environmental impact study (EIS) does not directly authorize ground disturbing or habitat altering projects so there will be no change in existing conditions unless additional analysis is completed and the effects disclosed. It does however identify miles of stream that will be protected from ground disturbing activities in the future. This protection, like the designation of “Wilderness,” provides long-term habitat stability for aquatic species. Designation of any of the proposed rivers would give additional protection to aquatic habitat that is now or may be in the future occupied “Endangered,” “Threatened,” or Forest Service Sensitive species. If rivers or segments are not selected for designation, laws, policy and directives would still exist to protect currently designated species or their habitat but will do nothing for those species that may need such habitat in the future. Merely protection of the habitat may not be sufficient for long-term conservation of aquatic and semi-aquatic species. Active removal of non-endemic species may be necessary to conserve native fish in these segments.

Management indicator species (MIS) are listed by Forest are found in Section 3.5 in Table 3.5.2 (aquatic species only). With no ground disturbing activities there is no change expected in population trends for any aquatic species as a result of this project. Terrestrial species are discussed in the terrestrial section and the plant species is discussed in the botany section of this document.

Federally listed species and Forest Service sensitive species are listed in Chapter 3.5 in Table 3.5.3 (aquatic species only). It has been determined that there will be no effect/no impact on aquatic TES species because there are no ground disturbing activities proposed in this action. Determinations for terrestrial and botanical species will be discussed in their appropriate sections of this document.

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

Alternative 1 would require the Forest Service to manage all 86 river segments (840 miles) to continue to be “eligible” for their potential inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System, and the Forest Service would continue to use its existing authorities to protect free flow, water quality, ORVs, and recommended classification (interim management outlined in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80 – Wild and Scenic River Evaluation). There would be a total of 840 miles of stream protected.

**Table 3.5.6. Miles of streams that are identified as Recreational, Scenic and Wild by alternative that are identified as having fish ORVs and for all segments.**

Segments with FISH ORV <sup>(1)</sup>				
Alternatives	Recreational (miles)	Scenic (miles)	Wild (miles)	Total (miles)

Segments with FISH ORV <sup>(1)</sup>				
Alternatives	Recreational (miles)	Scenic (miles)	Wild (miles)	Total (miles)
1	37	43	20	100
2	0	0	0	0
3	15	19	9	43
4	22	24	0	46
5	15	19	20	54
6	22	43	9	74
All Segments <sup>(1)</sup>				
1	190	201	451	842
2	0	0	0	0
3	25	55	132	212
4	93	64	47	204
5	49	88	394	531
6	113	112	217	442

<sup>(1)</sup> Segments that were given two different designations were split and treated as independent segment in the analysis. Two segments with two designations that were only 1 mile long were split and each given 1 mile of length.

### **Alternative 2 – No rivers recommended.**

Under Alternative 2 no segments would be selected as suitable. In this case all 86 segments or 840 miles of stream would be managed under the existing direction as identified in the Forest’s Forest Plans. Segments in wilderness, proposed wilderness and in designated “Roadless” areas would continue to get the greatest protection while stream segments in roaded areas may or may not be impacted based on existing standards and guidelines and the management direction in the individual forest plans.

### **Effects Common to Alternatives 3-6**

Aquatic Management Indicator Species (MIS) vary by forest (Table 3.5.2). With no ground disturbing activities this proposal would not affect population trends of these species or their habitat.

Aquatic endangered, threatened, and Forest Service sensitive species (TES) varied by forest (Table 3.5.3). No water withdrawals or alteration of habitat is proposed. With no ground disturbing activities occurring, this project should have no effect and no impact on federally listed or Forest Service Sensitive species, respectively.

Aquatic endangered, threatened, and Forest Service sensitive species (TES) varied by forest (Table 3.5.3). No water withdrawals or alteration of habitat is proposed. With no ground disturbing activities occurring, this project should have no effect and no impact on federally listed or Forest Service Sensitive species, respectively.

The Forest Service would continue to use its existing authorities and interim protection of free flow, water quality, ORVs, and recommended tentative classifications as provided by direction in Forest Plans, and existing laws and regulations.

Site-specific activities may be authorized as long as they are consistent with activities listed in Table 3.1.1, existing laws, regulations, and Forest Plans. Proposed site-specific activities will be analyzed in a separate NEPA document.

### **Summary Comparison of the Alternatives**

As all alternatives are compared, the No Action Alternative (1) provides the greatest protection for aquatic resources. All sections would have to remain free flowing and the outstanding fish and other ORVs would have to be protected (Figure 3.5.1). Alternative 6 provide the next greatest level of absolute protection when you consider that because a great number of the “Wild” designated streams are currently and would continue to be protected by some other designation like Wilderness. Alternative 6 would also protect the greatest number of streams with fish ORVs (Figure 3.5.1). Alternative 5 next provides more protection to more miles of stream than Alternative 4 but Alternative 4 provide more protection to those streams which have fish identified as an ORV than 5 (Figure 3.5.1). Alternatives 3 and 5 protect the same Recreational and Scenic fish ORVs segments with Alternative protecting more Wild segments. Alternative 2 provides no protection above what currently exists as outlined in individual forest plans, and existing laws and regulations.

Should potentially ground disturbing, or habitat altering projects be proposed within the corridor, they would have to undergo further analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Sensitive species will be managed to ensure their population viability and preservation. The Forest Service management policy (FSH 2609.25, 1.25, 1988 and FSM 2670) ensures that for all TEPS aquatic and semi-aquatic species, the following measures will be taken: (1) biological evaluations will be written for all activities that may impact sensitive species and their habitat, (2) effects of activities will be determined as similar to those for threatened, endangered, or proposed species, and (3) sensitive species must receive special management emphasis to ensure their viability and to preclude trends toward endangerment that would result in the need for federal listing. This Forest Service management policy will be employed at a species level in all alternatives to ensure its mandates are achieved and that sensitive species are conserved.

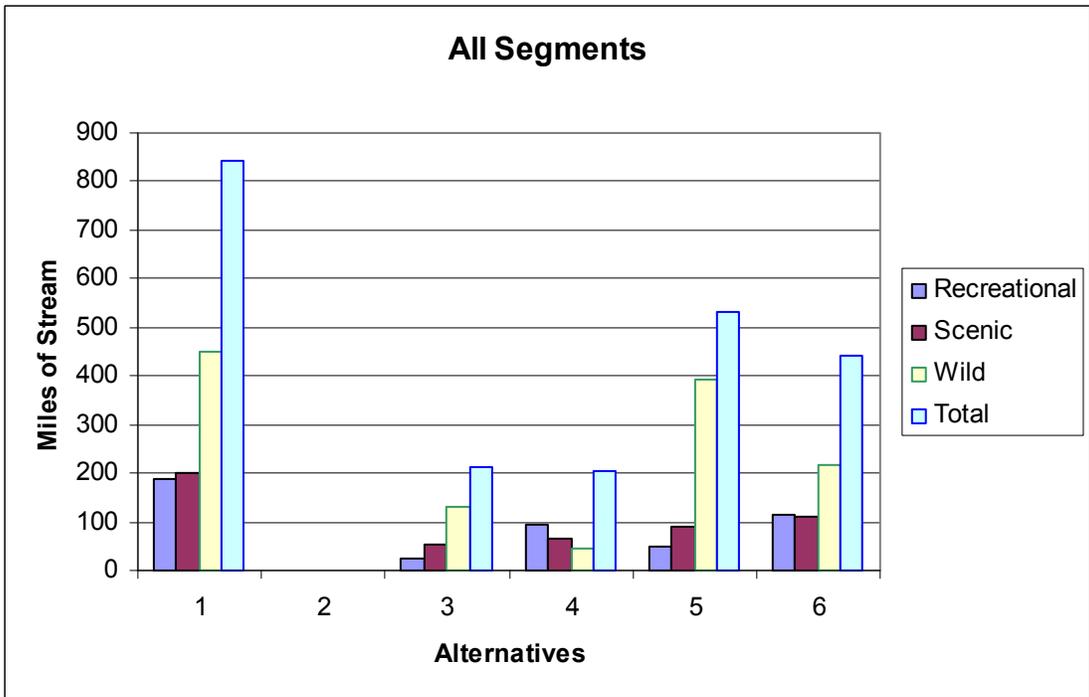
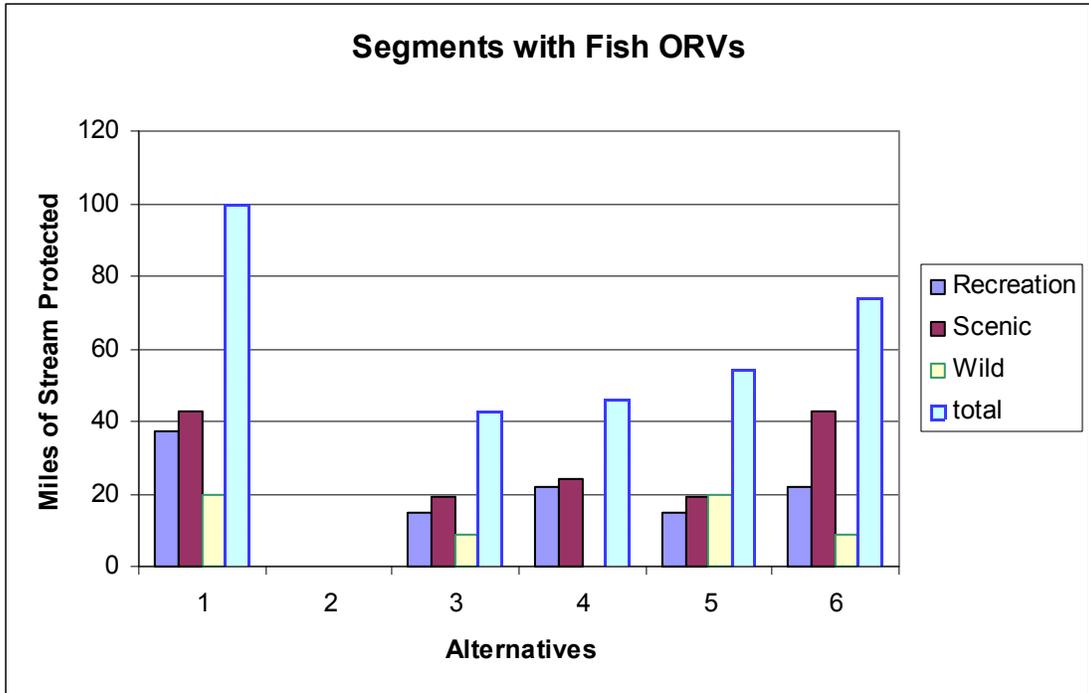


Figure 3.5.1. Stream segments identified as have fish ORVs and all segments being analyzed by alternative to be identified as Recreational, Scenic, or Wild.

## 3.6 Mineral Resources

### Introduction

Detailed information for Section 3.6 came from Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, Mineral and Energy Resource Activities as well as from geocommunicator.gov, the Bureau of Land Managements database of mining and oil and gas claims.

## Affected Environment

The BLM manages the federal mineral estate on both public lands and National Forest System lands with the exception of mineral materials (common varieties of sand, gravel, topsoil, fill dirt, stone, etc.) that the Forest Service has sole authority to manage on National Forest System lands (NFS). Authority to dispose of federal minerals, whether on BLM administered lands or on NFS lands is derived from three principal laws which have been amended many times since first passed but which maintain their essential character:

1. 1872 Mining Law (30 U.S.C. 22, et seq) – Provides for a system whereby lands containing so-called ‘hard rock’ or ‘locatable’ minerals such as gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, and others can be purchased once claim is asserted by staking a lode or placer mining claims and the claim is determined to be valid within the context of the statute. The statute provides for the guaranteed right of access on land open to mining under the statute.
2. Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181, et seq) – Removes from disposal authority under the 1872 Mining Law several minerals commodities and adds several others under a leasing system managed by the BLM through the Department of the Interior. Leasing is discretionary and the lessee cannot gain title to the lands but can obtain mining rights through a system that may involve payment of rentals and royalties. Commodities such as oil and gas, coal, phosphate, sodium, and several other minerals are so-called ‘leasable minerals’.
3. Materials Act of 1947 (30 U.S.C. 601, et seq) – Provides for a system of discretionary disposals by free use or sale for common varieties of sand, gravel, stone, pumice, pumicite and clay as well as many other common mineral commodities generally used in construction, building, and landscaping.

On NFS lands open to operation under the 1872 Mining Law, the Forest Service is required to provide reasonable access and manage effects to surface resources through Forest Service mining regulations. On lands subject to leasing by the BLM, the Forest Service must provide advice regarding mitigation of effects to surface resources associated with leasing. Forest Service input is derived from environmental analysis and is included in leases as lease stipulations. On NFS lands where disposal of mineral materials may be appropriate, the Forest Service has sole authority to decide whether to dispose of commodities determined to be common variety minerals and how to manage the effects associated with such disposals.

On so-called ‘split estate’ lands, the mineral estate and the surface may be split between the Government and another party, usually a private interest. In cases where the mineral estate is owned by the Government, the three Acts noted above usually apply but there may be exceptions. Where the mineral estate is owned by a party other than the Government and the surface is NFS lands, none of the Acts cited apply and access and mining rights are usually controlled by language in the mineral deed and Forest Service Special Use regulations.

Table 3.6.1 displays the level of known locatable mineral and oil and gas activity of the 86 segments. Forty-six (46) of the eligible segment corridors have produced, or have the potential to yield, locatable minerals, salable minerals or oil and gas. Forty-four (44) river segments are considered to have either no mineral potential or a low mineral potential. Active oil and gas operations (generally undeveloped leases only) currently exist within the corridors of 13 of the river segments. Active coal mining leases

(generally undeveloped) currently exist within the Huntington Creek, and the Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek segments.

Table 3.6.1 also displays the status of mineral development for segments grouped by special designations (e.g., Wilderness) which are currently withdrawn from locatable mineral entry. Claims may not be staked in areas closed to mineral entry by a special act of Congress, regulations implementing withdrawals, or public land orders. These areas are withdrawn from the operation of the mining laws. Areas withdrawn from location of mining claims include Research Natural Areas, and lands designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Lands withdrawn for power development may be subject to mining location and entry only under certain conditions. The data shows that parts of 33 segments, approximately 400 segment miles and the ½ mile river corridor have been withdrawn from mineral entry. This represents about 47% of the total segment miles.

**Table 3.6.1. Mineral development status.**

Eligible Segment	Miles	Classification	Other Designation	Level of Past or Present Mineral Development (1)	Found Suitable in Alts
<b>Ashley National Forest</b>					
Ashley Gorge Creek	10	Wild	RNA	No past or present activity	4
Black Canyon	10	Wild	No	No past or present activity	3, 5
Cart Creek Proper	10	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	5
Carter Creek	16	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	*
East Fork Whiterocks River	4	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	5, 6
Fall Creek	6	Wild	Wilderness	No past or present activity	5
Garfield Creek	17	Wild	Wilderness	No past or present activity	5, 6
Green River	13	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	3, 5, 6
Lower Dry Fork Creek	7	Recreational	No	Existing undeveloped mining claims in corridor	4
Lower Main Sheep Creek	4	Recreational	No	2 Phosphate leases inactive	3, 5
Middle Main Sheep Creek	5	Recreational	No	No past or present activity	3, 5
Middle Whiterocks River	9	Wild	No	No past or present activity	6
Oweep Creek	20	Wild	Wilderness	No past or present activity	5
Pipe Creek	6	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	5
Reader Creek	6	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	3, 5, 6
Shale Creek and Tributaries	10.3	Wild	Wilderness	No past or present activity	5, 6
South Fork Ashley Creek	14.5	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	*
Upper Lake Fork River, including Ottoson and East Basin Creeks	35	Wild	Wilderness	No past or present activity	5
Upper Rock Creek	21	Wild	Wilderness	No past or present activity	5
Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork and Painter Draw	40	Wild	Wilderness	No past or present activity	3, 5, 6
Upper Whiterocks River	4	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	5, 6
Upper Yellowstone Creek, including Milk Creek	33	Wild	Wilderness	No past or present activity	5, 6
West Fork Rock Creek, including Fish Creek	13	Wild	Wilderness	No past or present activity	5
West Fork Whiterocks River	11	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	5, 6
<b>Dixie National Forest</b>					
Death Hollow Creek	10	Wild	Wilderness	2 O&G leases suspended, PSJ-UT oil basin within 1/4 mile corridor	3, 5, 6
East Fork Boulder Creek	3	Wild	No	1 active lease	5
Mamie Creek	2	Wild	Wilderness	2 O&G leases suspended, Oil basin PSJ-UT not within corridor	3, 5
Moody Wash	5	Wild	No	1 lease active (below	3, 5, 6

Eligible Segment	Miles	Classification	Other Designation	Level of Past or Present Mineral Development (1)	Found Suitable in Alts
				segment)	
North Fork Virgin River	1	Scenic	No	No past or present activity, coal reserves	3, 5, 6
Pine Creek	8	Wild	Wilderness	O&G active	3, 5
<b>Fishlake National Forest</b>					
Corn Creek	2	Scenic	No	Past mining exploration	*
Cottonwood Canyon – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	6	Wild	No	No past or present activity	*
Fish Creek	15	Wild (4.3 mi.); Rec (10 mi.)	RNA	Past mining exploration	3, 5
Manning Creek	4	Wild	No	1 inactive mining claim	5, 6
Pine Creek / Bullion Falls	4	Wild	RNA	Past, active mining claims outside of corridor	5
Salina Creek	7	Wild	No	No past or present activity, coal reserves	5
Slickrock Canyon – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	2	Wild	No	No past or present activity	5
Steep Creek 4miles in Alt 3 – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	7	Wild	No	No past or present activity	3, 5
The Gulch – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	2	Recreational	No	No past or present activity	3, 5
<b>Manti-La Sal National Forest</b>					
Chippean and Allen Canyons	21	Scenic: Recreational:	No	Old mining claims no current, 1 O&G lease on BLM	*
Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek	21	Scenic (17 mi.); Rec (3.6 mi.)	No	Potential Coal, 1 O&G lease	4, 6
Hammond Canyon	10	Scenic	No	Old mining claims no current, 1 O&G lease on BLM	3, 6
Huntington Creek	19	Recreational	No	Active, Potential, Hunter #4, 2 Coal leases, 1 O&G lease, 1 exploratory	4, 6
Lower Dark Canyon	41	Wild	Wilderness	Past mining claims, uranium	5, 6
Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek	5	Scenic	No	Coal reserves	4, 6
Mill Creek Gorge	3	Wild	RNA	No past or present activity	5
Miners Basin (Placer Creek)	2	Recreational	No	Subsurface ownership of minerals 2 active lode claims 2 active placer claims	
Roc Creek	9	Wild	No	1 active mining claim, O&G development contract	3, 5
Upper Dark Canyon	26	Recreational	Wilderness	Old Uranium mines. No current mining claims or leases exist in corridor.	5, 6
<b>Uinta National Forest</b>					
Fifth Water Creek	8	Scenic	No	O&G Active,	3
Little Provo Deer Creek	3	Recreational	No	No past or present activity	3, 6
North Fork, Provo River	1	Wild (0.9 mi); Rec (0.4 mi.)	Wilderness	No past or present activity	4, 6
South Fork, American Fork River	1	Wild (1.1 mi.); Rec (0.3 mi)	Wilderness	No past or present activity	5
<b>Wasatch-Cache NF</b>					
Beaver Creek (Kamas)	6	Recreational	No	O&G Potential	6
Beaver Creek (Logan)	3	Recreational	No	No past or present activity	4, 6
Blacks Fork	3	Recreational	No	O&G Potential	*

Eligible Segment	Miles	Classification	Other Designation	Level of Past or Present Mineral Development (1)	Found Suitable in Alts
Boundary Creek	4	Wild	No	O&G Active -3 leases, Potential,	6
Bunchgrass Creek	5	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	4, 6
East Fork Blacks Fork	10	Wild	Wilderness	O&G Potential	5
East Fork Smiths Fork	12	Wild	Wilderness	O&G Potential	3, 5
Hayden Fork: Source to Mouth	12	Recreational	No	O&G Active, Potential, 2 active lode claims	4, 6
Henry's Fork	8	Wild	Wilderness	O&G Potential	3, 5, 6
High Creek	7	Wild (4 mi.); Rec (3 mi.)	Wilderness	No past or present activity	*
Left Fork South Fork Ogden	5	Wild	No	Past mining claims	5
Left Hand Fork Blacksmiths	15	Recreational	No	Past, active lode claim	*
Left, Right, and East Forks Bear River	13	Wild	Wilderness	O&G Active, 4 active leases	4, 6
Little Bear Creek: Little Bear Spring to Mouth	1	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	4, 6
Little Cottonwood Creek	8	Recreational	No	Past, active lode claim	4
Little East Fork: Source to Mouth	9	Wild	Wilderness	O&G Potential	4, 5
Logan River: Beaver Creek to Guinavah-Malibu CG	19	Recreational	No	No past or present activity	4, 6
Logan River: Idaho State line to Beaver Creek	7	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	4, 6
Main Fork Weber River	6	Scenic	No	O&G Potential, active lode claim	*
Middle Fork Beaver Creek	11	Wild (6.9 mi.); Scenic (4.2 mi.)	Wilderness	O&G Potential	3, 5, 6
Middle Fork Weber River	6	Wild	No	O&G Potential	5
Ostler Fork	4	Wild	Wilderness	No past or present activity	4, 5, 6
Provo River: Trial Lake to U35	20	Recreational	No	O&G Potential	4, 6
Red Butte Creek	3	Scenic	RNA	No past or present activity	*
Spawn Creek	4	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	4, 6
Stillwater Fork	14	Wild (6.1 mi.); Scenic (8 mi.)	Wilderness	4 O&G leases Active	4, 6
Temple Fork	6	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	4, 6
Thompson Creek	5	Wild	Wilderness	O&G Potential	5
West Fork Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	10	Wild (4.6 mi.); Scenic (5.5 mi.)	Wilderness	O&G Potential	3, 5, 6
West Fork Blacks Fork: Source to Trailhead	12	Wild (8 mi.); Scenic (3.9 mi.)	Wilderness	2 O&G leases, 1 pending	3, 5
West Fork Smiths Fork: Source to Forest Boundary	14	Wild (4 mi.); Scenic (10 mi.)	Wilderness	4 O&G leases Active	4
White Pine Creek	1	Scenic	No	No past or present activity	4, 6
Willard Creek	4	Scenic	No	Past	3, 5

(1) "Active" means the presence of recorded mining claims or mineral leases but does not imply actual on-going extractive mineral operations.

\*Only found in Alternatives 1 and 2.

## Environmental Consequences

See Table 3.1.1 for restriction to activities within stream corridors based on classification. Refer to Table 3.1.2 for a list of basic assumptions.

Section 3.6 addresses one issue:

Issue 2- Activities could be enhanced, foreclosed, or limited if the river segment and its corridor were included in a National System. The measurement indicator for mineral development is miles of river by Wild, Scenic, and/or Recreational classification and a list of reasonably foreseeable multiple use activities affected by designation.

Table 3.6.2 lists by alternative, the total miles of segments recommended as suitable, the miles of Wild segments recommended as suitable, the miles and acreage that would be required to be newly withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry, and the miles and percent of the total recommended as suitable where existing mining claims and oil and gas leases (“active mineral development”) would be affected per classification. All miles and acreages are approximate.

**Table 3.6.2. Summary of miles and acreage classified Wild, and miles in all classifications with active mineral development.**

	Miles found suitable per classification per alternative.				Wild miles and acres not already withdrawn (1)		Miles with active mineral development as % of total determined suitable(2)		
	Total Miles	Rec. Miles	Scenic Miles	Wild Miles	Miles	Acres	Wild Miles (%)	Scenic Miles (%)	Rec. Miles (%)
<b>Alt. 1</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Alt. 2</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Alt. 3</b>	212	25	56	132	46	14,720	29 (14%)	12 (6%)	0
<b>Alt. 4</b>	203	92	64	47	14	4,480	23 (11%)	35 (17%)	43 (21%)
<b>Alt. 5</b>	530	48	89	394	72	23,040	28 (5%)	4 (0.08%)	0
<b>Alt. 6</b>	441	112	113	216	30	9,600	23 (5%)	25 (6%)	35 (8%)

(1) Not already withdrawn means not withdrawn from mineral entry, for example, a segment classified as Wild located outside of a designated Wilderness or Research Natural Area.

(2) “Active” means the presence of recorded mining claims or minerals leases but does not imply on-going extractive mineral development.

### General Environmental Impacts

The withdrawal of lands from all forms of mineral entry (subject to valid existing rights) for Wild rivers is an irretrievable commitment if a given river is recommended and classified as Wild. Alternatives 1 and 2 would have no irretrievable commitment of resources because no rivers would be recommended as Wild. Alternative 5 would have the largest irretrievable commitment because it includes the highest number of miles and largest acreage of Wild rivers that would be recommended

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

Under the No Action Alternative, no suitability decisions would be made and current management practices would continue. All 86 river segments (840 miles) would continue to be managed as eligible for their potential inclusion into the National System, and the Forest Service would continue to use its existing authorities to protect free flow, water quality, ORVs and recommended classification. Lands would continue to be available for mineral development and mining claims and leases would continue to be handled under current policy and regulations in areas outside of Wilderness. Rivers being studied under Section 5(d)(1) of the Act are not withdrawn from the mining or mineral leasing laws. Protective management requirements for eligible river areas determined suitable and recommended for designation

are subject to existing laws and agency guidance until Congress acts. For those segments in areas where there are projects of others for which the Forest Service has no or limited authority (e.g., development of a federal dam, or licensing of a hydropower plant) the potential for these projects continues to exist. These projects could prevent the extraction of mineral resources.

### **Alternative 2 – No rivers recommended.**

Under this alternative, a determination would be made that all 86 segments (840 miles) are not suitable and released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection. Protection of river values would continue to be managed by the standards provided in the underlying Forest Plans for the area, which can be amended as needs emerge. Existing mining and mineral leasing would continue and future development of mining claims and mineral leases could occur in areas outside of Wilderness. Choosing this alternative would not in itself initiate any changes to mineral development

Over time dams and other water projects could be approved for some segments, depending on area management standards, resulting in the creation of reservoirs and associated facilities. If reservoirs are developed on some of the rivers such as Blacks Fork or Left, Right and East Forks Bear River the ability to develop mining claims may be limited by the water projects.

Not all segments will be affected by water development projects or other activities. Segments would be managed as per land management and subsurface management plans. Segments without water resource potential, or in extremely rugged, inaccessible areas, may remain undeveloped. Mining generally occurs in rugged, inaccessible areas.

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

The 24 segments (212 miles) recommended as suitable for wild and scenic designation in Alternative 3 would continue to receive interim protection, as protective management requirements for eligible river areas determined suitable and recommended for designation are subject to existing laws and agency guidance until Congress acts. Lands would continue to be available for mineral development and mining claims and leases would continue to be handled under current policy and regulations in areas outside of Wilderness. Rivers being studied under Section 5(d)(1) of the Act are not withdrawn from the mining or mineral leasing laws. Protective management requirements for eligible river areas determined suitable and recommended for designation are subject to existing laws and agency guidance until Congress acts.

If the segments are congressionally designated a comprehensive river management plan would be developed within three years and the 46 miles (14,720 acres) of segments classified as Wild and not already withdrawn from all forms of mineral entry due to Wilderness or other, would be withdrawn effectively preventing future mineral resource development but subject to valid existing rights. With regard to the mining laws, “valid existing rights” would have to be proved prior to approval of any mining plan that would conflict with the purposes of the withdrawal. Holders of mining claims with valid existing rights are allowed to conduct operations necessary for the development, production, and processing of the mineral resource. Mechanical transport, motorized equipment, and access to utility corridors may be used after a determination that they are the minimum necessary. However, these activities and the reclamation of all disturbed lands must minimize the effect on the surrounding character of the Wild river. Any mining claim with valid existing rights that might eventually be perfected would result in patent only to the mineral deposit along with such rights to the use of the surface and surface resources as are reasonably required for mining. Holders of valid mineral leases retain the rights granted

by the terms and conditions of the specific leases. Mineral leases are subject to regulations issued by the Secretary of the Interior to protect water quality and scenic values (43 CFR 3809).

If designated, on miles classified as Scenic (56 miles) or Recreational (25 miles), mineral development would be managed according to language in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. New mining claims can be located and new mineral leases can be issued but both are subject to reasonable access and regulations that minimize effects to surface resources. The 42 segments (628 miles) determined not suitable for wild and scenic designation would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and effects on mining as discussed in Alternative 2 would apply.

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

The 22 segments (203 miles) recommended as suitable for wild and scenic designation in Alternative 4 would continue to receive interim protection the effects of which are explained in Alternative 1 analysis. Lands would continue to be available for mineral development and mining claims and leases would continue to be handled under current policy and regulations in areas outside of Wilderness. Rivers being studied under Section 5(d)(1) of the Act are not withdrawn from the mining or mineral leasing laws. Protective management requirements for eligible river areas determined suitable and recommended for designation are subject to existing laws and agency guidance until Congress acts. If the segments are congressionally designated a comprehensive river management plan would be developed within three years of designation and 14 miles (4,480 acres) of segments with Wild classifications not already withdrawn from mineral entry would be withdrawn. Segments would be managed to protect their ORVs possibly limiting operations of existing mineral claims and oil and gas leases, subject to valid existing rights.

Affects of withdrawal on mineral development is the same as described in Alternative 3. With regard to the mining laws, “valid existing rights” would have to be proved prior to approval of any mining plan that would conflict with the purposes of the withdrawal. Holders of mining claims with valid existing rights are allowed to conduct operations necessary for the development, production, and processing of the mineral resource. Mechanical transport, motorized equipment, and access to utility corridors may be used after a determination that they are the minimum necessary. However, these activities and the reclamation of all disturbed lands must minimize the effect on the surrounding character of the wild river. Any mining claim with valid existing rights that might eventually be perfected would result in patent only to the mineral deposit along with such rights to the use of the surface and surface resources as are reasonably required for mining. Holders of valid mineral leases retain the rights granted by the terms and conditions of the specific leases. Mineral leases are subject to regulations issued by the Secretary of the Interior to protect water quality and scenic values (43 CFR 3809).

If designated, on segments with miles classified as Scenic (64 miles) or Recreational (92 miles), mineral development would be managed according to language in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. New mining claims can be located and new mineral leases can be issued but both are subject to reasonable access and regulations that minimize effects to surface resources.

The 64 segments (637 miles) determined not suitable for wild and scenic designation would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and effects to mineral development as discussed in Alternative 2 would apply.

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

The 50 segments (530 miles) recommended as suitable for wild and scenic designation would continue to receive interim protection the effects of which are explained in Alternative 1 analysis. Lands would continue to be available for mineral development and mining claims and leases would continue to be handled under current policy and regulations in areas outside of Wilderness. Rivers being studied under Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are not withdrawn from the mining or mineral leasing laws. Protective management requirements for eligible river areas recommended as suitable for designation are subject to existing laws and agency guidance until Congress acts. If congressionally designated a comprehensive river management plan would be developed within three years of designation and those segments would be managed to protect their ORVs possibly limiting mineral development, subject to valid existing rights.

In this alternative, 72 miles classified as Wild (23,040 acres) would be withdrawn from mineral entry the effects of which are the same as described under Alternative 3. With regard to the mining laws, “valid existing rights” would have to be proved prior to approval of any mining plan that would conflict with the purposes of the withdrawal. Holders of mining claims with valid existing rights are allowed to conduct operations necessary for the development, production, and processing of the mineral resource. Mechanical transport, motorized equipment, and access to utility corridors may be used after a determination that they are the minimum necessary. However, these activities and the reclamation of all disturbed lands must minimize the effect on the surrounding character of the wild river. Any mining claim with valid existing rights that might eventually be perfected would result in patent only to the mineral deposit along with such rights to the use of the surface and surface resources as are reasonably required for mining. Holders of valid mineral leases retain the rights granted by the terms and conditions of the specific leases. Mineral leases are subject to regulations issued by the Secretary of the Interior to protect water quality and scenic values (43 CFR 3809).

If designated, on segments with miles classified as Scenic (89 miles) or Recreational (48 miles), mineral development would be managed according to language in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. New mining claims can be located and new mineral leases can be issued but both are subject to reasonable access and regulations that minimize effects to surface resources.

The 36 segments (310 miles) determined not suitable for wild and scenic designation would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and effects to minerals as discussed in Alternative 2 would apply.

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

The 40 segments (441 miles) found suitable for wild and scenic designation would continue to receive interim protection the effects of which are explained in Alternative 1 analysis. Lands would continue to be available for mineral development and mining claims and leases would continue to be handled under current policy and regulations in areas outside of Wilderness. Rivers being studied under Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are not withdrawn from the mining or mineral leasing laws. Protective management requirements for eligible river areas determined suitable and recommended for designation are subject to existing laws and agency guidance until Congress acts. If congressionally designated a comprehensive river management plan would be developed within three years of designation and lands would be withdrawn as required to limit mineral entry on segments designated as wild. Those segments

would be managed to protect their ORVs possibly limiting mineral development, subject to valid existing rights.

In this alternative, if designated, 30 miles classified as Wild (9,600 acres) would be withdrawn from mineral entry the effects of which are the same as described under Alternative 3. With regard to the mining laws, “valid existing rights” would have to be proved prior to approval of any mining plan that would conflict with the purposes of the withdrawal. Holders of mining claims with valid existing rights are allowed to conduct operations necessary for the development, production, and processing of the mineral resource. Mechanical transport, motorized equipment, and access to utility corridors may be used after a determination that they are the minimum necessary. However, these activities and the reclamation of all disturbed lands must minimize the effect on the surrounding character of the wild river. Any mining claim with valid existing rights that might eventually be perfected would result in patent only to the mineral deposit along with such rights to the use of the surface and surface resources as are reasonably required for mining. Holders of valid mineral leases retain the rights granted by the terms and conditions of the specific leases. Mineral leases are subject to regulations issued by the Secretary of the Interior to protect water quality and scenic values (43 CFR 3809).

If designated on segments with miles classified as Scenic’ (113 miles) or Recreational (112 miles), mineral development would be managed according to language in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. New mining claims can be located and new mineral leases can be issued but both are subject to reasonable access and regulations that minimize effects to surface resources. The 46 segments (399 miles) not suitable for wild and scenic designation would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and effects to roads and rights of way as discussed in Alternative 2 would apply.

## **3.7 Range**

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### **Introduction**

During the eligibility determination, the National Forests in Utah used classification criteria to determine classification as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational rivers. One attribute, among many, was to look at shoreline development and past or ongoing grazing and agricultural production. In general, for a Wild classification a limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable. For a Scenic classification, the presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable. For a Recreational classification, lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses. (FSH 1909.12, Sec. 82.3 – Exhibit 01). There are 45 Wild, 30 Scenic, and 22 Recreational total classifications for the 86 river segments totaling 840 miles.

Detailed information for Section 3.7 came from Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, under “Grazing Activities.”

### **Affected Environment**

A moderate number of domestic livestock, primarily cattle and sheep, graze range allotments within and adjacent to the river corridors. Past, present, and/or reasonably foreseeable livestock grazing occurs in 65 segments (727 miles) in all classification types (i.e., Wild, Scenic, or Recreational) of the 86 eligible river segment corridors. Of those 65 segments, only 59 segments (683 miles) have reasonably foreseeable grazing. Livestock grazing is managed in accordance with existing laws and regulations, each forest’s land and resource management plan’s standards and guidelines, individual allotment management plans, and annual operating instructions or plans.

The river segments listed in Table 3.7.1 have past, present, or reasonably foreseeable domestic livestock

grazing in or adjacent to the river corridor. All 86 eligible river segments were reviewed. If a river segment did not have past, present, or reasonably foreseeable grazing, it was not listed in the table. The information was obtained from Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports.

**Table 3.7.1. River segments with domestic livestock grazing in or adjacent to the river corridor.**  
(Source: Appendix A, SERs).

River Segment with Grazing	Miles	Classification	Summary of Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Grazing Activities	Segment Suitable in Alternatives
<b>Ashley NF</b>				
Ashley Gorge Creek	10	Wild	Segment creates a boundary between two allotments, but due to the rugged and inaccessible nature of the canyon, no grazing occurs along the river corridor.	4
Black Canyon	10	Wild	The majority of grazing occurs on an allotment in the upper two miles of the segment, downstream the canyon becomes too rugged and remote.	3, 5
Cart Creek Proper	10	Scenic	Segment creates a boundary between grazing allotments, but due to the rugged topography and limited access, no grazing use occurs in the river corridor. There is an allotment in the headwaters of Cart Creek, but it has been vacant for four years, and use is not expected in the future.	5
Carter Creek	16	Scenic	Allotments located upstream and downstream, but due to the rugged nature of the canyon, there is no grazing along the corridor.	5
Garfield Creek	17	Wild	The upper half of Garfield basin is within an allotment which is rotated on two year intervals with another allotment.	5, 6
Green River	13	Scenic	No grazing permitted on National Forest System lands along river corridor. On lands administered by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources grazing is allowed on a limited basis. On lands administered by the BLM, the river corridor is fenced, and livestock are kept ¼ mile away from the river. Limited grazing within the river corridor may be allowed at times.	3, 5, 6
Lower Dry Fork	7	Recreational	A portion of an allotment is within segment	4
Pipe Creek	6	Scenic	One allotment on the Flaming Gorge District portion of segment, with grazing use upstream and in the vicinity of the Pipe Creek road. One allotment on the Vernal District side of segment with use mainly in the headwaters and not in confined canyon sections.	5
South Fork Ashley Creek	15	Scenic	Creek borders an allotment and includes portions of another allotment.	*
Upper Lake Fork and Oweep	55	Wild	Upper Lake Fork River from Moon Lake to the confluence with Oweep Creek is within an allotment that has been vacant around 15 years. Ottoson Creek and the headwaters of Upper Lake Fork River and Oweep Creek are within two allotments. No allotments in East Basin Creek.	5
Upper Rock Creek and Fall	27	Wild	One allotment along Upper Rock Creek	5

<b>River Segment with Grazing</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Summary of Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Grazing Activities</b>	<b>Segment Suitable in Alternatives</b>
Creek			from Stillwater Reservoir to the confluence with Fall Creek. Above the confluence with Fall Creek, there is no permitted livestock use. In the Fall Creek drainage, there is a free use permit with the Ute Indian Tribe for Sheep grazing, but it has been vacant around 30 years.	
Upper Uinta River including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork and Painter Draw	40	Wild	Allotment in the headwaters of the Uinta River, in the Painter Basin.	3, 5, 6
Upper Yellowstone Creek, including Milk Creek	33	Wild	Segment located within two allotments. One within Upper Yellowstone Creek, from the wilderness boundary to the Swasey Hole Creek Confluence and the other within the headwaters of Upper Yellowstone Creek, upstream of the confluence with Milk Creek.	5, 6
West Fork Rock Creek, including Fish Creek	13	Wild	A minor amount of grazing occurs at the confluence of West Fork Rock Creek and Upper Rock Creek, from one allotment.	5
<b>Dixie NF</b>				
Cottonwood Canyon – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	6	Wild	Segment located within an allotment.	*
East Fork Boulder Creek	3	Wild	Segment located within an allotment.	5
Moody Wash	5	Wild	Segment located within two allotments.	3, 5, 6
North Fork Virgin River	1	Scenic	Entire segment located on a currently vacant allotment.	3, 5, 6
Pine Creek	8	Wild	Segment located within an allotment. Although the river corridor is within the allotment, there is no grazing within the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness and therefore no grazing on the riverbanks.	3, 5
Slickrock Canyon – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	2	Wild	Segment located within an allotment.	5
Steep Creek – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	7	Wild	Segment located within an allotment.	3, 5
The Gulch – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	2	Recreational	Segment located within an allotment.	3, 5
<b>Fishlake NF</b>				
Corn Creek	2	Scenic	Segment located within an allotment. Receives a moderate level of livestock activity.	*
Fish Creek	15	Wild (4.3 mi.); Recreational (10.5 mi.)	Segment passes through two allotments. Receives a moderate level of livestock use.	3, 5
Manning Creek	4	Wild	Segment passes through one allotment. Actual livestock use along segment is very low.	5, 6
Pine Creek / Bullion Falls	4	Wild	Segment passes through one inactive allotment.	5
Salina Creek	7	Wild	This segment passes through one allotment. A moderate level of livestock grazing occurs within the corridor.	5
<b>Manti-La Sal NF</b>				

<b>River Segment with Grazing</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Summary of Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Grazing Activities</b>	<b>Segment Suitable in Alternatives</b>
Chippean and Allen Canyons	21	Scenic (2.6 mi.); Recreational (19 mi.)	Allen Canyon located within an allotment. Chippean Canyon is not within an allotment and is not currently grazed.	*
Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek	21	Scenic (17.05 mi.); Recreational (3.6 mi.)	Cattle graze outside of the area under study, upstream of the Lower Gooseberry segment. Sheep graze throughout the area under study.	4, 6
Hammond Canyon	10	Scenic	Entire corridor is grazed and is within an allotment.	3, 6
Huntington Creek	19	Recreational	Grazing occurs within ten allotments in Huntington Canyon.	4, 6
Lower Dark Canyon including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon, Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons	41	Wild	Segments within an allotment. Wooden Shoe Canyon and Lower Dark Canyon closed to grazing.	5, 6
Lower Left Fork Huntington Creek	5	Scenic	Segment within two different allotments.	4, 6
Mill Creek Gorge	3	Wild	Entire segment within allotment, however due to the ruggedness of the terrain, very little actual grazing occurs within the corridor.	5
Miners Basin (Placer Creek)	2	Recreational	Segment located within an allotment.	*
Roc Creek	9	Wild	Roc Creek is a boundary between two allotments. Due to the rugged terrain only incidental grazing occurs along the creek.	3, 5
Upper Dark Canyon Including Horse Pasture Canyon, Peavine & Kigalia Canyon	26	Recreational	Segment located within two allotments. The permittee is also authorized to graze Horse Pasture Canyon.	5, 6
<b>Uinta NF</b>				
Fifth Water Creek	8	Scenic	Located within an allotment.	3
Little Provo Deer Creek	3	Recreational	Northern portion of the segment and corridor are within a vacant allotment, which is shared with Wasatch Mountain State Park. No known proposals or plans to reopen this allotment to grazing exist.	3, 6
<b>Wasatch-Cache NF</b>				
Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	6	Recreational	Entire corridor in an allotment. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	6
Beaver Creek: South Boundary of State Land to Mouth	3	Recreational	Segment within two allotments. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	4, 6
Blacks Fork: Confluence of West Fork and East Fork to Meeks Cabin Reservoir	3	Recreational	Segment within three allotments. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	*
Boundary Creek: Source to Confluence with East Fork Bear River	4	Wild	A small portion of this stream corridor is grazed by cattle on an allotment near the confluence of Boundary Creek and the East Fork Bear River, with the majority of the grazing occurring near the boundary of the private land, this allotment does not extend upstream into the headwaters of Boundary Creek. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by	6

<b>River Segment with Grazing</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Summary of Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Grazing Activities</b>	<b>Segment Suitable in Alternatives</b>
			recreation stock.	
Bunchgrass Creek: Source to Mouth	5	Scenic	A portion of the segment flows through one allotment. While a majority of the segment flows through two allotments. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	4, 6
East Fork Blacks Fork: Headwaters to confluence with Little East Fork	10	Wild	Segment within one allotment in the upper part of the drainage. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	5
East Fork Smiths Fork: Red Castle Lake to Trailhead	12	Wild	Grazing occurs in the upper part of the stream corridor and along the lower section within an allotment. River corridor is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	3, 5
Hayden Fork: Source to Mouth	12	Recreational	The area is in an allotment.	4, 6
Henry's Fork: Henry's Fork Lake to Trailhead	8	Wild	Grazing occurs in the upper part of the drainage on two allotments and in the lower part of the valley on one allotment. River corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	3, 5, 6
High Creek: High Creek Lake to Forest Boundary	7	Wild (4 mi.); Recreational (3 mi.)	Entire segment runs through an allotment. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	*
Little Bear Creek: Little Bear Spring to Mouth	1	Scenic	Grazing occurs within corridor. Upper 2/3 of stream in one allotment, and the lower portion in another allotment. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	4, 6
Little East Fork: Source to Mouth	9	Wild	Entire segment within an allotment. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	4, 5
Left Hand Fork Blacksmiths Fork: Source to Mouth	15	Recreational	Segment within valley bottom portions of three allotments. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	*
Left, Right, and East Forks Bear River: Alsop Lake and Norice Lake to near Trailhead	13	Wild	The area is in an allotment.	4, 6
Logan River: Confluence with Beaver Creek to Bridge at Guinavah-Malibu Campground	19	Recreational	Segment is within the valley bottom portion of two allotments. River corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding.	4, 6
Logan River: Idaho State line to confluence with Beaver Creek	7	Scenic	Segment is within the valley bottom portion one allotment. Corridor is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	4, 6
Middle Fork Beaver Creek: Beaver Lake to Confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek	11	Wild (6.9 mi.); Scenic (4.2 mi.)	The Scenic section is within an allotment. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and	3, 5, 6

River Segment with Grazing	Miles	Classification	Summary of Past, Present, and Reasonably Foreseeable Grazing Activities	Segment Suitable in Alternatives
			occasionally by recreation stock.	
Ostler Fork: Source to Mouth	4	Wild	There is no grazing except for recreational stock use (horses, llamas) along the majority of this segment. The lower portion of this corridor is within an allotment, where the river corridor is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding.	4, 5, 6
Provo River: Trial Lake to U35 Bridge	20	Recreational	The area is in an allotment. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	4, 6
Spawn Creek: Source to Mouth	4	Scenic	The upper and lower parts of the segment are within two allotments. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	4, 6
Stillwater Fork: Source to Mouth	14	Wild (6 mi.); Scenic (8 mi.)	The area is in an allotment.	4, 6
Temple Fork: Source to Mouth	6	Scenic	The upper north part of corridor, the middle southern 2/3 of the stream corridor, and the lower portion of this stream is located within three allotments. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	4, 6
Thompson Creek: Source to Hoop Lake Diversion	5	Wild	One allotment overlaps the end of the stream corridor. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	5
West Fork Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	10	Wild (4.6 mi); Scenic (5.5 mi.)	Two allotments on the Scenic portion of segment. There is a closed sheep allotment in the Wild section. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	3, 5, 6
West Fork Blacks Fork: Source to Trailhead	12	Wild (8 mi.); Scenic (3.9 mi.)	Segment within two allotments. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	3, 5
White Pine Creek: Source to Mouth	1	Scenic	Majority of segment within the valley bottom portion of an allotment; a small section near the bottom of segment is within an allotment. Corridor used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock.	4, 6
65 Total Number of Segments	727 Total Miles			

\*All river segments listed in Table 3.7.1 also occur under Alternatives 1 and 2. Those with an asterisk only occur in Alternatives 1 and 2.

**Table 3.7.2. Miles of segments found suitable with past present, and reasonably foreseeable grazing activities, by classification and alternative.**

Segments with Grazing		Alternatives					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Total # of Segments</b>	65	0	0	22	21	38	36
<b>Total Miles</b>	727	0	0	184	180	458	386
<b>Recreation Miles</b>	173	0	0	16	84	39	112
<b>Scenic Miles</b>	151	0	0	46	54	60	88
<b>Wild Miles</b>	403	0	0	123	42	360	187

## Environmental Consequences

See Table 3.1.1 for restrictions to activities within stream corridors based on classification. Refer to Table 3.1.2 for a list of basic assumptions.

Section 3.7 addresses one issue:

Issue 2 – Uses and activities may be precluded, limited or enhanced if the river segment and its corridor were included in the National System. The measurement indicator for Range miles of river and list of existing and reasonably foreseeable multiple use activities affected by designation.

### General Environmental Impacts

Guidelines issued by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior indicate that livestock grazing and agricultural practices should be similar in nature and intensity to those present in the area at the time of designation. Grazing is permitted under Wild, Scenic, or Recreational classification, but will be managed to maintain the values for which the river was designated. (Marsh 2006).

Grazing activities and practices on Federal lands located within Wild and Scenic River corridors are dependent on the type of classification (Wild, Scenic, and/or Recreational), the values for which the river was designated, and land use management objectives. The level of protection should be commensurate with the identified river values. (Marsh 2006).

Livestock grazing is managed in accordance with each Forest Plan’s standards and guidelines, individual allotment management plans, and annual operating instructions or plans. Current levels of livestock grazing are generally considered compatible with Wild and Scenic River designation. Generally, existing agricultural practices (e.g., livestock grazing activities) and related structures would not be affected by designation. However, if a river segment is designated, grazing is subject to evaluation (in addition to other resource uses) during the development of the Comprehensive River Management Plan.

Evaluation of livestock grazing on Federal lands prior to WSR designation is subject to evaluation during development of the comprehensive river management plan. River-administering agencies have an “affirmative” duty to evaluate pre-existing uses and determine whether such uses are diminishing the values for which the WSR was designated. Livestock grazing and agricultural activities (except those grandfathered specifically by statute) do not necessarily continue at levels practiced at the time of river designation. Grazing and other uses can continue if and when consistent with protecting and enhancing river values. River-administering agencies must evaluate activities under the comprehensive river management plan and NEPA in order to determine whether such uses and activities are consistent with protecting and enhancing the ORVs. If these activities or uses are determined inconsistent, then changes in livestock and/or grazing practices may be required. (Marsh 2006).

If a river is recommended for designation, grazing is not grandfathered in. Grazing must protect river values. Grazing does not have to be eliminated if current grazing is consistent with the protection and enhancement standard, under which ORVs are to be managed. This standard requires the assessment of uses, activities and actions which may degrade river values. Grazing will be assessed to determine if there is any need for change in grazing to protect river values. The Act gives river-administering agencies authority to adjust or eliminate livestock grazing, if doing so is necessary to meet the protection and enhancement standard.

### **Grazing Practices on Private Land**

Since the Act does not give federal agencies authority to regulate private land, any affect to agricultural practices would be through technical assistance or compensation by purchase of easements, unless otherwise regulated by local zoning ordinances. (Marsh 2006).

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

Under the No Action Alternative, All 86 river segments (840 miles) would continue to be managed as eligible for their potential inclusion into the National System, and the Forest Service would continue to use its existing authorities to protect free flow water quality, recommended classification, and ORVs. Refer to Table 3.1.2 for a description of interim management. There would be no impact to grazing practices or activities on 65 river segments (727 miles). Grazing would continue to be permitted under river segments with a Wild, Scenic, or Recreational classification, but it would be managed to maintain the values for which the river was designated. Livestock grazing would continue to be managed in accordance with existing laws and regulations, each Forest Plan’s standards and guidelines, individual allotment management plans, and annual operating instructions or plans.

### **Alternative 2 – No rivers recommended.**

Under Alternative 2, a determination would be made that all 86 river segments (840 miles) are not suitable and released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection. There would be no impact to grazing practices or activities on 65 river segments (727 miles). Livestock grazing would continue to be managed in accordance with each Forest Plan’s standards and guidelines, individual allotment management plans, and annual operating instructions or plans.

### **Impacts Common to Alternatives 3, 4, 5, or 6**

The following number of miles and river segments with past, present, or reasonably foreseeable grazing would be found suitable and recommended for designation (see Chapter 3, Table 3.7.2):

- 22 river segments (184 miles) under Alternative 3;
- 21 segments (180 miles) under Alternative 4;
- 38 segments (458 miles) under Alternative 5;
- 36 segments (386 miles) under Alternative 6.

Following selection of any of the action alternatives, and designation of a river segment, grazing would be evaluated during comprehensive river management plan by the river administering agency to determine whether such uses and activities are consistent with protecting and enhancing the ORVs. Grazing and other uses would continue if and when consistent with protecting and enhancing river values. If these activities or uses are determined inconsistent, then changes in livestock and/or grazing practices may be required.

## 3.8 Recreation

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### Introduction

Section 3.8 describes recreation and the impacts of designation on recreational activities in general. For a description of impacts related to the Recreation ORV, see Section 3.3b.

Detailed information for Section 3.8 came from Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, Summary of Outstanding Remarkable Values.

### Affected Environment

Recreation visits to the six National Forests in Utah exceed 11 million and is growing. The settings along the segments range from primitive to a rural development scale. The activities on each segment vary from primitive hiking experiences with no established trails to campgrounds and boat ramps specifically designed to accommodate large volumes of recreation participation. The major activities that occur along the study segments with the outstanding remarkable value of recreation are: hiking, fishing, backpacking, horseback riding, all terrain vehicle use, developed and dispersed camping, scenic driving, hunting, rock climbing; and wildlife, cultural, geologic or hydrologic feature viewing. In the northern and mountainous portions of the state the segments support activities such as rafting, canoeing, and kayaking. None of the segments under study support motorized water craft. Viewing scenery, which is a major contribution to the recreation experience, varies from the more arid segments containing red rock geologic formations and desert riparian vegetation in the southern portion of the state to the high alpine river segments with spruce fir forests in the northern portion of Utah.

Statewide the recreation activity most common to the segments rated high for the recreation outstanding remarkable value, is fishing. Four of the river segments in this study; the Green River, Huntington Creek, Left Fork Huntington Creek, and the Logan River: Idaho State Line to confluence with Beaver Creek support Blue Ribbon fisheries identified by the State of Utah Natural Resources Division of Wildlife Resources (although of those four, only Huntington Creek and the Green River are recognized in eligibility for the recreation ORV). Forty-three percent of visitors to the Ashley National Forest participate in fishing activities on streams or lakes. Fishing is rated as the primary activity that people participate in on the Ashley National Forest. The Wasatch-Cache and Uinta National Forests are located in close proximity to the state's population center of Salt Lake where day use activities are the predominant use and fishing is within the top four primary activities for which people visit each of those forests. One river segment in particular, the Green River, supports a number of recreational fishing and boating outfitter guide businesses. Recreation activities through-out the arid state center around water for the activities and scenery it supports.

### Environmental Consequences

See Table 3.1.1 for restriction to activities within stream corridors based on classification. Refer to Table 3.1.2 for a list of basic assumptions.

Section 3.8 addresses one issue:

Issue 2 – Activities could be enhanced, foreclosed, or limited if the river segment and its corridor were included in a National System. The measurement indicators for recreation are: miles of river by Wild, Scenic or Recreational classification and a list of reasonably foreseeable recreational activities affected by designation.

## **General Environmental Impacts**

National designation would increase publicity of the river segments and may create more public interest, there by initially increasing use. Recreation trends on nationally recognized areas indicate that recreation use generally increases for a few years, then tapers down and gradually levels off to pre-designation conditions. Rivers designated near the major population areas or other national attractions would receive more exposure and subsequent use.

Comprehensive River Management Plans developed for designated rivers address user capacity, and balance the quantity and quality of recreation activities and facilities to protect the desired recreation experience and non-recreation ORVs. Recreation activities and level of use are likely to continue post designation to the extent they protect recreation as an ORV and do not adversely affect non-recreation ORVs. If recreation is not an ORV, recreation activities and level of use are likely to continue post designation to the extent they do not adversely affect non-recreation ORVs. Designated segments that already have National Forest permitted recreation activities such as fish guiding, etc. could continue and would be further addressed in the comprehensive river management plan developed for that segment. Eligible river segments were assigned a classification of wild, scenic or recreational based on the existing level of access (trails/roads) and facility development along the segment. See Table 3.1.1 for activity/facility restrictions based on segment classification.

Segments that are found suitable would continue to receive interim protection and could be designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic River system by congress. Segments that are designated would be protected in the future from water development projects that would adversely affect a river's free-flowing condition, water quality or ORVs. Designation would preserve those recreation activities currently available for future generations through the development of a comprehensive river management plan that includes direction and mitigation measures to protect natural resources from increasing recreation use and to protect the desired recreation experience. River segments not designated would be subject to dams or other developments which could substantially change the current recreation opportunities and activities. Segments designated in Wilderness or other special legislative management prescription would continue to carry those management guidelines, along with Wild and Scenic River Act and comprehensive river management plan prescriptions. See Tables 3.12.6-9 – River segments found not suitable containing potential water developments.

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

All of the 86 river segments (840 miles) would continue to be managed as eligible for their potential inclusion into the National System, and the Forest Service would continue to use its existing authorities to protect free flow, water quality, ORVs, and recommended classification (interim management outlined in FSH 1909.12 Chapter 80-Wild and Scenic River Evaluation). Management would continue to be in accordance with existing laws and regulations and Forest Plans.

### **Alternative 2 – No rivers recommended.**

In this alternative, a determination would be made that all 86 segments (840 miles) are not suitable and released from Wild and Scenic interim protection. Segments would not have the interim protection of "eligibility" (protection of free flow, ORVs, and water quality) or protection by designation and would continue to be managed under general guidance of Forest Plan direction and in accordance with existing laws and regulations. Without the development of a comprehensive river management plan recreation may be affected by unmanaged activities and amounts of use.

Over time, depending on area management standards, large-scale projects like dams, water projects, and

other activities could be approved for some segments, affecting the current recreation opportunities and experience.

Segments without water resource potential, in extremely rugged or inaccessible areas, or located in a Wilderness or Research Natural Area may remain undeveloped and recreation opportunities would remain relatively unaffected.

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

This alternative recommends rivers that support a full range of recreation activities to be available on segments that are located across the state and on each National Forest in Utah except the Manti-La Sal. The settings range from primitive with no facilities to recreational with facilities such as boat ramps and roads. This alternative includes one Blue Ribbon Fishery (13 miles), the Green River.

The segments determined not suitable for wild and scenic designation would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and impacts on recreation may occur as discussed in the above General Environmental Impacts section. The Logan River (Lower section) has proposed water projects on it which if developed would change the current recreation opportunities/experience, see Tables 3.12.6-9.

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

This alternative has a reduced representation of the range of recreation activities from Alternatives 3, 5, and 6. Whitewater rafting on a designated segment would not be an available activity in this alternative. Three Blue Ribbon Fisheries (31 miles) would receive WSR designation in this alternative: they include Huntington Creek, Lower Left Fork of Huntington and the Logan River: Idaho State line to confluence with Beaver Creek. Of those three, only Huntington Creek is noted for the Outstanding Remarkable Value of Recreation.

The segments determined not suitable for wild and scenic designation would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and impacts on recreation may occur as discussed in the above General Environmental Impacts section. The Upper Whiterocks River has proposed water projects on it which if developed would change the current recreation opportunities/experience, see Tables 3.12.6-9.

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

A range of landscapes (arid desert to mountain landscapes) would be available for river related recreation. The settings range from primitive with no facilities to rural with facilities such as boat ramps and roads. Rivers classified as Wild, Scenic, and Recreational would all be represented in the designation of rivers in this alternative. One Blue Ribbon Fishery (13 miles) with the outstanding remarkable recreation value would receive WSR designation, the Green River.

The segments determined not suitable for wild and scenic designation would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and impacts on recreation may occur as discussed in the above General Environmental Impacts section. Huntington Creek has proposed water projects on it which if developed would change the current recreation opportunities/experience, see Tables 3.12.6-9.

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

This alternative includes recreation representative segments from the Ashley, Dixie, Manti-La Sal and Wasatch-Cache National Forests. The settings range from primitive with no facilities to rural with facilities such as boat ramps and roads. A range of landscapes (arid desert to mountain landscapes) would be available for river related recreation. Rivers classified as Wild, Scenic, and Recreational would all be represented in the designation of rivers in this alternative. Four Blue Ribbon Fisheries (44 miles) would receive WSR designation in this alternative: they include Huntington Creek, Green River, Lower Left Fork of Huntington and the Logan River: Idaho State line to confluence with Beaver Creek. Of those four, only Huntington Creek and the Green River are noted for the Outstanding Remarkable Value of Recreation.

The segments determined not suitable for wild and scenic designation would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and impacts on recreation may occur as discussed in the above General Environmental Impacts section.

## **3.9 Roads/Rights of Way**

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### **Introduction**

Detailed information for Section 3.9 came from Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, Transportation/Facilities/Other Developments as well as from Geocommunicator.gov, the Bureau of Land Management's Lands Record Database.

### **Affected Environment**

Two national scenic byways, several county roads and numerous Forest Service roads parallel, cross and or are within the corridor of many of the eligible waterways being considered. The existing bridges, abutments, culverts, rip-rap, and guard rails did not preclude finding adjacent waterways eligible for Wild and Scenic River consideration. These road systems provide access points to the river wherever they cross and multiple access points when they parallel a river like Highway 89 along the Logan River or Highway 31 along Huntington Creek. Over time, these roads will continue to receive maintenance, and bridges will be replaced and or upgraded as necessary.

At eligibility Forests determined a temporary classification for each segment, with the existence of roads as one of the determination factors. Thirty-seven full segments and 8 partial segments were classified as Wild being generally inaccessible except by trail (no roads), among other requirements. Twenty-three full segments and 6 partial segments were classified as Scenic having shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads (i.e., roads may cross but generally not parallel the river). Fifteen full and 6 partial segments were classified as Recreational being readily accessible by road or railroad. Most roads on the forest are maintained by the Forest Service. Other routes are county or state roads and have an established right of way. Sixteen of the segments have roads with rights of way within the ¼ mile segment corridor. Eight of these segments are classified as Recreational, 5 are classified as Scenic, and 3 are classified as Wild.

Many rights of way exist in the segment corridors as well, not only for roads, but utility corridors, irrigation ditches, oil and gas pipelines. Other types of rights of way are granted based on need and filed with the Bureau of Land Management. Table 3.9.1 shows current rights of way, including road rights of

way, by segment. Segments not appearing in the table do not have existing rights of way. It is important to note that it is possible for a road right of way to exist in Bureau of Land Management records, without actual physical evidence of a road on the ground.

**Table 3.9.1. Segments with existing Rights of Way.**

Eligible Segment	Miles	Classification	Road Rights Of Way	Other Rights Of Way	Found Suitable in Alternatives
<b>Ashley NF</b>					
<b>24 segments of which 3 have existing rights of ways</b>					
Ashley Gorge Creek	10	Wild	none	1 phone, 2 water facilities	4
Green River	13	Scenic	1	2 phone, 2 pipelines, 1 power, 1 reservoir	3, 5, 6
Lower Main Sheep Creek	4	Recreational	2	none	3, 5
<b>Dixie NF</b>					
<b>10 segments of which 0 have existing rights of way</b>					
<b>Fishlake NF</b>					
<b>4 segments of which 0 have existing rights of way</b>					
<b>Manti-La Sal NF</b>					
<b>10 segments of which 6 have existing rights of way</b>					
Chippean and Allen Canyons	21	Scenic: (2.6 mi); Recreational: (19 mi.)	1	none	*
Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek	21	Scenic (17.05 mi); Recreational (3.6 mi.)	none	1 irrigation facility, 1 pipeline, 1 reservoir	4, 6
Huntington Creek	19	Recreational	1	3 power, 1 phone, 1 water facility	4, 6
Mill Creek Gorge	3	Wild	1	none	5
Miners Basin (Placer Creek)	2	Recreational	1	1 mineral surface right	*
Roc Creek	9	Wild	1	none	3, 5
<b>Uinta National Forest</b>					
<b>4 segments of which 1 has existing rights of way</b>					
Little Provo Deer Creek	3	Recreational	1	none	3, 6
<b>Wasatch-Cache NF</b>					
<b>33 segments of which 13 have existing rights of way</b>					
Beaver Creek: boundary of SITLA land to mouth	3	Recreational	1	none	4, 6
Blacks Fork	3	Recreational	1	none	*
Boundary Creek	4	Wild	2	1 utility	6
Little Cottonwood Creek	8	Recreational	3	1 utility	4
Lower Logan River	19	Recreational	2	1 utility	4, 6
Upper Logan River: State line to Beaver	7	Scenic	1	none	4, 6
Main Fork Weber River	6	Scenic	none	1 irrigation facility	*
Middle Fork Beaver Cr	11	Wild (6.9 Mi.); Scenic(4.2mi)	1	none	3, 5, 6
Middle Fork Weber	6	Wild	none	1 irrigation facility	*
Provo River: Trial Lake to U35 Bridge	20	Recreational	none	1 ditch	6
Temple Fork	6	Scenic	none	1 utility	4, 6
West Fork Blacks Fork	12	Wild (8 Mi); Scenic (3.9 Mi)	2	none	3, 5
West Fork Smiths Fork	14	Wild (4 mi); Scenic (10 mi)	3	none	4

\*Only found in Alternatives 1 and 2.

## Environmental Consequences

See Table 3.1.1 for restriction to activities within stream corridors based on classification. Refer to Table 3.1.2 for a list of basic assumptions.

Section 3.9 addresses one issue:

Issue 2 – Activities could be enhanced, foreclosed, or limited if the river segment and its corridor were included in a National System. The measurement indicator for roads/rights of way resources is miles of river by Wild, Scenic, and/or Recreational classification and a list of reasonably foreseeable roads/rights of way activities affected by designation.

Table 3.9.2 summarizes miles of segments found eligible per classification per alternative.

**Table 3.9.2. Miles of segments found suitable per classification per alternative.**

	Recreational	Scenic	Wild	Approx. Wild miles not already in Wilderness or RNA
Alternative 1	0	0	0	0
Alternative 2	0	0	0	0
Alternative 3	25 miles	56 miles	132 miles	46 miles
Alternative 4	92 miles	64 miles	47 miles	14 miles
Alternative 5	48 miles	89 miles	394 miles	72 miles
Alternative 6	112	113 miles	216 miles	30 miles

### General Environmental Impacts

Overall there is not expected to be any significant consequences on the existing roads, bridges, highways or rights of way with any of the alternatives recommending river designations. Alternative 2 may effect existing roads depending on what water projects are developed. Regardless of designation, there is the possibility that bridges or highway design could be modified to avoid effects to the free-flowing character of recommended rivers or to address fish passage issues. Wild rivers preclude future road building within their corridors, including logging roads. Alternatives with more Wild river recommendations (outside areas previously designated as Wilderness or Research Natural Area) would preclude more future road building proposals in those corridors.

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

All 86 river segments (840 miles) would continue to be managed as eligible for their potential inclusion into the National System, and the Forest Service would continue to use its existing authorities to protect free flow, water quality, ORVs, and recommended classification including road development (see Table 3.9.1). The identified ORVs are afforded adequate protection, subject to valid existing rights (when eligible). Table 3.1.1 shows what activities are compatible with each classification specifically; in corridors around segments classified as Wild no new roadways would be built. In corridors around segments classified as Scenic existing roads would be maintained and new roads would rarely be built. In segments classified as Recreational new roads could be built. No withdrawal or comprehensive river management plans would be created allowing rights of way, and easements to occur in accordance with current Forest Plans and existing laws and regulations. Existing roads, rights of way or future rights of way may be adversely affected by the projects of others for which the Forest Service has no or limited authority (e.g., development of a federal dam, or licensing of a hydropower plant.) If these projects were built they may or may not affect the current roads and rights of way in the area.

### Alternative 2 – No rivers recommended.

Under this alternative, a determination would be made that all 86 segments (840 miles) are not suitable and released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection. Protection of river values would continue to be managed by the standards provided in the underlying Forest Plans for the area, which can be amended as needs emerge, with roads and existing rights of way allowed in all areas, and future development of rights of way or roads allowed in areas outside of Wilderness or RNAs and consistent with Forest travel management plans. Choosing this alternative would not in itself initiate any changes to roads or rights of way.

Over time dams and water projects could be approved for some segments, depending on area management standards, resulting in the creation of reservoirs and associated facilities. If reservoirs are developed on some of the rivers such as the Logan River, Beaver Creek (SITLA land to confluence with Logan River), and Blacks Fork, the ability to use some roads would be limited by the water projects, and other roads may be built to supplement the projects.

Not all segments will be affected by water development projects or other activities and here roads and rights of way management will generally remain the same. Segments would be managed as per Forest Plan standards and existing laws and regulations. Segments without water resource potential, or in extremely rugged, inaccessible areas, may remain undeveloped. Additionally, segments located in Wilderness and Research Natural Areas will continue to exclude the possibility of new roads, and limited rights of way.

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

The 24 segments (212 miles) that would be found suitable for wild and scenic designation in Alternative 3 would continue to receive interim protection, the effects of which are explained in Alternative 1 analysis including maintenance of the classification, specifically concerning the construction of roads, and could be congressionally designated.

Congressional action would require a comprehensive river management plan be developed within three years of designation. Of the 132 miles of segments classified as Wild, approximately 46 miles are in areas not already designated a Wilderness or Research Natural Area and would also not have future roads; however trails and vehicles could be used or built contingent on congressional intent and river management objectives defined in legislation and through the river planning process. Generally, access routes within the river corridors would continue to be available for public use. However, if that type of use adversely affected the ORVs identified for the river area, the route could be closed or regulated. Acceptability may be determined by historical or valid rights involved, or subject to, specific legislative language, if provided, for motorized use (vehicles or watercraft powered by motors). Motorized use on land or water is best determined by the comprehensive river management planning process and considers factors such as effects (positive or negative) on river values, user demand for such motorized recreation, health and safety to users, and acceptability with desired experiences and other values for which the river was designated. The 81 miles of segments with Scenic and Recreational classifications would be managed to protect their ORVs, possibly which may limit or encourage the development of new roads, if required.

Existing rights of way would remain as before designation. In Alternative 3, 6 segments have rights of way on them. Specifically in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act it notes, “Nothing in this section shall be construed to abrogate any existing rights, privileges, or contracts affecting Federal lands held by any private party without the consent of said party. Nothing in this Act shall preclude the improvement of any existing and or right of way within the boundaries of the segment designated” (Sec. 12 [16 usu 1283] (b)

Management Policies). In addition, future rights of way are possible in the designated segment. “The Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as the case may be, may grant easements and rights-of-way upon, over, under, or through any component of the national wild and scenic rivers system in accordance with the laws applicable to the national park system and the national forest system, respectively. Provided that any conditions precedent to granting such easements and rights-of-way shall be related to the policy and purpose of this Act”, (Sec. 13 [16 USC 1284] g). “In the absence of reasonable alternative routes, new public utility rights-of-way on Federal lands affecting a Wild and Scenic River area or study area will be permitted. Where new rights-of-way are unavoidable locations and construction techniques will be selected to minimize adverse effects on scenic, recreational, fish and wildlife and other values of the river area.” Other legislation applicable to the various managing agencies may also apply to wild and scenic river areas. Where conflict exists between the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and other acts applicable to lands within the system, the more restrictive provisions providing for protection of the river values shall apply.” (Wild and Scenic River Guide, Federal Register /Vol 47, No 173/ Tuesday, September 7, 1982).

The 62 segments determined not suitable for wild and scenic designation in Alternative 3 would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and effects on the development of roads or rights of way as discussed in Alternative 2 would apply.

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

The 22 segments (203 miles) that would be found suitable for wild and scenic designation would continue to receive interim protection the effects of which are explained in Alternative 1 analysis, and could be congressionally designated. Congressional action would require a comprehensive river management plan be developed within three years of designation. Those segments would be managed to protect their ORVs possibly limiting the creation of new roads or rights of way, if required. Of the 22 segments found suitable in Alternative 4, 9 segments have rights of way on them. Of the 47 miles of river that would be managed as Wild, approximately 14 miles are in areas not already designated Wilderness or Research Natural Area where the development of roads is already excluded. The 156 miles of segments with Scenic and Recreational classifications would be managed to protect their ORVs, which may limit or encourage the development of new roads, if required.

The 64 segments determined not suitable for wild and scenic designation in Alternative 4 would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and effects on the development of roads or rights of way as discussed in Alternative 2 would apply.

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

The 50 segments (530 miles) that would be found suitable for wild and scenic designation in Alternative 5 would continue to receive interim protection the effects of which are explained in Alternative 1 analysis, and could be congressionally designated which would then require a comprehensive river management plan be developed within three years of designation. Those segments would be managed to protect their ORVs possibly limiting the creation of new roads or rights of way, if required. In this alternative, of the 394 river miles that would be managed as Wild, approximately 72 miles are in areas not already designated as Wilderness or a Research Natural Area, where roads are already excluded. Of the 50 segments found suitable in Alternative 5, 6 segments have rights of way on them. The 137 miles of

segments with scenic and recreational classifications would be managed to protect their ORVs, possibly which may limit or encourage the development of new roads, if required.

The 36 segments determined not suitable for wild and scenic designation in Alternative 5 would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and effects to roads and rights of way as discussed in Alternative 2 would apply.

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

The 40 segments (441 miles) that would be found suitable for wild and scenic designation in Alternative 6 would continue to receive interim protection the effects of which are explained in Alternative 1 analysis, and could be congressionally designated which would then require a comprehensive river management plan be developed within three years of designation. Those segments would be managed to protect their ORVs possibly limiting the creation of new roads or rights of way, if required. Of the 40 segments found suitable in Alternative 6, 11 segments have Rights of Way on them. In this alternative, of the 216 river miles that would be managed as Wild, approximately 30 miles are in areas not already designated as Wilderness or Research Natural Area. The 225 miles of segments with Scenic and Recreational classifications would be managed to protect their ORVs, possibly which may limit or encourage the development of new roads, if required.

The 46 segments determined not suitable for wild and scenic designation would be released from Wild and Scenic River interim protection and effects to roads and rights of way as discussed in Alternative 2 would apply.

### 3.10 Social and Economic Resources

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#### Introduction - Current Social and Economic Trends in Utah

Utah’s 2006 population of approximately 2.6 million reflects steady growth of 2 to 3% per year over the past decade, with an overall increase of 14.2% since 2000. Eighty percent of Utah’s population lives in the six county area surrounding Salt Lake City (Utah, Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, Box Elder, and Tooele Counties) known as the “Wasatch Front.” However, past and projected population growth varies by county (Table 3.10.1)<sup>1</sup>.

**Table 3.10.1. Utah population by county 2000-2020 (projected).**

County	2000	2005	% growth (2000-2005)	2010 Forecast	% growth forecast (2005-2010)	2020 Forecast	% growth forecast (2010-2020)
Box Elder	42,860	45,142	5.3%	49,254	9.1%	61,675	25.2%
Cache	91,897	102,477	11.5%	114,304	11.5%	147,776	29.3%
Carbon	20,396	19,205	-5.8%	19,023	-0.9%	20,982	10.3%
Daggett	933	967	3.6%	1,024	5.9%	1,141	11.4%
Duchesne	14,397	15,043	4.5%	15,897	5.7%	19,021	19.7%

<sup>1</sup> Variation in population estimates occurs. Data used in preparing this document was drawn from US Census data, the Utah Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget, the Economic Development Corporation of Utah (EDCUTAH), and the Utah Department of Workforce Services.