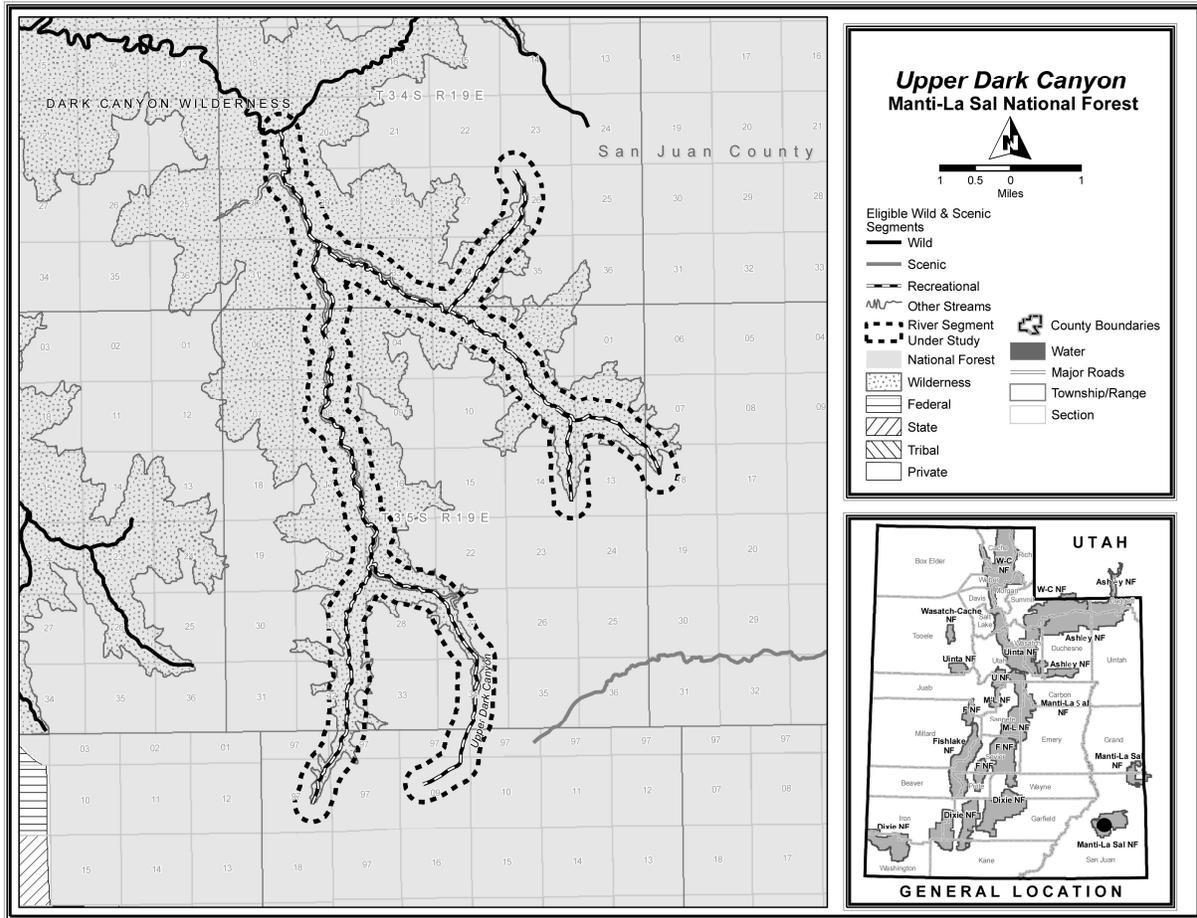


Upper Dark Canyon Including Horse Pasture Canyon, Peavine & Kigalia Canyon Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Upper Dark Canyon Including Horse Pasture Canyon, Peavine & Kigalia Canyon

River Mileage:

Studied: 31.9 miles, from headwaters between North and South Elk Ridge on the East and Dry Mesa on the West to the junction of Upper Dark Canyon with Poison Canyon.

Eligible: Same

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah	Congressional District 2		
	Start (Legal Description)	End	Classification	Miles

Upper Dark Canyon -Horse Pasture Canyon	Northing/ 4184242 Easting/ 604994	Northing/4185112 Easting/599664		
- Kigalia Canyon	Northing/ 4170223 Easting/602916			
- Peavine Canyon	Northing/ 4169782 Easting/600395		Recreational	26.2*
-Upper Dark Canyon East	Northing/ 4177284 Easting/ 606297			
-Upper Dark Canyon West	Northing/417667 Easting/606297			

* The mileage of this segment has been changed from an ocular estimate of mileage to mileage that was calculated using GIS

Physical Description of River

Upper Dark, Peavine, Kigalia, and Horse Pasture Canyons are intermittent streams with flows sufficient to support the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). The landscape is typical of the Colorado Plateau with rugged canyons bisecting rolling montane to sub montane mesas. Upper Dark Canyon and its tributaries have flashy hydrographs due to shallow soils and large amounts of exposed rock in the watershed. There is little absorption of precipitation events resulting in floods during convective events. Conversely, because of the lack of storage in soils in the system, it often goes dry during the growing season. Riparian areas are present in the drainage bottoms, although cover is discontinuous and of narrow aerial extent (with the exception of Horse Pasture Canyon). Unregulated livestock use at the turn of the century coincided with wetter years and more frequent and large floods. Although the wetter regime would have brought about some incision in the valley bottom, the combination of unregulated livestock and climatic fluctuations that changed regional flood frequency resulted in the formation of deep gullies in areas of unconsolidated alluvial fill throughout much of the canyons. One of the exceptions is Horse Pasture Canyon and an unnamed tributary to Dark Canyon to the southeast of Horse Pasture Canyon. Because gullies did not form in these areas, the water table remains at the surface of the canyon floor and supports large riparian wetland of reeds, sedges, willows, box elder and much else. Riparian vegetation is also present in the bottom of the wetter gullies in the canyons and narrow floodplains are becoming established in those areas also.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document:

Eligibility of Wild and Scenic Rivers – Manti-La Sal National Forest (March 2003), Re-evaluation of Eligible River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (2006), Re-evaluation of Eight River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (June 2007)

Determination of Free-flow:

There are no major diversions or significant channel modifications in these segments.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Geologic – These canyons are located on the northwestern flank of the Elk Ridge Anticline. The stratigraphic section shown goes from the Upper Pennsylvanian through the Triassic, with several prominent unconformities. The canyons are generally oriented northwest-southeast, probably due to the dominant fracture pattern in the area. Abandoned uranium mines are present along the upper canyon rims where they meet Elk Ridge. The uranium deposits are in the Moss Back Member of the Chinle Formation, where it unconformably overlies the Moenkopi Formation. These canyons contain the most

striking example of the white Cedar Mesa sandstone with dark green vegetation in the area, which produces one of the most characteristic features of Dark Canyon. The bottom of the canyon also contains green vegetation (grass, sagebrush, and mountain brush), contrasted with most of the canyon country in the area. In the area of the intersection of Peavine Canyon with Dark Canyon, the Cedar Mesa has weathered to form spires, fins, and arches. These canyons have a high rating for feature abundance, diversity of features, and education and scientific value. Based on the overall abundance and diversity of these geologic attributes, they would be similar or equivalent to areas of regional importance.

Cultural – Ample evidence from Upper Dark Canyon suggests the canyon area was used for over 6000 years. There are numerous prehistoric sites ranging from artifact scatters to cliff dwellings. Many of these sites are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and may yield important information about prehistory. Temporally, there are well preserved Archaic period sites and Ancestral Puebloan sites. There is a Historic period cultural landscape related to early 20th century European-American use of the canyon for livestock and early oil extraction activities. The Scorup cattle operation is significant in local history and the settlement of San Juan County. Most of the resources are within the ¼ mile buffer. These resources are not strongly associated with the stream segments, but rather the general canyon environment (e.g., topography). Ancestral Puebloan occupations in this area reach elevations exceeding 7600 ft and represent prehistoric agricultural adaptations to high altitudes that are not found on surrounding BLM lands and few places in the region, such as Mesa Verde National Park. Early and Middle Archaic period sites found in this area contain cultural deposits that are of high research value for understanding this poorly understood period of prehistory. Several resources have significant research and interpretive potential suggesting this river segment has high cultural values.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Recreational

Some developments, significant evidence of human activity. Improved and unimproved Forest Development Roads (FDR's) are located on Elk Ridge east of Upper Dark Canyon and on Dry Mesa located between Upper Dark Canyon and Lower Dark Canyon. Roads under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management are located to the west and north of the canyon areas. These Forest Service and BLM Roads serve as access routes to the perimeter of the Dark Canyon Watershed and Dark Canyon Wilderness.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire corridor is located on lands managed by the US Forest Service

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – No current claims or leases exist within the corridor.

Water Resources Development – Currently the only existing water developments in these canyons are related to livestock management and consist of small stock ponds and spring developments. These developments do not affect the river's free-flowing condition. There are no known water resource projects that could be limited by designation of this river segment as wild and scenic. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The only roads within the corridor are FS Road 089 and 378 known as the Peavine Corridor. This road drops into Kigalia Canyon and follows it to the confluence with Peavine Canyon and then down to Dark Canyon. The road goes up Dark Canyon almost to the mouth of Horse Pasture Canyon and down Dark Canyon to Rig Canyon and then up Rig Canyon a short distance.

The Peavine Canyon (157), Kigalia Canyon (026), Brushy Knoll (023), Dark Canyon (006), Drift Trail Canyon (024), and Horse Pasture (025) Trails parallel and cross several of the eligible segments.

Several corrals, one in Peavine Canyon and one at the mouth of Rig Canyon, exist within the corridor as well as the historic Scorup Cabin at the mouth of Horse Pasture Canyon.

An abandoned drill rig is also within the corridor in Rig Canyon.

Grazing Activities – The eligible segment corridors are located within the Twin Springs and Babylon Pasture cattle allotments. The permittee is also authorized to graze Horse Pasture Canyon with 6-7 horses for several months in the summer and fall.

Recreation Activities – The Peavine Canyon (157), Kigalia Canyon (026), Brushy Knoll (023), Dark Canyon (006), Drift Trail Canyon (024), and Horse Pasture (025) Trails provide outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation in the form of hiking, backpacking and horseback riding. The Horse Pasture Dark Canyon and Peavine trails are the most heavily used and receive substantial use in the spring and fall.

OHV touring occurs along the Peavine Corridor.

Hunting for big game is popular along the adjacent uplands and mesa tops

Other Resource Activities – Timber harvest potential exists in the heads of the canyons outside the Wilderness and Roadless Areas.

Special Designations – The majority of the eligible corridor is within the Dark Canyon Wilderness designated in 1984 to protect the wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and untrammeled character found in the canyon system. The heads of the canyons are located within the Dark -Woodenshoe 10-436 Roadless Area. The Roadless Area is currently managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule which prohibits most timber harvesting and construction of new roads.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is located within San Juan County, the nearest population bases are Monticello and Blanding. The socio-economic setting of San Juan County is one based primarily on the service and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands. While the majority of visitors to the area come to see surrounding National Parks the Abajo Mountains and Elk Ridge in the Monticello Ranger District provide a respite from the heat of the desert in the summer and draw considerable use during the fall big game hunting seasons.

San Juan County is a depressed (EZ/EC) county. While the rest of the country has enjoyed a large increase in wages and job earnings, San Juan County has been declining. The average earnings have fallen from \$27,903 in 1970 to \$22,480 in 2000. Net farm income was \$9 million in 1970 and by 2000 had dropped to \$2 million. In 2000, 28% of transfer payments (retirement, disability, Medicare, dividends, interest, rent, welfare) were from welfare. In 2001 the unemployment rate was 9.1% in San Juan County compared to 4.4% statewide and 4.8% nationally. When unemployment figures on the Reservations are factored in, the unemployment rate for the county is 22%. On portions of the Navajo Indian Reservation the unemployment rate is well over 50%. With 92% of the county in State, Federal or Navajo Reservation lands, any decision a federal land management agency makes has an impact on the county population.

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

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

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

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

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision

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

The entire corridor is located on lands managed by the US Forest Service. The county is not interested in changing this zoning to protect any river values as it is their opinion that sufficient policies are in place to protect those values.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab and Monticello Utah, San Juan County was opposed to any other "layers of protection" for the segment. The County generally feels that there are sufficient policies in place to protect the values associated with the eligible segment. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment.

Draft EIS comments from the San Juan County Commission, City of Monticello and local residents strongly oppose WSR designation for Upper Dark Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: segment is in a designated Wilderness Area; the probability of reduced grazing, mining and oil exploration water rights restrictions would have a negative effect on the economy; financially it would be difficult to manage; it is not free-flowing; and it is inconsistent with the San Juan County Master Plan.

Draft EIS comments from individuals and groups not living in San Juan County voiced strong support for WSR designation of Upper Dark Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for supporting designation were: it is unique; and its contribution to the basin integrity; to be consistent with BLM designation. All of the three organized campaigns support a positive suitability finding and designation of this segment. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest.

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

The designation would be consistent with those portions of the stream within the Dark Canyon Wilderness and Roadless Area. The management direction in the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986 for the area is to protect wilderness opportunities. Other uses can occur so long as they do not violate the intent of wilderness or wilderness values. Designation would be consistent with this management direction. A portion of the stream also flows through an area with a Semi-Primitive Recreation emphasis where the management direction is to provide semi-primitive recreation

opportunities. Other uses may occur so long as they are rehabilitated to reflect as close as possible previous undisturbed conditions. Designation would also be consistent with this direction.

The designation would conflict with the San Juan County Master Plan (Chapter 1 Policy of Public Lands, General/State: pages 9-13; Policy on Multiple Use: pages 13-15; Policy of Public Access: pages 18-21; Policy on Private and Public Land Ratios: pages 22-24; and Policy on Water Resources: pages 30-32).

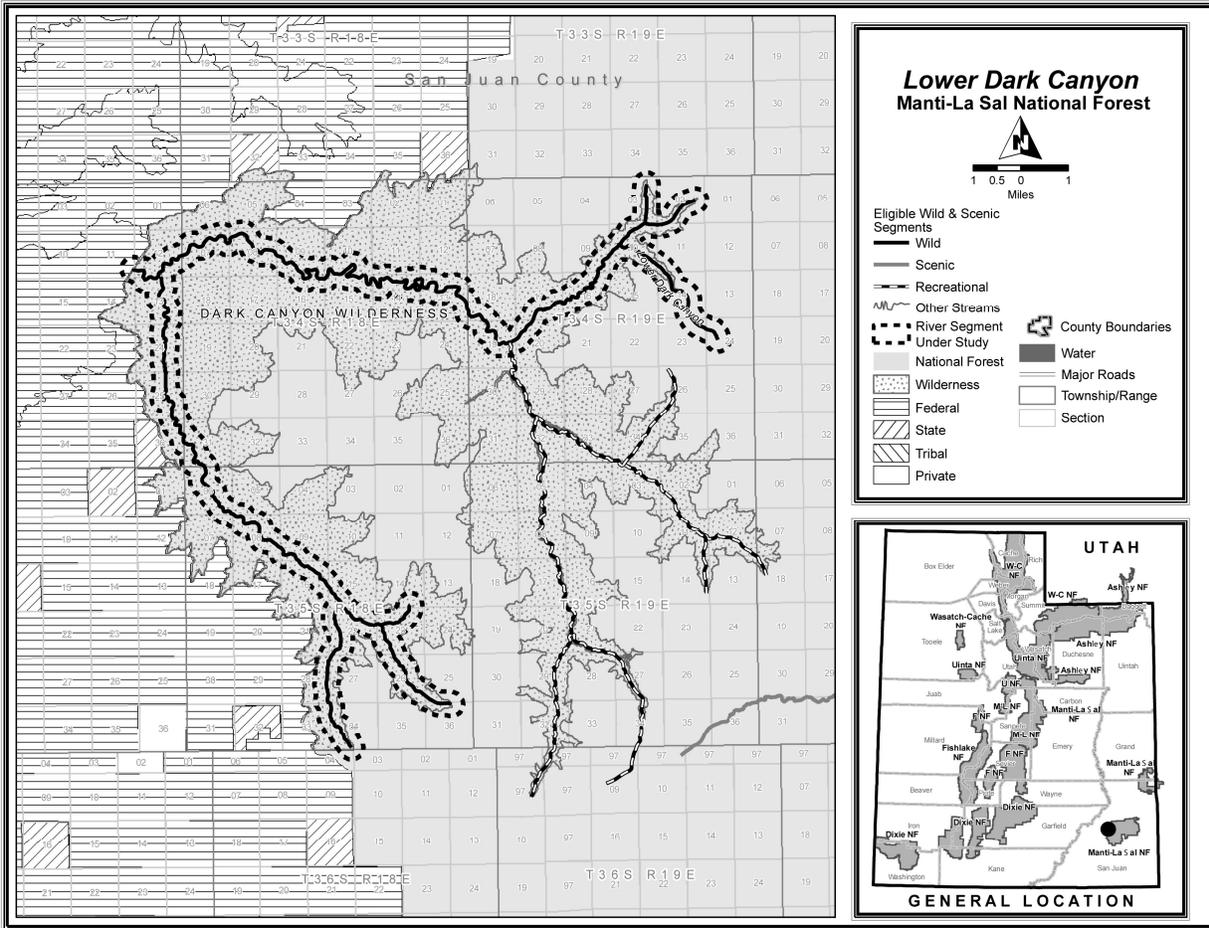
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Upper Dark Canyon and the associated eligible tributaries is a tributary to the Colorado River. Upper Dark Canyon joins the Colorado River in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Before joining the Colorado the stream flows through BLM and NPS lands. If the Forest Service segment was designated by itself, it would contribute some to basin integrity since the eligible Forest Service segment contains the entire upper watershed of Dark Canyon. However, if the Forest Service, BLM and NPS portions of the creek were designated it would add protection to the entire watershed. Currently the BLM portion of the stream has been found eligible from Youngs Canyon to the confluence. Suitability has not yet been determined for the BLM portion.

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

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Dark Canyon if it were designated.

**Lower Dark Canyon including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon,
Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons
Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)**



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Lower Dark Canyon including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon, Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons

River Mileage:

Studied: 41.2 miles from the junction with Upper Dark Canyon and Poison Canyon to the Forest boundary; and from the upper headwaters of Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons to the junction with Lower Dark Canyon.

Eligible: Same

Location: *Coordinates are in UTM Zone 12 N. NAD 83, meters*

	Manti-La Sal National Forest, Monticello Ranger District, San Juan County, Utah	Congressional District 2	
	Start (legal description)	End	Miles

Lower Dark Canyon				
Poison Canyon East	Northing/4189961 Easting/605919	Northing/4187631 Easting/ 586967		
Poison Canyon West	Northing/4190503 Easting/608243			
Deadman Canyon	Northing/4185221 Easting/606684		Wild	41.2
Woodenshoe Canyon	Northing/4171428 Easting/594321			
Cherry Canyon North	Northing/4185221 Easting/606684			
Cherry Canyon South	Northing/4172917 Easting/597687			

Physical Description of River: Lower Dark, Poison, Deadman, Woodenshoe, and Cherry Canyons are intermittent streams and were identified as having flows sufficient to support the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). The landscape is typical of the Colorado plateau with rugged canyons bisecting rolling montane to sub montane mesas. Dark Canyon and its tributaries have flashy hydrographs due to shallow soils and large amounts of exposed rock in the watershed. There is little absorption of precipitation events resulting in floods during convective events. Conversely, because of the lack of storage in soils in the system, it often goes dry during the growing season. Riparian areas are present in the drainage bottoms although cover is discontinuous and of narrow aerial extent. Unregulated livestock use at the turn of the century coincided with wetter years and more frequent and large floods. Although the wetter regime would have brought about some incision in the valley bottom, the combination of unregulated livestock and climatic fluctuations that changed regional flood frequency resulted in the formation of deep gullies in areas of unconsolidated alluvial fill throughout much of the canyons. Riparian vegetation is also present in the bottom of the wetter gullies in the canyons and narrow floodplains are becoming established in those areas also. The fluvial processes of erosion have been influenced by geologic structural process such as faulting and fracturing. The canyons abruptly cut through rim rock and exposed bedrock of Navajo sandstone as they descend from the bench and mesa areas of Elk Ridge. The steep, narrow canyon areas are unique representations of six sequential geologic formations, starting with Navajo sandstone and ending in the Cutler formation. The lower reaches drop in to broad valley bottoms of deep alluvial material. Canyon terrain consists of steep terraces, spires, hanging gardens, and arches. Springs, seeps, and potholes are found in the upper and middle reaches of the canyons. Several intermittent pour over waterfalls are present in Woodenshoe Canyon.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Eligibility of Wild and Scenic Rivers – Manti-La Sal National Forest (March 2003), Re-evaluation of Eligible River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (2006), Re-evaluation of Eight River Segments on the Monticello Ranger District (June 2007).

Determination of Free-flow: There are no known diversions, impoundments, or other channel modifications of Lower Dark Canyon including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon, Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Cultural – Evidence from Woodenshoe and Lower Dark Canyon suggest the canyon area was used for over 6000 years. There are numerous prehistoric sites ranging from artifact scatters to cliff dwellings. Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings, granaries, rock art, and open air sites in Woodenshoe and Lower Dark Canyon are indicative of high altitude occupation of the forest, particularly during the late A.D. 1100s. Culturally, these sites exhibit ties toward the west and may provide important data on prehistoric social interaction, economy, and other aspects of late Ancestral Puebloan prehistory. Many of these sites are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and may yield important information about prehistory. Many of the resources are within the ¼ mile buffer. These resources are not strongly associated with the stream segments, but rather the general canyon environment (e.g., topography). Several resources have significant research and interpretive potential suggesting this river segment has high cultural values.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River: Wild

Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity, and generally inaccessible except by trail.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – The entire corridor is located on lands managed by the US Forest Service

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – No current claims or leases exist within the corridor. There are several current uranium claims along the rim of Woodenshoe Canyon outside of the corridor of the eligible segment. Several old mines and claims are located in Woodenshoe and Peavine Canyons.

Water Resources Development – Currently the only existing constructions in these canyons are related to livestock management and consist of small stock ponds and spring developments. These developments do not affect the river's free-flowing condition. There are no known water resource projects that could be limited by designation of this river segment as Wild and Scenic. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – The Dark Canyon (006) and Woodenshoe Canyon (165) trails parallel and cross the eligible segments. Trail Canyon (007) and Poison Canyon (158) trails also provide access to the segments. All of these trails are within the wilderness and are non-motorized trails.

Grazing Activities – The eligible segments are within the Twin Springs allotment, but Wooden Shoe Canyon and Lower Dark Canyon are closed to grazing.

Recreation Activities – The Woodenshoe-Dark Canyon is a relatively popular multi-day backpack trip which provides outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation and a chance to view Ancestral Puebloan ruins in a wilderness setting. The wilderness is also popular with day hikers and horse back riders.

Hunting for big game is popular along the adjacent uplands and mesa tops.

Other Resource Activities – No other resource activities are proposed at this time

Special Designations – The majority of the eligible corridor is within the Dark Canyon Wilderness designated in 1984 to protect the wilderness values of solitude, naturalness, and untrammled character found in the canyon system. The heads of the canyons are located within the Dark -Woodenshoe 10-436 Roadless Area. The Roadless Area is currently managed under the 2001 Roadless Rule which prohibits most timber harvesting and construction of new roads.

Socio-Economic Environment – The eligible segment is located within San Juan County, the nearest population bases are Monticello and Blanding. The socio-economic setting of San Juan County is one based primarily on the service and tourism industries. The main reason that visitors come to the area is the incredible scenery and the wide range of outdoor activities available in the surrounding public lands. While the majority of visitors to the area come to see surrounding National Parks the Abajo Mountains and Elk Ridge in the Monticello Ranger District provide a respite from the heat of the desert in the summer and draw considerable use during the fall big game hunting seasons.

San Juan County is a depressed (EZ/EC) county. While the rest of the country has enjoyed a large increase in wages and job earnings, San Juan County has been declining. The average earnings have fallen from \$27,903 in 1970 to \$22,480 in 2000. Net farm income was \$9 million in 1970 and by 2000 had dropped to \$2 million. In 2000, 28% of transfer payments (retirement, disability, Medicare, dividends, interest, rent, welfare) were from welfare. In 2001 the unemployment rate was 9.1% in San Juan County compared to 4.4% statewide and 4.8% nationally. When unemployment figures on the Reservations are factored in, the unemployment rate for the county is 22%. On portions of the Navajo Indian Reservation the unemployment rate is well over 50%. With 92% of the county in State, Federal or Navajo Reservation lands, any decision a federal land management agency makes has an impact on the county population.

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

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

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT

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

There is no demonstrated commitment to share the administration of the eligible section by the State or its political subdivision

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

The entire stream corridor is located on federal lands. The county is not interested in changing this zoning to protect any river values as it is their opinion that sufficient policies are in place to protect those values.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

In verbal comments received at the Suitability Open House in Moab and Monticello Utah, San Juan County was opposed to any other "layers of protection" for the segment. The County generally feels that there are sufficient policies in place to protect the values associated with the eligible segment. The Utah Rivers Council and Red Rock Forests have both expressed support for designating this segment.

Draft EIS comments from the San Juan County Commission, City of Monticello and local residents strongly oppose WSR designation for Lower Dark Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for opposing designation were: segment is in a designated Wilderness Area; the probability of reduced grazing, mining and oil exploration water rights restrictions would have a negative effect on the economy; financially it would be difficult to manage; and it is inconsistent with the San Juan County Master Plan

Draft EIS comments from individuals and groups not living in San Juan County voiced strong support for WSR designation of Upper Dark Canyon. Among the variety of reasons for supporting designation were: its contribution to the basin integrity; to protect the Mexican spotted owls; unsurpassed beauty, peace and solitude; could complement Wilderness designation; and to be consistent with BLM designation. All of the three organized campaigns support a positive suitability finding and designation of this segment. Red Rock Forests is committed to assisting the Manti-La Sal National forest by providing volunteers and partnering in managing any and all segments that are designated as Wild and Scenic within the forest.

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

Designation would be consistent with those portions of the stream within the Dark Canyon Wilderness and Roadless Area. The management direction in the Manti-La Sal Land and Resource Management Plan of 1986 for the area is to protect wilderness opportunities. Other uses can occur so long as they do not violate the intent of wilderness or wilderness values. Designation would be consistent with this management direction.

The designation would conflict with the San Juan County Master Plan (Chapter 1 Policy of Public Lands, General/State: pages 9-13; Policy on Multiple Use: pages 13-15; Policy of Public Access: pages 18-21; Policy on Private and Public Land Ratios: pages 22-24; and Policy on Water Resources: pages 30-32).

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

Lower Dark Canyon and associated eligible tributaries, is a tributary to the Colorado River. Dark Canyon joins the Colorado River in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area. Before joining the Colorado the river segment flows through BLM and NPS lands. If the Forest Service segment was designated by itself, it would contribute some to the basin integrity, since the eligible Forest Service segment contains the entire upper watershed of Woodenshoe Canyon and a portion of Dark Canyon. However, if the Forest Service, BLM, and NPS portions of the creek were designated it would add protection to the entire watershed. Currently the BLM portion of the stream has been found eligible from Youngs Canyon to the confluence. Suitability has not yet been determined for the BLM portion.

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

Several local environmental organizations have expressed interest in volunteering to assist in the management of Lower Dark Canyon if it was designated.