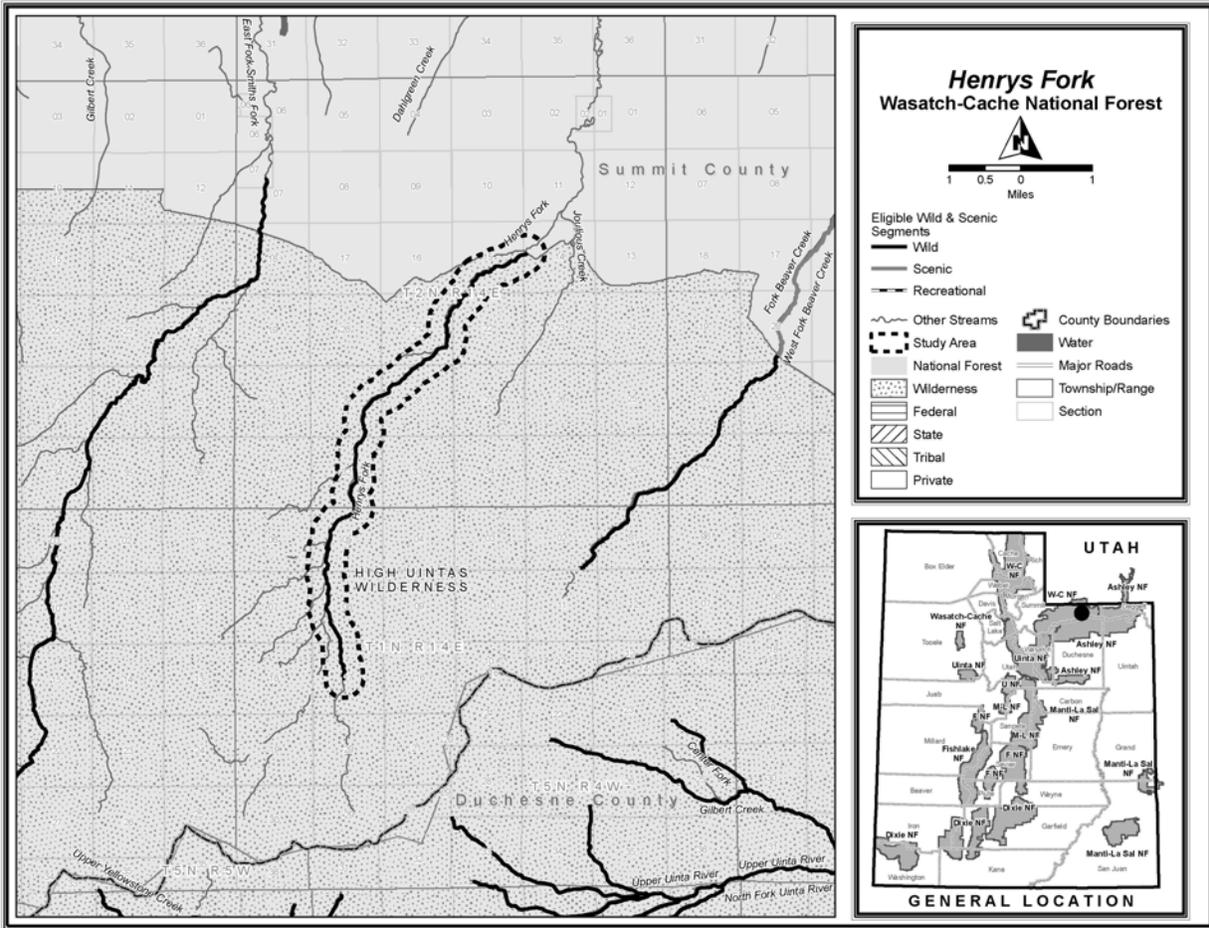


Henry's Fork Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Henry's Fork

River Mileage:

Studied: 8.0 miles, from Henry's Fork Lake to the trailhead

Eligible: same

Location:

Henry's Fork	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
Segment 1	Start	End	Classification	Miles
	SW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 17, T 1 N, R 14 E, SLM	SW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 14, T 2 N, R 14 E, SLM	Wild	8.0

Physical Description of River Segment:

This river segment flows between elevations ranging from 9,400-10,900 feet. The entire segment flows through National Forest system lands. The stream originates in a glacially carved basin that includes many glacial features such as cirques, arêtes, horns, talus slopes, and lakes. The stream traverses extensive glacial deposits in the upper portions of the watershed.

No threatened, endangered, or sensitive species have been identified in the corridor, although habitat is available for wolverine, Canada lynx, boreal owl, goshawk, and great gray owl, all sensitive species. Deer, elk, moose and rocky mountain big horn sheep inhabit the area. Habitat for mountain goats is also present. Smaller species include pika and ptarmigan. Fish species include cutthroat trout (possibly Colorado cutthroat trout, a sensitive species), brook trout and rainbow trout. The State of Utah ranks the fishing on this segment as Class II (of great importance).

Upland vegetation consists of lodgepole pine and aspen at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forest at higher elevations. Krummholz spruce-fir parklands and true alpine vegetation grow near the upper cirque basin. There is diversity of riparian communities including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities, with a variety of willows and associated understory species are in relatively stable condition. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur in the corridor

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: This segment from Henrys Fork Lake to the trailhead is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. This segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Scenic - The background views of the cirque from the upper portions of the trail are visually striking. The intermixing of vegetation types with the broad riparian areas bordered by conifers and tall rugged mountain peaks is diverse. The scenic value is outstandingly remarkable.

Recreation - The recreational experience is relatively diverse for a primitive setting. Both solitude and small group experiences are common. Access is easy from the trailhead. This is the shortest and probably the easiest access to Kings Peak. The recreation experience is an outstandingly remarkable value.

Wildlife - Diversity of wildlife species, including four large ungulates and their habitats, are good. Unique species such as the ptarmigan and reintroduced big horn sheep are attractions people look for. Wildlife represents an outstandingly remarkable value.

Ecology - Diversity of riparian communities, including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities with a variety of associated understory species in relatively stable condition constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Wild

The Henrys Fork segment from Henrys Fork Lake to the trailhead is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a wild river because the stream and the stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- It is essentially primitive.
- There is little or no evidence of human activity.
- There is some presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- There is a limited amount of domestic grazing.
- There is little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- The area is inaccessible except by trail.
- There are no roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the river area except one accessing the Henrys Fork Trailhead and parking lot.
- The stream meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses –The ownership pattern of land of this river segment begins at the origin at the headwaters in the High Uintas Wilderness. The majority of this river segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness (7.9990 miles) except for the lowest 0.0016 mile portion between the trailhead and the wilderness boundary.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0- 8.0	Wasatch-Cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness	2571
	Total:	2571 acres

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments –Trail 117 parallels the segment for its full length to Henrys Fork Lake from the trailhead and offers good hiking, horseback riding, and fishing.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral or oil and gas development. The small portion of the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Grazing Activities - Sheep graze in the upper part of the drainage as part of the Henrys Fork and Hessie Lake Allotments and cattle graze in the lower part of this valley on the Red Mountain Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an

Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Recreation Activities –Trail 117 parallels the segment for its full length from the trailhead to Henrys Fork Lake and offers good hiking, horseback riding, and fishing. The many lakes in this pristine setting are heavily used during the summer months and into the early fall. Boy Scout groups are common users. These are wonderful settings for high quality primitive recreation experiences, with vistas of high elevation lakes and massive rock outcrops and ridges. Experience quality is relatively diverse for a primitive setting, with both solitude and small group experience common. Access to Henrys Fork Lake is easy from the trailhead and access to Kings Peak is short and easy from the lake basin.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in the stream corridor.

Special Designations – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness Area and is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. Activities specifically prohibited in the Wilderness Act are: commercial enterprises; roads and structures; the landing of aircraft; the use of motorized equipment; and motor or mechanical transport.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor in the High Uintas Wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.1 Opportunity Class I: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. RFP 4-64 2003

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed, except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

The small part of this stream corridor that is outside the Wilderness is within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.2d consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment –This stream is located in a part of Summit County that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through the Evanston Ranger District.

Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the Trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away: people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency for lands along this segment is the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

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

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

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

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in having the river deemed wild and scenic, or in sharing of the costs.

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

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the Henrys Fork.

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

Designation of the Henrys Fork segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness, RHCA, and roadless within the stream corridor. Designation would increase regulation over the small area of this stream corridor that is outside the Wilderness boundary and would be applied to allowable activities listed in the Forest Plan (2003) for this area such as future recreation and timber/fuels projects to the ¼-mile corridor.

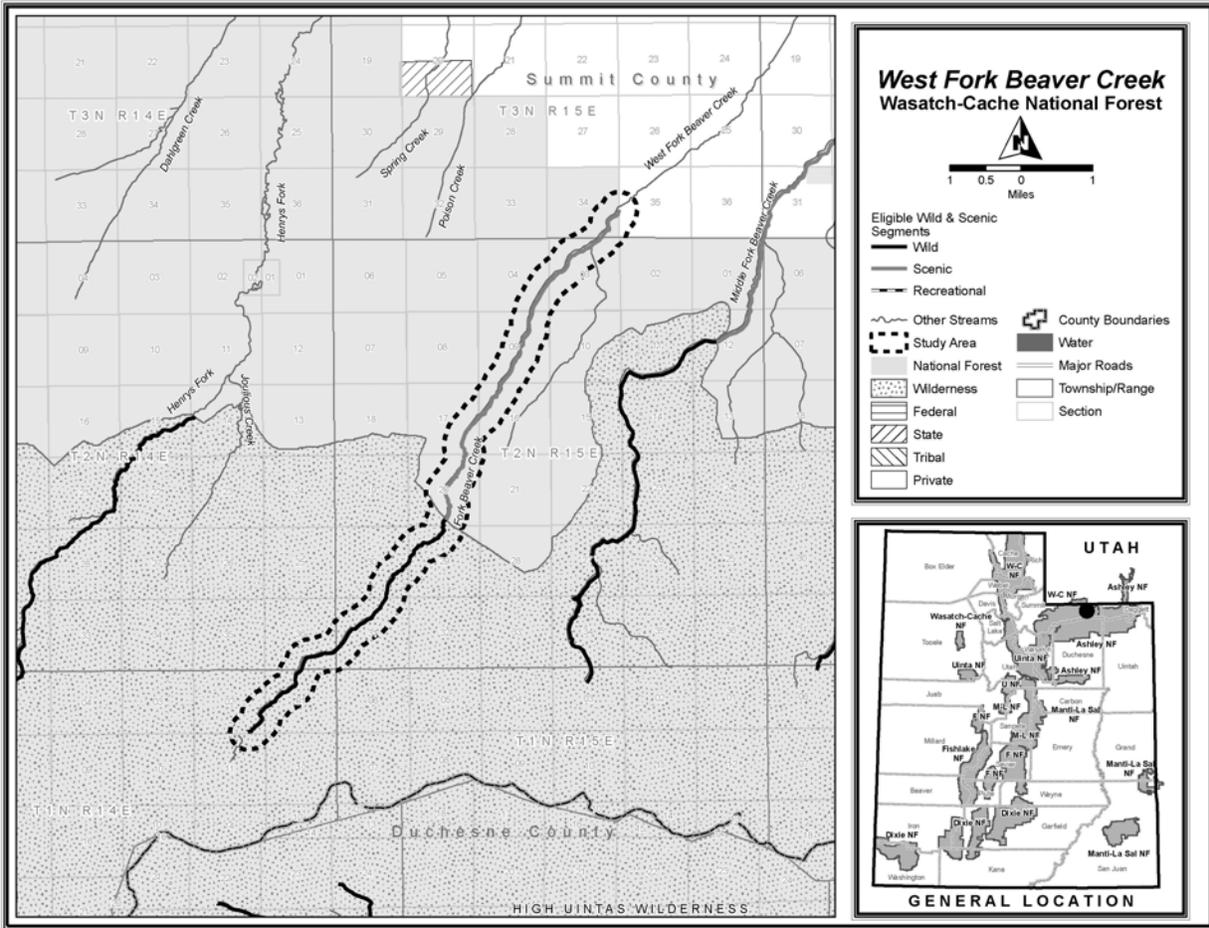
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the basin integrity since other nearby headwater streams in the Henrys Fork drainage have been found eligible. However because the eligible segment does not extend downstream much beyond the Wilderness boundary its contribution is limited to protecting the upper basin. The majority of this stream is in the High Uintas Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

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

There are currently no public volunteer commitments currently for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

West Fork Beaver Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: West Fork Beaver Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 10.1 miles, from source to Forest boundary

Eligible: Same

Location:

West Fork Beaver Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 12, T 1 N, R 14 E, SLM	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 20, T 2 N, R 15 E, SLM	Wild	4.6
Segment 2	SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 20, T 2 N, R 15 E, SLM	NE ¼ NSE ¼ Sect. 34, T 3 N, R 15 E, SLM	Scenic	5.5

*The stream length has changed based on more accurate GIS data from 9 miles to 10.1 miles.

Physical Description of River Segment:

This river segment flows between elevations ranging from 8,720-11,033 feet. The stream originates in a glacially carved basin that includes many glacial features such as cirques, arêtes, horns, talus slopes, and lakes. The stream traverses extensive glacial deposits in the upper portions of the watershed. Lower elevation riparian areas have conifers invading the riparian ecosystem, which is indicative of fire exclusion along this portion. Diversity of communities and species is, however, high throughout the segment with willow bottoms and narrow conifer bottoms, much like Henrys Fork. The upland vegetation consists of lodgepole pine and aspen at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forest at higher elevations. Krummholz spruce-fir parklands and true alpine vegetation grow near the upper cirque basin. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur in the corridor.

No threatened, endangered, or sensitive species have been identified in the corridor, although habitat is available for wolverine, Canada lynx, boreal owl, goshawk, and great gray owl, all sensitive species. Deer, elk, moose and rocky mountain big horn sheep inhabit the area. Habitat for mountain goats is also present. Smaller species include pika and ptarmigan. Fish species include cutthroat trout (possibly the Colorado cutthroat trout, a sensitive species), brook trout, longnose dace, sculpin and mountain sucker. The State of Utah ranks the fishing on this segment a Class III, an important fishery.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: Except for one road crossing, which does not restrict flow, there are no modifications or diversions on this segment. This segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Wildlife - Diversity of wildlife species, including four large ungulates and their habitats, are good. Unique species such as the ptarmigan and reintroduced big horn sheep are attractions people look for. Wildlife represents an outstandingly remarkable value.

Ecology - Diversity of riparian communities, including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities with a variety of associated understory species in relatively stable condition constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Segment 1—Wild; Segment 2--Scenic

The West Fork of Beaver Creek is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a wild river above the Wilderness boundary and scenic below the Wilderness boundary because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.

- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

The scenic segment is classified as scenic because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.
- Presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.
- The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable.
- Evidence of past logging or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable provided the forest appears natural from the river bank.
- Accessible in places by road.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses –The West Fork of the Beaver Creek from its source to the forest boundary is on the Mountain View Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. The segment is entirely on National Forest lands.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-4.6	Wasatch-Cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness	1536
4.6-10.1	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	1844
Total acres:		3380 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The portion of the stream segment within the High Uintas Wilderness has been withdrawn from mineral or oil and gas development. The portion of the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development –Except for one road crossing within the segment, there are no diversions or modifications within the segment. There are several irrigation diversions below the Forest boundary. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments –Forest Road 189 provides access to the stream at the Forest boundary and Forest Road 082 crosses the stream about 1 mile above the Forest boundary. Trail 119 provides access to the remainder of the stream. The trail starts at the West Beaver Trailhead on Forest Road 082.

Grazing Activities – There are two cattle allotments on the scenic portion of West Fork Beaver Creek. The stream segment is within the Beaver Creek and Poison Mountain Cattle Allotments. There is a

closed sheep allotment in the wild section. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. Ranchers must comply with grazing permits administered by the Forest.

Recreation Activities –The corridor receives moderate fishing and heavy hunting use, mostly by local residents. Hikers and some horseback riders use the trail to access the High Uintas Wilderness.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in this stream corridor.

Special Designations – West Fork Beaver Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 4.3 miles of this stream corridor is within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Approximately 4.6 miles of this stream segment are within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the Wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.1 Opportunity Class I: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. RFP 4-64 2003

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land below the Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness: These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12, 7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the

characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Management Prescription 3.2 Terrestrial Habitats (3.2U Undeveloped/3.2D Developed) Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

Management Prescription 3.2d consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment –This stream is located in Summit County in a location that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in

Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency for lands along this segment is the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

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

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

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

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in having the river deemed wild and scenic, or in sharing of the costs.

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

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the West Fork Beaver Creek.

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

Designation of the West Fork Beaver Creek segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness, Recommended Wilderness and the RHCA within the stream corridor.

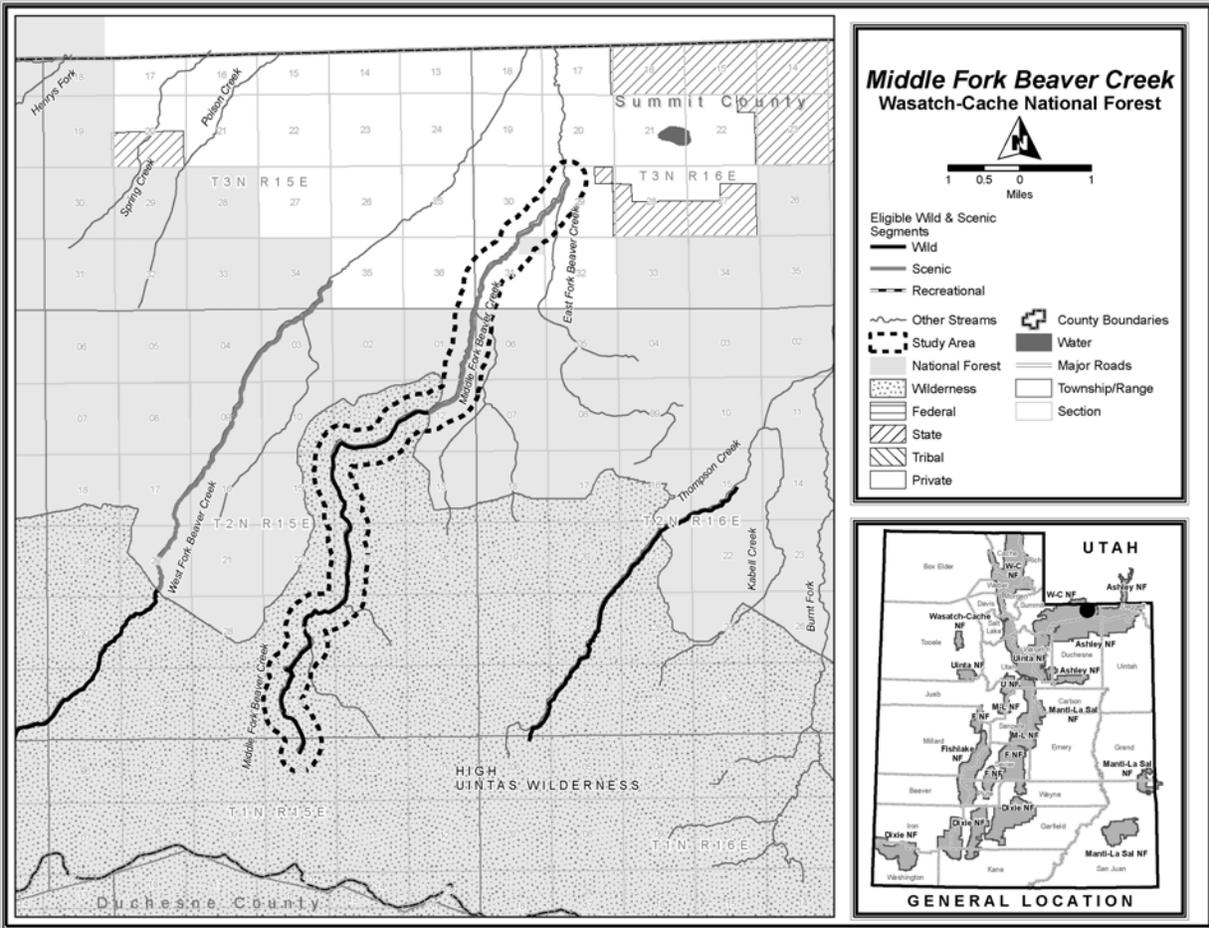
(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the basin integrity as it incorporates the source of the West Fork Beaver Creek to the Forest boundary. This segment when combined with the Middle Fork Beaver Creek provides designation for two headwater streams of Beaver Creek.

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

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

Middle Fork Beaver Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Middle Fork Beaver Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 11.1 miles, Beaver Lake to confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek

Eligible: Same

Location:

Middle Fork Beaver Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 3, T 1 N, R 15 E, SLM	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 12, T 2 N, R 15 E, SLM	Wild	6.9
Segment 2	SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 12, T 2 N, R 15 E, SLM	SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 35, T 12 N, R 113 W, 6 th Principal Meridian (Wyoming)	Scenic	4.2

Physical Description of River Segment:

This river segment flows between elevations that range between 8,200 - 10,505 feet. The stream originates in a glacially carved basin that includes many glacial features such as cirques, arêtes, horns, talus slopes, and lakes. The stream traverses extensive glacial deposits in the upper portions of the watershed.

Lower elevation riparian areas have conifers invading the riparian ecosystem, which is indicative of fire exclusion along this portion. Diversity of communities and species is, however, high throughout the segment with willow bottoms and narrow conifer bottoms, much like Henrys Fork. The upland vegetation consists of lodgepole pine and aspen at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forest at higher elevations. Krummholz spruce-fir parklands and true alpine vegetation grow near the upper cirque basin. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are known to occur in the corridor.

No threatened, endangered, or sensitive species have been identified in the corridor, although habitat is available for wolverine, Canada lynx, boreal owl, goshawk, and great gray owl, all sensitive species. Deer, elk, moose and rocky mountain big horn sheep inhabit the area. Habitat for mountain goats is also present. Smaller species include pika and ptarmigan. Fish species include cutthroat trout (possibly the sensitive Colorado cutthroat), brook trout, longnose dace, scalpin and mountain sucker. Above the Forest boundary the State of Utah ranks the fishing on this segment a Class III, an important fishery.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

Determination of Free-flowing Condition: - The stream is free from major channel modifications and structures. There is one small diversion below the Forest boundary. There are two road crossings, one on the Forest and one below the boundary. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. This segment is free-flowing.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):

Wildlife - Diversity of wildlife species, including four large ungulates and their habitats are good. Unique species such as the ptarmigan and reintroduced big horn sheep are attractions people look for. Wildlife represents an outstandingly remarkable value.

Ecology - Diversity of riparian communities, including broad meadows and narrow conifer communities with a variety of associated understory species in relatively stable condition constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segments: Segment 1—Wild; Segment 2—Scenic

The Middle Fork of Beaver Creek is eligible for the national Wild and Scenic River System. The stream is classified as a wild river above the wilderness boundary because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.

- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

The scenic segment is classified as scenic below the wilderness boundary because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.
- Presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.
- The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable.
- Evidence of past logging or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable provided the forest appears natural from the river bank.
- Accessible in places by road.
- Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – This segment is on the Mountain View Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. Most of the segment is within Wilderness. The lower 2 miles are on private land.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-6.9	Wasatch-Cache National Forest Wilderness	2208
6.9-9.1	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	704
9.1-11.1	Private land	640
	Total:	3552 acres

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORV's of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within ¼ mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. Prior to finalization of this EIS, the actual miles of river segments recommended for designation will be calculated and the maps redrawn to exclude the private lands outside of the National Forest ownership to avoid the appearance of including these private lands in recommended river segments.

This area is zoned Agricultural Grazing (AG-160) by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. For private land in Utah, the Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral or oil and gas development. The portion of the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams or diversions inside the Forest boundary, and one small diversion below the Forest boundary. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – There are multiple access points to this area via Forest roads and trails. Forest roads 078, 082 and 164 provide access to the lower 3.5 miles of the segment. Forest road 164 terminates at the Middle Beaver Trailhead; Trail 120 starts at this trailhead and provides access to the Wilderness. Trails 105 and 108 merge near Long Meadow. Trail 109 follows the corridor from Long Meadow upstream to Beaver Lake.

Recreation Activities – In most of the corridor, views from the stream are limited to the surrounding coniferous forest. From the meadows, some of the nearby Uinta peaks can be viewed. Fishing use is moderate in the lower reaches and the Long Meadows area, and very light in the rest of the corridor. There is moderate use by local hunters and hikers in the corridor.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in this stream corridor. In lower reaches of the corridor there is some evidence of past logging.

Grazing Activities – The scenic section of Middle Fork Beaver Creek is within the Beaver Creek Cattle Allotment. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Special Designations – Middle Fork Beaver Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 6.0 miles of this stream corridor is within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Approximately 6.9 miles of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the Wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.1 Opportunity Class I: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. RFP 4-64 2003

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land below the Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Management Prescription 3.2 Terrestrial Habitats (3.2U Undeveloped/3.2D Developed) Emphasis: Manage upland habitats to provide for sustaining and/or recovering desired plant and animal species and/or communities. Maintain or restore lands to meet desired conditions of habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Considerations for these areas include winter ranges and corridors for

seasonal migrations as well as movement of genetic materials, individuals, and populations; vegetation composition, structure, and pattern needed for life cycle stages; needs for control or eradication of undesirable non-native species; and protection of special or unique habitats.

Management Prescription 3.2d consists of those terrestrial habitat areas where development is allowed for the purpose of maintaining, improving, or restoring key habitat elements.

(G3.2D-1) Timber harvest, road construction, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring terrestrial habitat, for oil and gas exploration, for hazardous fuel reduction, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.2D-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G3.2D-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed with consideration of existing road/trail densities and site specifically defined terrestrial habitat desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment –This stream is located in Summit County, in a location that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

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

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

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

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

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescription numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in having the river deemed wild and scenic, or in sharing of the costs.

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

The majority of this stream segment is on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land and will be managed to maintain the integrity of the stream corridor. The level of development allowed on the private land within the corridor is managed by the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning regulations for AG-160.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the Middle Fork Beaver Creek.

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

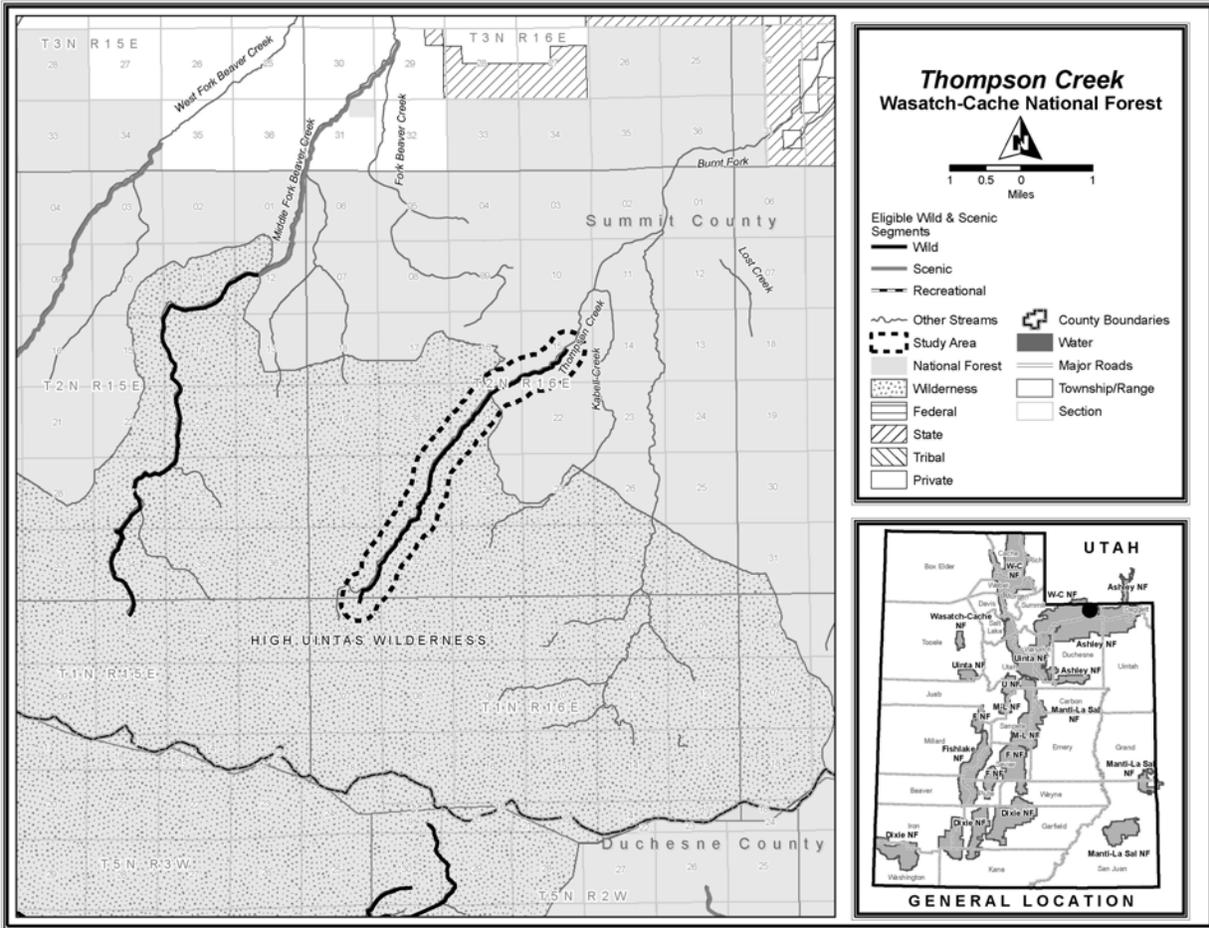
Designation of the Middle Fork Beaver Creek segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness, roadless and the RHCA within the stream corridor.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity. This segment contributes to the basin integrity as it incorporates the entire length of the Middle Fork Beaver Creek from Beaver Lake to the confluence of East Fork Beaver Creek. This segment, when combined with the West Fork Beaver Creek, provides designation for two of the three headwater streams of Beaver Creek.

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

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.

Thompson Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



STUDY AREA SUMMARY

Name of River: Thompson Creek

River Mileage:

Studied: 5.1 miles, from source to Hoop Lake Diversion

Eligible: Same

Location:

Thompson Creek	Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Mountain View Ranger District, Summit County, Utah		Congressional District 1	
	Start	End	Classification	Miles
Segment 1	NW¼ NE ¼ Sect. 6, T 1 N, R 16 E, SLM	NW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 15, T 2 N, R 16 E, SLM	Wild	5.1

Physical Description of River Segment:

This river segment flows between elevations that range between 9,400 - 11,200 feet. This segment of Thompson Creek extends from a small glacially carved basin near North Burro Peak to the Hoop Lake diversion. Below the headwaters the segment flows through a consistently dense forested corridor and the views from this heavily wooded corridor are limited. The corridor is heavily wooded with lodgepole pine and spruce-fir forests. A few wet meadows and willows occur along the stream. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species occur in the corridor.

No threatened, endangered, or sensitive animal species occur in the corridor. Habitat is available for wolverine, Canada lynx, boreal owl, goshawk, and great gray owl, all sensitive species. Deer, elk, moose and rocky mountain big horn sheep inhabit the area. Habitat for mountain goats is also present. Elk use in the area is heavy. Smaller species include pika and ptarmigan. Cutthroat/rainbow hybrid trout inhabit the stream.

ELIGIBILITY

Name and Date of Eligibility Document: Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

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

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Wildlife - Diversity of wildlife species, including four large ungulates and their habitats, are good. Unique species such as the ptarmigan and reintroduced big horn sheep are attractions people look for. Wildlife represents an outstandingly remarkable value.

CLASSIFICATION

Basis for the Classification of River Segment: Wild

The Thompson Creek segment from the headwaters downstream to the Hoop Lake Diversion is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. This stream is classified as a wild river because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

SUITABILITY REPORT

Landownership and Land Uses – Thompson Creek from its source to the Hoop Lake diversion is on the Mountain View Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. The segment is entirely on National Forest lands.

River Mile	Ownership	Acres
0-4	Wasatch-Cache National Forest High Uintas Wilderness	1218
4-5.1	Wasatch-Cache National Forest	481
	Total	1699 acres

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities – The majority of this stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness and has been withdrawn from mineral or oil and gas development. The portion of the segment that lies below the wilderness boundary is within a high oil and gas potential area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

Water Resources Development – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments – Access to this area is limited to Trail 122, which crosses the stream near Thompson Pass and the stream's headwaters. This trail connects with Trail 121 about halfway up the drainage; Trail 121 originates near Hoop Lake.

Recreation Activities – The recreation use along this corridor is lighter than other stream drainages, and does not constitute an outstandingly remarkable recreational value when compared to other corridors nearby. Recreation use is limited to moderate hunting pressure, and occasional hikers. Views from this heavily wooded corridor are limited. The fishery is rated Class III and receives light fishing pressure.

Other Resource Activities – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects within this stream corridor.

Grazing Activities - A small portion of this stream corridor is actively grazed. The Beaver Creek Cattle Allotment overlaps the end of the stream corridor. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

Special Designations – Thompson Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis.

These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 1.6 miles of this stream corridor are within a State of Utah Drinking Water Source Protection Zone (DWSPZ) for transient uses at nearby recreational sites. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Approximately 1.3 miles of this stream corridor is within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Approximately 3.7 miles are within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land in the High Uintas Wilderness:

Management Prescription 1.1 Opportunity Class I: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by an unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is temporary and minor. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation are available for visitors, who travel in small groups, practice excellent wilderness ethics and spend extra effort to leave no trace. Encounters with others are rare. RFP 4-64 2003

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land below the Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 2.6 Undeveloped Areas: Manage to protect undeveloped landscapes in a manner other than formal recommended wilderness. Although other uses and activities may occur, the primary emphasis is protection to assure the values and unique qualities associated with undeveloped areas are recognized and preserved. No new developments or activity that would alter the landscape or character are allowed, however use of motorized equipment (such as chainsaws for trail clearing) is allowed.

(S2.6) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, new recreation development, and new trail construction are not allowed.

(G2.6-1) Motorized uses, including snowmobiling, are allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G2.6-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G2.6-3) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed to mimic conditions within the historic range of variability and to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

Management Prescription 3.1A Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Socio-Economic Environment –This stream is located in Summit County, in a location that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was so named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant

lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated – The current administering agency for lands along this segment is the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed under direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

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

SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:

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

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in having the river deemed wild and scenic, or in sharing of the costs.

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

This segment is on entirely on Wasatch-Cache National Forest land.

(3) Support or opposition to designation.

Public comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System provide support for eligibility and designation for the Thompson Creek.

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

Designation of the Thompson Creek segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest's current management of the stream corridor for the Wilderness and the RHCA within the stream corridor.

(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.

This segment contributes to the Henrys Fork basin integrity when combined with other eligible headwater segments of West Fork Beaver, Middle Fork Beaver, and the mainstem of the Henrys Fork. On a smaller scale, it is the only eligible stream within the Burnt Fork drainage and its flows are diverted into Hoop Lake. The majority of this stream is in the High Uintas Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

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

There are currently no public volunteer commitments for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Mountain View Ranger District.