



**US Department of Agriculture
US Forest Service**

**Salmon-Challis National Forest
Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Study and Report**

**SUMMARY OF PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON
ELIGIBILITY STUDY PROCESS AND
INVENTORY OF RIVERS TO BE STUDIED**

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Photo Credit: US Forest Service



Prepared by Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Full Phrase

| | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| FSH | Forest Service Handbook |
| NWSRS | National Wild and Scenic River System |
| US | United States |
| WSR | wild and scenic river |
| WSR Act | Wild and Scenic Rivers Act |

SECTION I

BACKGROUND ON THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY STUDY AND REPORT

The United States (US) Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service, Salmon-Challis National Forest (Forest) is preparing a wild and scenic rivers (WSR) eligibility study and report of the rivers on the Forest. A WSR eligibility report documents whether the rivers on the Forest meet the requirements outlined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (WSR Act), as amended, for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). Section 5(d)(1) of the WSR Act directs federal agencies to consider the potential for national wild, scenic, and recreational rivers in all planning for the use and development of river and related land resources. Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 Chapter 80 requires a comprehensive inventory of rivers and an evaluation of their eligibility during Forest Plan Revision. The handbook also requires all named rivers on a US Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle map to be included in the inventory, unless the river has previously been included in a systematic and documented evaluation and there are no changed circumstances that would warrant additional review.

In accordance with the WSR Act and Forest Service directives, the Salmon-Challis National Forest developed a draft eligibility study process and draft inventory of rivers to be studied. The draft eligibility study process details the method by which the Forest will evaluate inventoried rivers for their eligibility. The draft inventory lists those rivers that the Forest intends to apply the study process. Both documents were provided to members of the public for their review and feedback. This document summarizes the public's feedback that was received on those documents and any changes that resulted.

For additional background information, please see the Forest's Plan Revision website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/scnf/home/?cid=FSEPRD522039>.

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SECTION 2

DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Forest Service directives require public participation during the land and resource management planning process. Effective public participation, as described in FSH 1909.12 Chapter 40, is a key component in developing a land and resource management plan that reflects the diverse needs of forest resources and contributes to their sustainability. To further these objectives, the Salmon-Challis National Forest undertook a variety of actions to engage with the public and solicit feedback on the eligibility study process and inventory of rivers to be studied.

2.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

A public participation strategy is a foundational document for implementing the Forest Service's commitment to engage the public throughout the planning process. Each public participation strategy serves as a road map for how the Forest will engage the public throughout the process. In addition to the public participation strategy developed in support of the Salmon-Challis National Forest's Forest Plan Revision, the Forest developed a stand-alone public participation strategy for the WSR eligibility study and report. The stand-alone strategy more specifically defines how the Forest intends to engage with the public during the study and report development, as well as opportunities and avenues for public engagement.

The WSR public participation strategy is available on the Forest's website at https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd538738.pdf.

2.2 PROJECT WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTERS

As identified in the WSR public participation strategy, postings to the Forest's website and newsletters are the primary, but not the exclusive, tools for sharing information with the public during the preparation of the WSR eligibility study and report.

On April 10, 2017, the Forest distributed its April newsletter to provide an update on the Forest Plan Revision process and notice of a series of public meetings on topics that included the WSR eligibility study and report. The newsletter was received by 532 recipients on the Forest's email distribution list and 169 US postal service recipients. The Forest made available for public review the newsletter, eligibility study process, and inventory of rivers to be studied by posting them to the Forest Plan Revision website, in the following locations:

April Newsletter

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd538843.pdf

Draft Eligibility Study Process

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd540144.pdf

Draft Inventory of Rivers to be Studied

Map: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd542863.pdf

List of rivers: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd542868.pdf

2.3 PUBLIC MEETINGS

During the month of April 2017, the Forest hosted a series of public meetings and a webinar. Each in-person meeting included a presentation with an update on the Forest Plan Revision process, followed by a series of small group, breakout sessions on a variety of topics, including WSRs. For the WSR discussions, the Forest provided attendees with the following:

- Copies of the draft inventory of rivers to be studied
- A list of frequently asked questions, which included information on accessing the draft eligibility study process on the Forest's website
- Comment cards for recording public feedback
- A map of the Salmon-Challis National Forest, displaying the draft inventory of rivers to be studied

| Location | Date and Time | Number of Attendees (Approximate) |
|---|---|--|
| Salmon <i>Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Salmon Region Office</i> | Monday, April 24, 2017 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. | 34 |
| May <i>Pahsimeroi Valley Grange (May Grange)</i> | Tuesday, April 25, 2017 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. | 11 |
| Mackay <i>American Legion Hall</i> | Wednesday, April 26, 2017 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. | 16 |
| Ketchum <i>Ketchum Community Library</i> | Thursday, April 27, 2017 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. | 19 |
| Webinar <i>Online presentation</i> | Thursday, May 4, 2017 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. | 24 |

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SECTION 3

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC FEEDBACK

3.1 METHODS OF COMMENT COLLECTION

During the public engagement period on the draft eligibility study process and draft inventory of rivers to be studied, the Forest used several techniques to record public feedback. Staff made comment cards available at the public meetings then collected them from attendees. Mail and facsimile information was included on the comment cards for cards for those who completed them after the in-person meetings.

Comments were also accepted by the following means:

- Email via the Forest Plan Revision email address: scnf_plan_rev@fs.fed.us
- Online via the web-based Comment Analysis and Response Application (CARA) for the Forest Plan Revision: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/ReadingRoom?project=49464>

Additionally, the Forest recorded public feedback via follow-up emails, based on in-person conversations between Forest personnel and members of the public during the April public meetings.

Although public input and feedback is accepted at any time, only comments received by May 31, 2017, are summarized in this report.

3.2 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC FEEDBACK

The tables below summarize the methods by which and topics on which public feedback was received during the public engagement period.

| Method | Number of Submissions |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Comment card | 8 |
| Follow-up email correspondence | 1 |
| Email to the Forest staff | 1 |
| Email to Forest Plan Revision address | 0 |
| CARA | 0 |
| Total | 10 |

| Topic | Number of Comments |
|---|--------------------|
| Draft Eligibility Study Process | 3 |
| Draft Inventory of Rivers to Be Studied | 2 |
| Other WSR-related topics | 2 |
| Non-WSR-related topics | 2 |
| Information request | 2 |
| Total | 11 |

3.3 SUMMARY RESPONSE TO PUBLIC FEEDBACK

This section summarizes public feedback received during the public engagement period and documents the Forest's response by topic.

Draft Eligibility Study Process

A commenter requested that the Forest compare rivers evaluated for eligibility in the 2017 inventory to those rivers that are already eligible or designated in the NWRSRS. As described in the eligibility study process, rivers in a region of comparison are evaluated against each other to determine whether a value in a particular river corridor rises to the level of outstandingly remarkable.

A commenter requested that the Forest consider the potential future condition when evaluating rivers for WSR eligibility; however, WSR eligibility evaluations are snapshots in time, based on existing conditions and available information. Should changes occur in a river corridor that increase or decrease the presence of an outstandingly remarkable value, then that change would be considered during the next WSR eligibility study.

A commenter asked whether "gradient" is an outstandingly remarkable value, particularly as it relates to boating. While gradient is not itself an outstandingly remarkable value, it may contribute to the presence of an outstandingly remarkable value, such as a recreational or scenic value, as described in the eligibility study process.

Draft Inventory of Rivers to be Studied

Commenters suggested additional rivers for inclusion in the inventory of rivers to be studied. They identified specific rivers and provided supporting

information for identifying potential outstandingly remarkable values. These rivers have been added to the inventory of rivers; they are as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Basin Creek 1 | Kenney Creek | Rapid River |
| Bear Creek 10 | Kerr Creek | Reynolds Creek |
| Bear Valley Creek 1 | Knapp Creek | Roaring Creek |
| Beaver Creek 1 | Lake Creek 2 | Salmon River (upstream of |
| Beaver Creek 2 | Lake Fork | North Fork Salmon River) |
| Big Chief Creek | Little Deep Creek 1 | Sawmill Creek 1 |
| Big Creek 3 | Little Indian Creek | Sheep Creek 8 |
| Big Timber Creek | Little Loon Creek | Ship Island Creek |
| Blackbird Creek | Little Pistol Creek | Silver Creek 1 |
| Cabin Creek 2 | Long Lost Creek | Soldier Creek 1 |
| Cache Creek | Loon Creek | South Fork Big Creek |
| Camas Creek | Lower Cedar Creek | South Fork Camas Creek |
| Carmen Creek | Luger Creek | South Fork Cottonwood Creek |
| Castle Creek 1 | Main Fork | South Fork Warm Spring Creek |
| Challis Creek | Marble Creek | Spring Creek 3 |
| Clear Creek 1 | Marsh Creek | Squaw Creek 1 |
| Cottonwood Creek 2 | Mayfield Creek | Squaw Creek 3 |
| Dahlonga Creek | McKee Creek | Star Hope Creek |
| Deep Creek 3 | Mill Creek 2 | Sulphur Creek 3 |
| Dry Creek 2 | Mill Creek 3 | Summit Creek 1 |
| Duffield Creek | Morehead Creek | Tango Creek |
| Dynamite Creek | Moyer Creek | Trail Creek 4 |
| East Fork Big Lost River | Muldoon Canyon | Trapper Creek 1 |
| East Fork Mayfield Creek | Musgrove Creek | Twin Creek 2 |
| East Fork Pahsimeroi River | Muskeg Creek | Vanity Creek |
| East Pass Creek | Napias Creek | Warm Spring Creek 3 |
| Fall Creek 1 | North Fork Big Creek | Waterfall Creek |
| Float Creek | North Fork Big Lost River | West Fork Big Creek |
| Hawley Creek 2 | North Fork Salmon River | West Fork Camas Creek |
| Hayden Creek | Owl Creek | West Fork Mayfield Creek |
| Herd Creek | Pahsimeroi River | West Fork Yankee Fork |
| Hoodoo Creek | Park Fork | West Horse Creek |
| Horse Creek 4 | Pass Creek | Wet Creek |
| Hughes Creek | Pierson Creek | Wildhorse Creek |
| Indian Creek 3 | Pine Creek 1 | Wilson Creek |
| Indian Creek 4 | Pioneer Creek | Yankee Fork |
| Iron Creek 1 | Pistol Creek | Yellowjacket Creek |
| Kane Creek | Pole Creek 4 | |

Other WSR-related Topics

Commenters provided information on the preliminary classification of river segments Wildhorse Creek, Summit Creek, and Pioneer Creek. The Forest will

take this information into consideration when developing the eligibility study report for eligible river segments.

Non-WSR-related Topics

The Forest received comments on the wilderness inventory and evaluation occurring on the Salmon-Challis National Forest. The wilderness process (see FSH 1909.12 Chapter 70) is distinct from the WSR process. The Forest provided these comments to the wilderness inventory and evaluation team for their consideration.

Information Requests

Some submissions did not contain comments related to WSRs and instead sought information from the Forest. The Forest has sought to fulfill these information requests.