

Appendix B: Wild and Scenic River Inventory and Evaluation

Introduction

This FEIS and Land Management Plan were subject to the objection process under 36 CFR 219 Subpart B (2102). Because the project record documentation for the original inventory could not be located, the Objection Reviewing Official’s instructions included completing and documenting a comprehensive evaluation and systematic inventory of the potential for rivers in the unit to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This appendix fulfills that instruction.

River Inventory

The following inventory of rivers within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) was developed using the National Stream Inventory layer in the LTBMU Geographical Information System (GIS) database¹. Each river in that layer was checked against the 7.5’ Quadrangle topographic map (USDA Forest Service Publication R5-RG-172, 2011) to confirm that all named rivers were included in this inventory. One additional river (Eagle Creek) was added to the inventory even though it was not named in either the National Stream Inventory layer or the quadrangle topographic map. Each River is described by its unique identifier in the GIS database (GNIS number) and GIS mileage.

Table B 1. LTBMU inventory of rivers

Stream Name	GNIS Number	National Forest Miles	Non-National Forest Miles	Total Miles
Angora Creek	26	2.38	1.46	3.84
Big Meadow Creek	21	4.21	0.01	4.23
Blackwood Creek	45	5.76	0.89	6.65
Bliss Creek	9	1.3	0.02	1.32
Burke Creek	22	2.71	0.76	3.48
Burton Creek	15	1.35	3.01	4.36
Cascade Creek	20	2.58	0.79	3.37
Cathedral Creek	4	0.96	0	0.96
Cold Creek	42	5.73	1.35	7.08
Dollar Creek	12	0.31	2.12	2.42

¹ The Friends of the River website was also checked to ensure that any rivers identified by that group were included in the eligibility evaluation. The only river listed for the LTBMU was the Upper Truckee River, which is already recommended for wild and scenic river status (Potential Wild & Scenic Rivers in California, September 2001).

Stream Name	GNIS Number	National Forest Miles	Non-National Forest Miles	Total Miles
Eagle Creek	29	3.06	0.34	3.4
Edgewood Creek	36	1.98	3.04	5.03
First Creek	9	0.77	1.04	1.82
General Creek	71	5.12	3.97	9.08
Glen Alpine Creek	30	3	0.49	3.49
Glenbrook Creek	25	3	0.87	3.87
Grass Lake Creek	19	4.38	0.02	4.4
Griff Creek	18	1.54	2.43	3.97
Heavenly Valley Creek	20	3.49	0.58	4.07
Incline Creek	30	3.4	1.47	4.87
Lincoln Creek	29	3.83	0.18	4.01
Logan House Creek	24	2.78	0.31	3.1
Madden Creek	16	0.79	1.98	2.78
Marlette Creek	11	1.33	0.44	1.78
McFaul Creek	43	3.62	1.21	4.83
McKinney Creek	15	3.11	0.85	3.96
Meeks Creek	45	6.44	0.02	6.46
Middle Fork Blackwood Creek	12	1.75	0	1.75
Mill Creek	16	0.05	1.55	1.6
North Canyon Creek	51	1.55	5.38	6.92
North Fork Blackwood Creek	12	1.88	0	1.88
North Logan House Creek	19	1.95	0.25	2.21
Rubicon Creek	11	0.8	1.04	1.84
Saxon Creek	47	6.45	0	6.45
Second Creek	9	1.21	1.24	2.45
Secret Harbor Creek	14	1.9	0.03	1.92
Tallac Creek	11	3.29	0.37	3.65
Taylor Creek	5	1.9	0	1.9
Third Creek	28	3.89	3.09	6.99
Trout Creek	63	8.64	3.76	12.39

Stream Name	GNIS Number	National Forest Miles	Non-National Forest Miles	Total Miles
Truckee River	32	0.56	3.28	3.84
Tunnel Creek	14	0.18	1.71	1.88
Upper Truckee River	141	13.22	10.1	23.31
Ward Creek	28	3.94	2.31	6.26
Watson Creek	10	2.64	0.53	3.17

As a result of public comment, eleven (11) tributaries of the Upper Truckee River were considered in the evaluation. The following table lists the tributaries by number and includes the mileage. A map of the tributaries is also included below.

Table B 2. Tributaries of the Upper Truckee River

Stream Name	National Forest Miles	Non-National Forest Miles	Total Miles
Tributary 1	0.69	0	0.69
Tributary 2	0.82	0	0.82
Tributary 3	1.52	0	1.52
Tributary 4	0.84	0	0.84
Tributary 5	2.31	0	2.31
Tributary 6	1.09	0	1.09
Tributary 7	1.51	0	1.51
Tributary 8	4.34	0	4.34
Tributary 9	2.74	0	2.74
Tributary 10	5.79	0	5.79
Tributary 11	2.45	0	2.45

Currently Eligible and Suitable Rivers

Upper Truckee River Recommended Wild & Scenic River

The Upper Truckee River was determined to be eligible in 1999, as a result of the Eight Eastside Rivers Wild and Scenic River Study Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDA Forest Service Tahoe National NF and LTBMU 1999). Forest Supervisor Juan Palma recommended its designation to the Wild and Scenic River System as a Wild River. The Acting Regional Forester concurred and forwarded the recommendation to the Chief of the Forest Service.

The Upper Truckee Recommended Wild River has a special mix of recreation, scenic values, and historic values that are considered Outstandingly Remarkable.

A seven-mile segment of the Upper Truckee River on the LTBMU is eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation (Figure 1). The eligible segment is located in the Meiss/Dardanelles Inventoried Roadless Area, from Carson Pass to south of Upper Truckee Rd. Until designated, the interim corridor includes an approximate ¼-mile buffer on either side.

Formal designation of a Wild and Scenic River requires an act of Congress, similar to wilderness designation. Pending formal designation, the LTBMU must manage the river to protect its free flowing character, specific outstandingly remarkable values, and its Wild classification, in accordance with FSH 1909.12 Chapter 82.5 – Interim Management of Eligible or Suitable Rivers. Formal designation would require the LTBMU to develop a specific management plan for the river and a final boundary for the corridor.

The Upper Truckee River is considered eligible because it has a special mix of recreation, scenic, and historic values that are all considered Outstandingly Remarkable. The largest watershed feeding Lake Tahoe, it has scenic landforms, attractive meadows, and easy access, attracting various backcountry users. In addition, the historic cabin provides a scenic accent to the high-country meadows. The cabin is unique in that it has been maintained over the years so one can see an intact working-ranch cabin instead of the remnants of an old historic cabin. In addition to these values, self-sustaining populations of Lahontan cutthroat trout and highly valued early summer deer fawning habitat provide for special natural values which are also identified as OR values. The combination of these values indicates that this stream can clearly be considered an excellent candidate representing eastside Sierran streams and a worthy addition to the National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers.

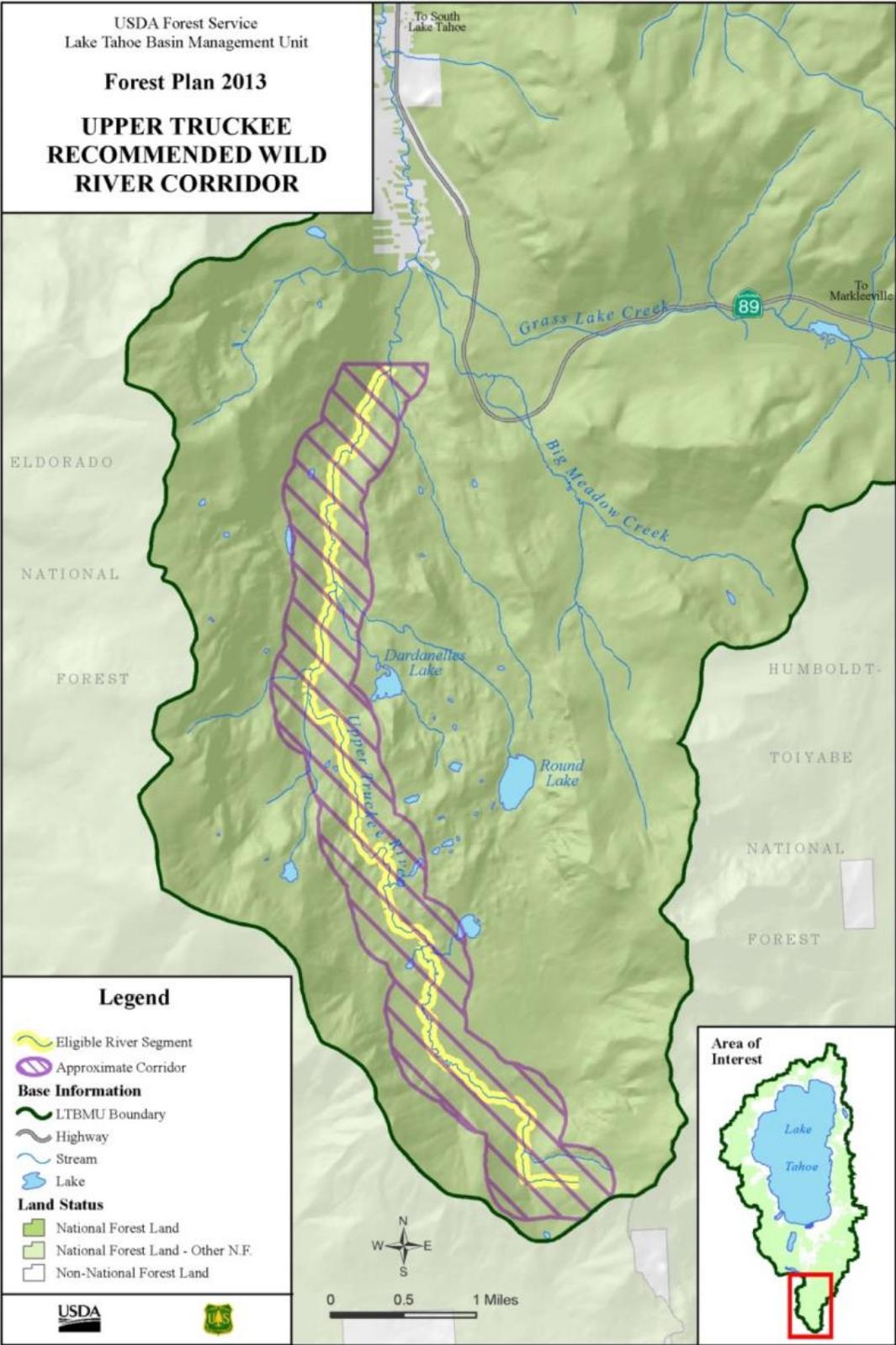


Figure B 1. Upper Truckee River recommended wild river segment

Rivers Determined to be Not Suitable

Truckee River

In the FEIS for the Eight Eastside Rivers Wild and Scenic River Study Report (USDA Forest Service, 1999) the Truckee River is described as being eligible for Recreational classification as a Wild and Scenic River because of the Outstandingly Remarkable recreational and cultural values. However, the Record of Decision for the Eight Eastside Rivers Wild and Scenic River Study Report (USDA Forest Service, 1999) describes the rationale for the determination that the Truckee River is not suitable as:

“Truckee River: The lower, or mainstem, Truckee River has Outstandingly Remarkable recreation and prehistoric values. The recreation values were considered significant due to the high levels of general recreation use, the orientation of most of this use towards the river, and the opportunity for the public to raft without guides in a high-mountain environment. The prehistoric values relate to several recorded village sites of the Native American Washoe who used the Truckee River as a transportation corridor and as a source of fish, a critical food supply for the Washoe.

While recognizing the Outstandingly Remarkable values for the Truckee River, we do not consider the river suitable for the following reasons. The Forest Service's ability to manage the Truckee River is limited. This river is one of the most adjudicated in America over water rights. These cases have been complicated, controversial, and lengthy in resolution. In addition, National Forest System lands along the Truckee River, commonly referred to as "Landfar Lands," have reserved rights retained by Sierra Pacific Power that allow power development and power lines along the bed and banks for 100 feet adjoining the river. These rights are claimed beyond 100 feet of the river but have not been contested to date. The Truckee River is also a corridor for powerlines, sewage lines, water lines, and a bicycle trail, as well as paralleling Highway 89. The utility lines have no alternative locations in this area. Designation could create difficult or costly requirements for future infrastructure modifications or improvements. For this strategic corridor we do not believe it would be appropriate to create additional administrative requirements or limitations that would occur with designation.

The 27 percent of the river corridor that is in private ownership is concentrated on the banks of the river in small parcels. These small holdings would require high levels of administrative time if the Truckee River is designated. These private holdings also have 11 private bridges in 13 miles. While these bridges do not eliminate the river from consideration, they suggest additional administrative costs and various obstacles in the river from bridge supports. The Town of Truckee indicated by letter that it did not support designation of the Truckee River because they felt city zoning would be more effective for managing the river than national designation. The Town was also concerned about retaining future options for the utility corridor parallel to Highway 89 and the Truckee River.”

The conditions described in the rationale for determining that the Truckee River is not suitable still apply to the river corridor; so therefore, this determination will be carried forward.

Eligibility Evaluation and Classification of Eligible Segments

Each of the remaining rivers was evaluated by the Forest Service Interdisciplinary Team (IDT). First, the evaluation considered whether each river was free-flowing. Then, the IDT considered the inventory of rivers and identified potential outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) and assigned each value a scale of importance. The scale of importance was considered on three levels, National, Regional and Less Than Regional. National scale was considered as the entire United States, regional scale is discussed below in the region of comparison section of this report and the less than regional scale was considered the LTBMU. The ORVs and scale of importance for each river is compiled in a separate section near the end of this document (ORV Evaluation Tables). There were several creeks that were found to possess ORVs, but at a scale that was less than regional (ORV evaluation spreadsheet, 2015). These additional creeks that possessed less than regional ORVs were not considered further in the evaluation.

The following creeks were identified by the IDT as possessing one or more outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) at the regional or national scale (Figures 2-5). The remaining creeks or rivers in the inventory were either already recommended, not suitable or did not possess any ORVs at the regional or national scales (ORV evaluation spreadsheet, 2015).

Eagle Creek

River/Segment GIS Number: 29

Location:

- County: El Dorado County, CA
- Beginning point Description: Dicks Lake in Desolation Wilderness.
- End Point Description: Emerald Bay of Lake Tahoe near Vikingsholm.

Mileage:

- Total: 3.06 National Forest/0.34 Non-National Forest = 3.4 miles
- Studied: 3.06
- Eligible: 3.06

Eligibility Findings:

- **Determination of Free Flow:**

The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

- **Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:**

Geo/Hydro - Waterfall into Emerald Bay of Lake Tahoe created by geologic faulting and glaciation (Eagle Falls). There is very high visitor use to these features. Lower falls drops into Emerald Bay and is accessible by car. The upper falls is accessed by a relatively short and accessible hiking trail. Because of backdrop of Emerald Bay and Lake Tahoe to the lower falls, this feature has been photographed extensively and likely recognized at the National level.

Scenic - Waterfall into Emerald Bay of Lake Tahoe created by geologic faulting and glaciation (Eagle Falls). There is very high visitor use to these features. Lower falls drops into Emerald Bay and is accessible by car. The upper falls is accessed by a relatively short and accessible hiking trail, with popular views

from the bridge located along the trail. Because of backdrop of Emerald Bay and Lake Tahoe to the lower falls, this feature has been photographed extensively and likely recognized at the National level.

Recreation - This area is located above Emerald Bay and experiences very high visitor use to these unique geologic features and waterfall.

These values were found to be outstandingly remarkable. Because this river is free-flowing and has at least one ORV it is found to be eligible.

Classification:

- i. Water Resources Development:
There has been no water resources development on this creek.
- ii. Shoreline Development
Shoreline development includes both the trail to the upper falls and Eagle Lake as well as an overlook of the lower falls.
- iii. Accessibility
This creek is very accessible from the Eagle Falls trailhead at Emerald Bay. Parking is available at the trailhead and the trail follows along the creek to Eagle Lake.
- iv. Water Quality
The water in Eagle Creek is both fishable and swimmable.
- v. Preliminary Classification
The preliminary classification for Eagle Creek is '*Recreational*'.

Glen Alpine Creek

River/Segment GIS Number: 30

Location:

- County: El Dorado County, CA
- Beginning point Description: Jabu Lake in the Desolation Wilderness.
- End Point Description: South end of Fallen Leaf Lake.

Mileage:

- Total: 3.0 National Forest/0.49 Non-National Forest = 3.49 miles
- Studied: 3.49
- Eligible: 3.49

Eligibility Findings:

- **Determination of Free Flow:**
The study reach is found to be free-flowing.
- **Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:**
Aquatic - Regionally important for federally listed endangered and threatened species occupy and utilize creek for reproduction and other life history requirements. The headwaters of this river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for the federally endangered Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged frog, which is indigenous to the region of comparison. The lower portion provides spawning habitat for Lahontan cutthroat trout, which is indigenous to the region of comparison. These values were found to be outstandingly remarkable because federally listed species use this creek for reproduction.

Classification:

- i. Water Resources Development:
There is water resources development at the Glen Alpine Springs on private property.
- ii. Shoreline Development
There is evidence of development along the shoreline including an access road and trailhead nearby. Glen Alpine Springs is located on private land near the shoreline.
- iii. Accessibility
Glen Alpine Road parallels the creek until the Glen Alpine Springs trailhead. Parking is available at the trailhead. Past the trailhead there is an administrative access road which parallels the creek and provides access to private property.
- iv. Water Quality
The water in Glen Alpine Creek is both fishable and swimmable.
- v. Preliminary Classification
The preliminary classification for Glen Alpine Creek is '*Recreational*'.

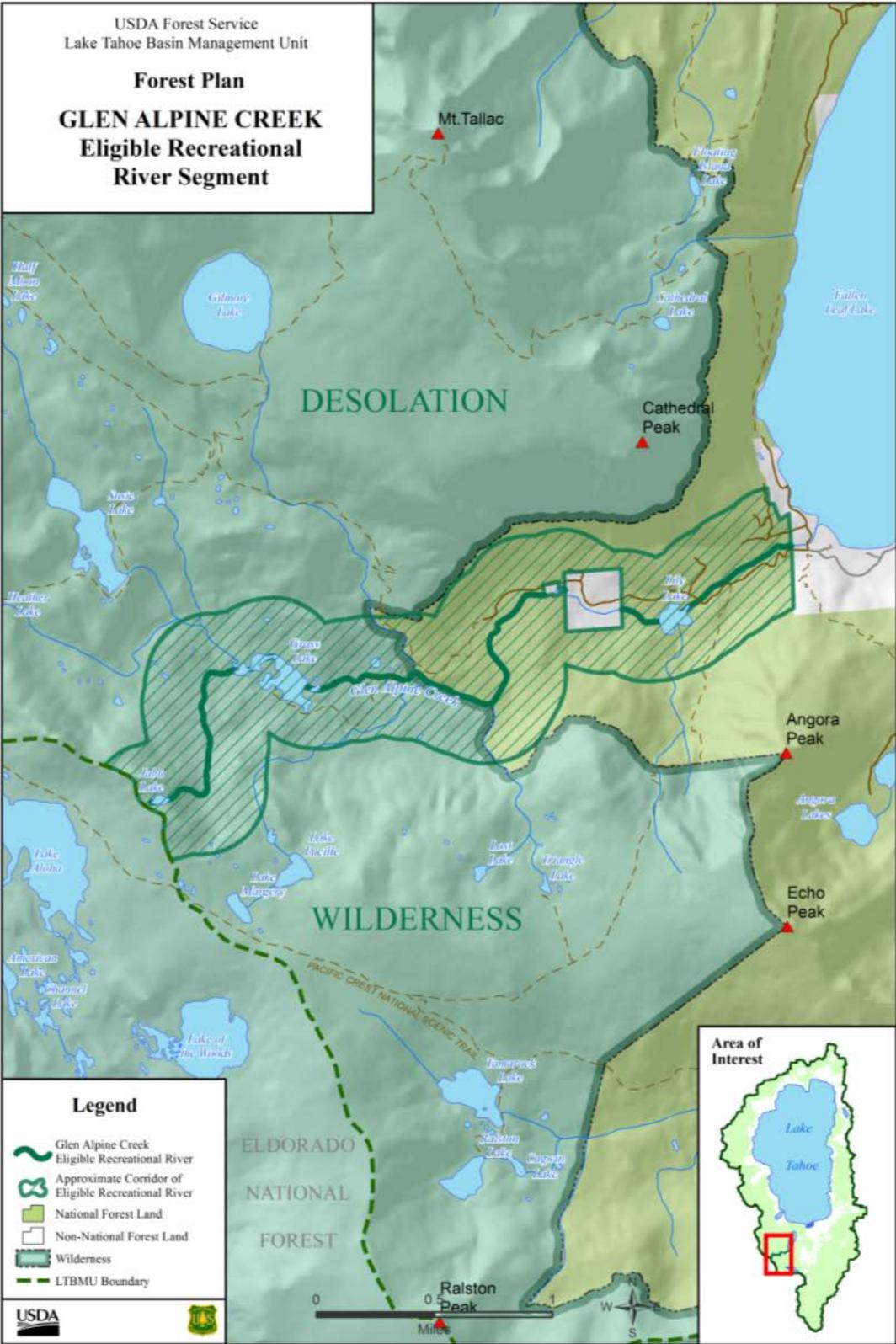


Figure B 3. Glen Alpine Creek eligible river segment

Taylor Creek

River/Segment GIS Number: 5

Location:

- County: El Dorado County, CA
- Beginning point Description: Fallen Leaf Lake.
- End Point Description: Lake Tahoe at Tallac Point.

Mileage:

- Total: 1.9 National Forest/0 Non-National Forest = 1.9 miles
- Studied: 1.90
- Eligible: 1.90

Eligibility Findings:

- **Determination of Free Flow:**

There is a dam on Fallen Leaf Lake which regulates the flow of Taylor Creek. However, Taylor Creek is considered to be free-flowing beyond the dam.

- **Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:**

Scenic - Popular views of stream and marsh ecosystem from both land and from Lake Tahoe. Associated with USFS Taylor Creek Visitor Center, trail access is easy. During autumn months, creek is popular destination for viewing kokanee salmon spawning and fall colors of riparian vegetation.

Heritage - Location of historically significant Washoe summer habitation associated with fisheries resources.

Wildlife - high wildlife diversity and habitat diversity: bald eagle (FSS) wintering habitat and management zone (known use by bald eagles), waterfowl management zone, bird viewing platform off Rainbow Trail to see birds using Taylor Creek marsh area (including bald eagle), Willow flycatcher (FSS) emphasis habitat and nests along creek corridor, osprey nests, known use by FSS bats, native beaver presence and active dam building, lots of use by bears (and unsafe viewing by humans).

Recreation - The recreation opportunities surrounding Taylor Creek, including the Taylor Creek Visitor Center, Stream Profile Chamber, Rainbow Trail, etc. have been developed in that location because of the setting provided by the creek. Wildlife viewing (including bears, beavers, songbirds, birds of prey, deer, native Lahontan cutthroat trout and other native fish species, Kokanee Salmon, and other wildlife species) as well as scenic viewing are extremely popular due to the Taylor Creek's unique location and lagoon ecosystem. These recreation opportunities are dependent on the setting of Taylor Creek.

These values were found to be outstandingly remarkable.

Classification:

- i. Water Resources Development:

Taylor creek flows out of a dam at Fallen Leaf Lake. There is no water resources development on Taylor Creek.

ii. Shoreline Development

There is substantial evidence of development along the shoreline including a campground and visitors center with multiple recreational developments (trails and stream profile chamber).

iii. Accessibility

The USFS visitor center provides parking and access to the lower section (north of Highway 89) of Taylor Creek through a trail network and series of interpretive signs.

iv. Water Quality

The water in Taylor Creek is both fishable and swimmable.

v. Preliminary Classification

The preliminary classification for Taylor Creek is '*Recreational*'.

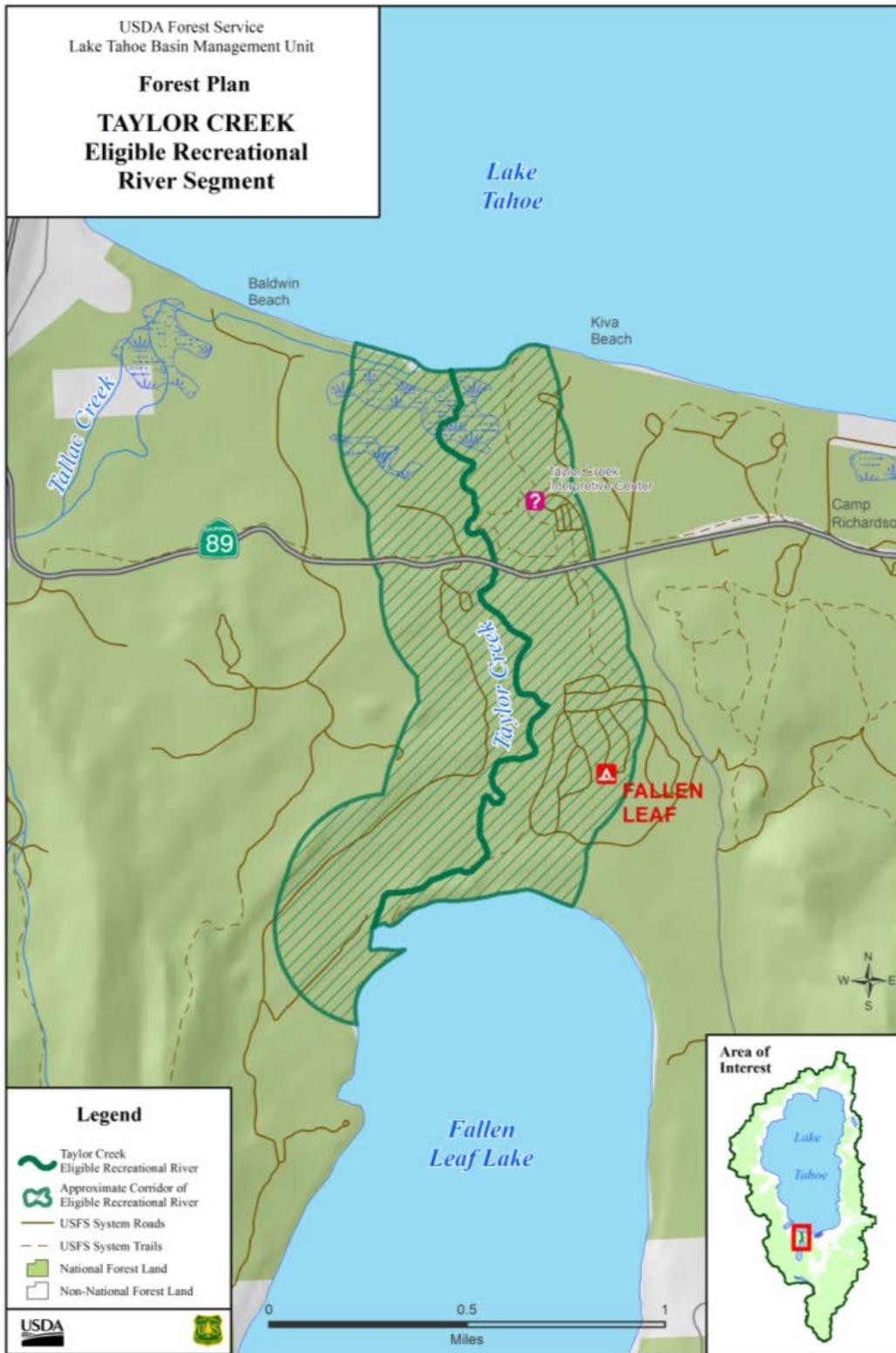


Figure B 4. Taylor Creek eligible river segment

UTR Tributary 5

Location:

- County: El Dorado County, CA
- Beginning point Description: Showers Lake.
- End Point Description: Flows into the Upper Truckee River west of Dardanelles Lake.

Mileage:

- Total: 2.31 National Forest/0 Non-National Forest = 2.31 miles
- Studied: 2.31
- Eligible: 1.39

Eligibility Findings:

- **Determination of Free Flow:**
The study reach is found to be free-flowing.
- **Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:**
Aquatic - Lahontan Cutthroat trout habitat and populations are present.

These values were found to be outstandingly remarkable.

Classification:

- i. Water Resources Development:
This tributary of the Upper Truckee River has no water development. Small, temporary weirs are used for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout restoration.
- ii. Shoreline Development
There is no shoreline development of this tributary.
- iii. Accessibility
There is no trail or road access.
- iv. Water Quality
Meets, or exceeds criteria, or federally approved State standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish, and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for swimming.
- v. Preliminary Classification
The preliminary classification for UTR Tributary 5 is *'Wild'*.

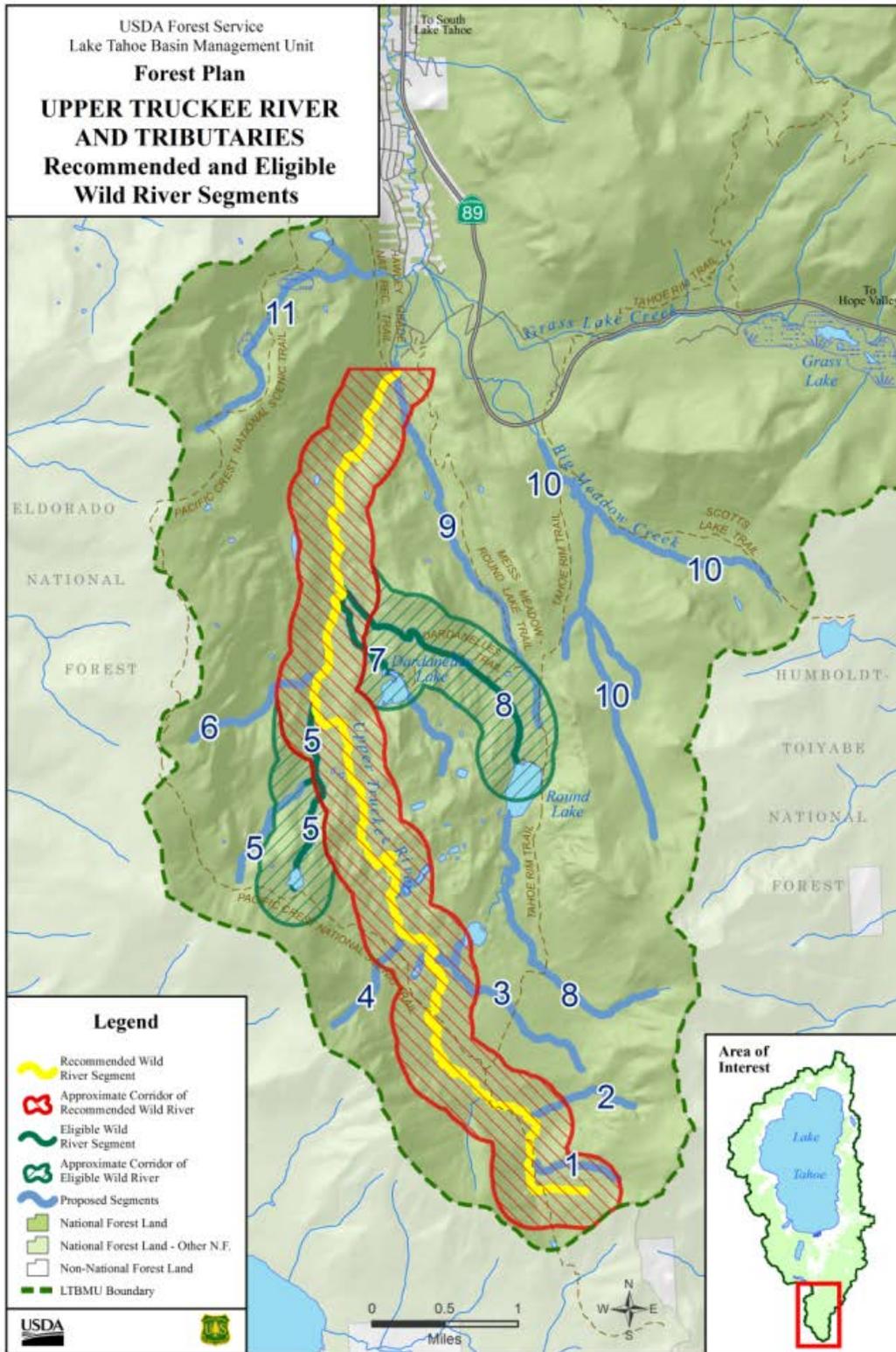


Figure B 5. Upper Truckee River recommended and eligible segments

UTR Tributary 7

Location:

- County: El Dorado County, CA
- Beginning point Description: Northwest of Round Lake.
- End Point Description: Flows through Dardanelles Lake and into the Upper Truckee River.

Mileage:

- Total: 1.51 National Forest/0 Non-National Forest = 1.51 miles
- Studied: 1.51
- Eligible: 0.67

Eligibility Findings:

- **Determination of Free Flow:**
The study reach is found to be free-flowing.
- **Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:**
Aquatic - Lahontan Cutthroat trout habitat and populations are present.

These values were found to be outstandingly remarkable.

Classification:

- i. Water Resources Development:
This tributary of the Upper Truckee River has no water development. Small, temporary weirs are used for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout restoration.
- ii. Shoreline Development
There is no shoreline development of this tributary.
- iii. Accessibility
There is trail access to the section of the tributary near Dardanelles Lake. There is no other trail or road access.
- iv. Water Quality
Meets, or exceeds criteria, or federally approved State standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish, and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for swimming.
- v. Preliminary Classification
The preliminary classification for UTR Tributary 7 is 'Wild'.

UTR Tributary 8

Location:

- County: El Dorado County, CA
- Beginning point Description: Southwest of Stevens Peak.

- End Point Description: Flows through Round Lake and into the Upper Truckee River.

Mileage:

- Total: 4.34 National Forest/0 Non-National Forest = 4.34 miles
- Studied: 4.34
- Eligible: 2.01

Eligibility Findings:

- **Determination of Free Flow:**
The study reach is found to be free-flowing.
- **Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:**
Aquatic - Lahontan Cutthroat trout habitat and populations are present.

These values were found to be outstandingly remarkable.

Classification:

- i. Water Resources Development:
This tributary of the Upper Truckee River has no water development. Small, temporary weirs are used for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout restoration.
- ii. Shoreline Development
There is no shoreline development of this tributary.
- iii. Accessibility
There is trail access along about one half mile of this tributary. There is no other trail or road access.
- iv. Water Quality
Meets, or exceeds criteria, or federally approved State standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish, and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for swimming.
- v. Preliminary Classification
The preliminary classification for UTR Tributary 8 is '*Wild*'.

Region of Comparison

The Region of Comparison (ROC) that was selected for most resources (Hydrological, Geological, Recreation, and Scenery) in this Wild and Scenic River Eligibility study is depicted in Figure 2. This ROC consists of subsections of The Terrestrial Ecologic Unit Inventory (TEUI) which describes ecological types over a wide range of scales in a nested framework. Subsections are the broadest classification units at the Forest level. The Lake Tahoe Basin includes portions of six ecological subsections (Figure 2; Miles and Goudy, 1997 - USDA Forest Service Report No. R5-EM-TP-005).

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation Region of Comparison

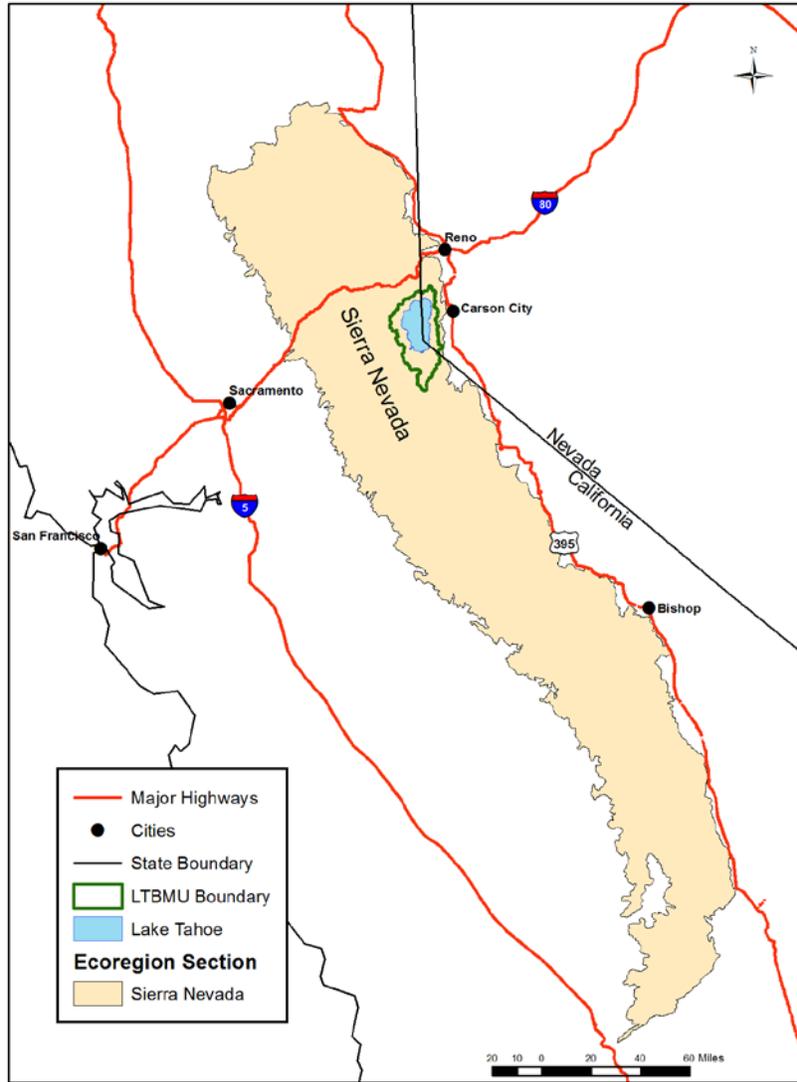


Figure B 6. Ecological subsections of the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (TEUI)

The ROC for wildlife species differed from the general ROC above. The habitat and distribution of threatened, endangered and sensitive species was considered as the ROC. Species considered included Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frog, Northern Goshawk, Spotted Owl, Bald Eagle, Willow Flycatcher, Townsend’s Big Eared Bat, Pallid Bat, Fringed Myotis (bat) and others. Maps of the habitat considered can be found in the project record.

The ROC for cultural resources also differed from the map shown above. The LTBMU was considered for the Comstock logging and the Washoe Tribal area for tribal related values.

Existing Wild and Scenic Rivers Nearby

Existing Wild and Scenic Rivers within and nearby this ROC include the North Fork of the American River, Middle Fork of the Feather River and the Tuolumne River (<http://www.rivers.gov/maps/conus.php>, accessed February 4, 2015).

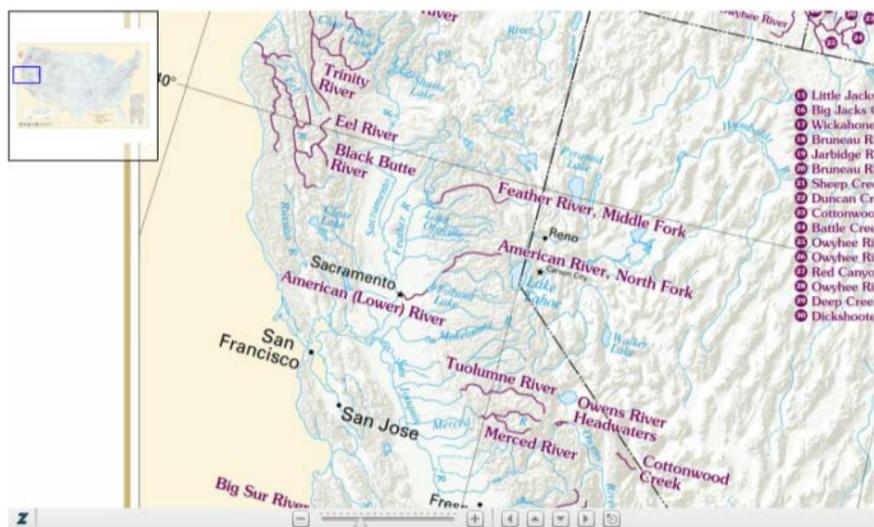


Figure B 7. Existing Wild and Scenic Rivers Nearby

Public Involvement

The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) provided a public comment period for this Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study. The comment period was held from March 24, 2015 to April 10, 2015. During the comment period the LTBMU held a webinar on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. to explain the process used in evaluating rivers that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system and to encourage public comment. The webinar included a brief presentation of the overall evaluation process, the procedure used to inventory the rivers in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and the “outstanding remarkable values” that would be used to determine eligibility.

Comments were received from over 200 individuals and groups. Those comments are summarized and addressed below.

Comment: Consider eligibility of Upper Truckee River Tributaries.

Response: Tributaries to the Upper Truckee River were considered as a result of these public comments. Consistent with the regulations (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80), four tributaries were found to be eligible. These tributaries were found to have existing populations of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout which continued from the main stem of the Upper Truckee River and are actively being managed to restore those populations. This ORV resulted in the determination of their eligibility (USFS, March 2015).

Comment: Complete Suitability Studies.

Response: A Suitability study was not required in the instructions provided by the Objection Deciding Officer (USFS, September 2014). As required in the instructions we will provide for protection of the eligible river corridors in the land management plan until a decision is made on the future use of the river and adjacent lands (FSH 1909.12 (83.1)). A new section has been added to the Forest Plan which lists the eligible rivers and a standard has been added which would provide for protection of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs).

Comment: Support for recommending Eagle, Glen Alpine and Taylor Creeks.

Response: Eagle Creek, Glen Alpine Creek and Taylor Creek were all determined to be eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River (WSR) system and have been potentially classified as “Recreational”.

Comment: Designate the Upper Truckee River as a WSR.

Response: The Upper Truckee River has been recommended as a WSR (USFS, February 1999). Only congress can formally designate a river as Wild and Scenic.

Comment: Designate all major tributaries of Lake Tahoe as WSR.

Response: The LTBMU considered all tributaries to Lake Tahoe in the eligibility process. The rationale for determining which creeks possess ORVs and are determined to be eligible is disclosed in the LTBMU Wild and Scenic River Study Report (USFS, 2015).

Comment: Designate Grass Lake Creek as eligible for WSR.

Response: No ORVs were identified either upstream or downstream of Grass Lake by the Interdisciplinary Team during the evaluation. We recognize that Grass Lake itself is the largest example of a Sphagnum bog in the Sierra Nevada and has been established as a Research Natural Area (RNA)(Berg, 1991). Grass Lake was not an identified segment of Grass Lake Creek that was evaluated for ORVs. While the lake depends on the surrounding watershed, the Lake owes its existence to the geology of the area and not necessarily to the presence of the creek. Many factors attributed to the formation of the bog, not just the stream inputs, but soils, geology, plant species, etc. Therefore the ORVs are not considered river-related.

Comment: Re-release the evaluation for public comment before final.

Response: This evaluation is considered final and will not go through further public comment. We have addressed the comments raised during the public comment period.

ORV Evaluation Tables

Table B 3. ORVs and Scale of Importance for LTBMU rivers on National Forest System (NFS) Lands

Watercourse Name	GNIS Number	Hydrographic Category	NFS Miles	Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's)	Scale of Importance	Free Flowing
Angora Creek	26	Perennial	2.38	Recreation - Angora Lakes Resort is located on the shore of one of the Angora Lakes. Angora Creek flows from Angora Lakes. The Resort is dependent on the setting of the lakes but does not depend on the setting of the creek which is downstream.	Less than Regional	Yes
Big Meadow Creek	21	Perennial	4.21	None		Yes
Blackwood Creek	45	Perennial	5.76	Wildlife - habitat and species diversity - spotted owl PAC and HRCA, multiple goshawk PACs and HRCAs, known goshawk nesting, reports of marten use, known FSS bat use, willow flycatcher emphasis habitat and known nests, mule deer habitat, aspen habitat known to be used by a variety of songbirds.	Less than Regional	Yes
Bliss Creek	9	Perennial	1.3	None		Yes
Burke Creek	22	Perennial	2.71	None		Yes
Burton Creek	15	Perennial	1.35	None		Yes
Cascade Creek	20	Perennial	2.58	Geo/Hydro - Large waterfall into lake created by geologic faulting and glaciation (Cascade Falls). Very high visitor use to these features - the falls are a popular destination accessed by relatively short hiking trail. Scenic - Area of falls is highly scenic because of the views of the landscape. Recreation - Waterfalls, unique geology and viewing	Less than Regional Less than Regional Less than Regional	Yes
Cathedral Creek	4	Perennial	0.96	None		Yes
Cold Creek	42	Perennial	5.73	Wildlife - multiple goshawk PACs and nesting, FSS bat use of area, mule deer habitat.	Less than Regional	Yes
Dollar Creek	12	Perennial	0.31	None		Yes

Watercourse Name	GNIS Number	Hydrographic Category	NFS Miles	Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's)	Scale of Importance	Free Flowing
Eagle Creek	29	Perennial	3.06	<p>Geo/Hydro - Waterfall into Emerald Bay of Lake Tahoe created by Geologic faulting and glaciation (Eagle Falls). Very high visitor use to these features. Lower falls drops into Emerald Bay and is accessible by car. Upper falls, accessed by relatively short and accessible hiking trail. Because of backdrop of Emerald Bay and Lake Tahoe to the lower falls, this feature has been photographed extensively and likely recognized at the National level.</p> <p>Scenic - Waterfall into Emerald Bay of Lake Tahoe created by geologic faulting and glaciation (Eagle Falls). Very high visitor use to these features. Lower falls drops into Emerald Bay and is accessible by car. Upper falls, accessed by relatively short and accessible hiking trail, with popular views from trail bridge. Because of backdrop of Emerald Bay and Lake Tahoe to the lower falls, this feature has been photographed extensively and likely recognized at the National level. Area of falls is managed for a "High" minimum scenic integrity objective.</p> <p>Recreation - This area is located above Emerald Bay and experiences very high visitor use to these unique geologic features and waterfall.</p>	<p>Regional</p> <p>Regional</p> <p>Regional</p>	Yes
Edgewood Creek	36	Perennial	1.98	None		Yes
First Creek	9	Perennial	0.77	None		Yes
General Creek	71	Perennial	5.12	None		Yes

Watercourse Name	GNIS Number	Hydrographic Category	NFS Miles	Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's)	Scale of Importance	Free Flowing
Glen Alpine Creek	30	Perennial	3	<p>Scenic - Cascading waterfalls over metamorphic rock is a popular destination for photography.</p> <p>Heritage - Near the stream, just outside of Desolation Wilderness boundary is Glen Alpine Springs Resort, a National Register Eligible, possibly Landmark Status, historic resort associated with nationally recognized architect Bernard Maybeck. The resort is closely tied to the springs in that location but is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of the architecture of the buildings and is not dependent on the creek for that eligibility.</p> <p>Aquatic - Regionally important for federally listed endangered and threatened species occupy and utilize creek for reproduction and other life history requirements. The headwaters of this river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for the federally endangered Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged frog, which is indigenous to the region of comparison. The lower portion provides spawning habitat for Lahontan cutthroat trout, which is indigenous to the region of comparison.</p>	<p>Less than Regional</p> <p>Less than Regional</p> <p>Regional</p>	Yes
Glenbrook Creek	25	Intermittent/ Perennial	3	None	----	Yes
Grass Lake Creek	19	Perennial	4.38	None	----	Yes
Griff Creek	18	Intermittent/ Perennial	1.54	None	----	Yes
Heavenly Valley Creek	20	Perennial	3.49	None	----	Yes
Incline Creek	30	Intermittent/ Perennial	3.4	None	----	Yes
Lincoln Creek	29	Intermittent/ Perennial	3.83	Heritage - Location of pristine Comstock era Logging Landscape	----	Yes
Logan House Creek	24	Intermittent/ Perennial	2.78	None	----	Yes
Madden Creek	16	Perennial	0.79	None	----	Yes

Watercourse Name	GNIS Number	Hydrographic Category	NFS Miles	Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's)	Scale of Importance	Free Flowing
Marlette Creek	11	Perennial	1.33	None	----	Flows out of Marlette Lake which is regulated by a dam. Free flowing beyond the dam.
McFaul Creek	43	Perennial/ Intermittent	3.62	None	----	Yes
McKinney Creek	15	Perennial	3.11	None	----	Yes
Meeks Creek	45	Perennial	6.44	None	----	Yes
Middle Fork Blackwood Creek	12	Perennial	1.75	None	----	Yes
Mill Creek	16	Perennial	0.05	None	----	There is a dam near the reservoir in the middle of Mill Creek. Free flowing both above and below the dam.
North Canyon Creek	51	Perennial	1.55	None	----	Yes
North Fork Blackwood Creek	12	Perennial	1.88	None	----	Yes
North Logan House Creek	19	Intermittent/ Perennial	1.95	Heritage - Location of pristine Comstock era Logging Landscape	----	Yes
Rubicon Creek	11	Perennial	0.8	None	----	Yes
Saxon Creek	47	Perennial	6.45	Wildlife - multiple spotted owl PACs and HRCAs, multiple goshawk PACs, known nesting by both species, mule deer habitat	----	Yes
Second Creek	9	Perennial	1.21	None	----	Yes
Secret Harbor Creek	14	Perennial	1.9	None	----	Yes
Tallac Creek	11	Perennial	3.29	None	----	Yes

Watercourse Name	GNIS Number	Hydrographic Category	NFS Miles	Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's)	Scale of Importance	Free Flowing
Taylor Creek	5	Perennial	1.9	<p>Scenic - Popular views of stream and marsh ecosystem from both land and from Lake Tahoe. Associated with USFS Taylor Creek Visitor Center, trail access is easy. During autumn months, creek is popular destination for viewing kokanee salmon spawning and fall colors of riparian vegetation.</p> <p>Heritage - Location of historically significant Washoe summer habitation associated with fisheries resources.</p> <p>Wildlife - high wildlife diversity and habitat diversity: bald eagle (FSS) wintering habitat and management zone (known use by bald eagles), waterfowl management zone, bird viewing platform off Rainbow Trail to see birds using Taylor Creek marsh area (including bald eagle), Willow flycatcher (FSS) emphasis habitat and nests along creek corridor, osprey nests, known use by FSS bats, native beaver presence and active dam building, lots of use by bears (and unsafe viewing by humans).</p> <p>Recreation - The recreation opportunities surrounding Taylor Creek, including the Taylor Creek Visitor Center, Stream Profile Chamber, Rainbow Trail, etc. have been developed in that location because of the setting provided by the creek. Wildlife viewing (including bears, beavers, songbirds, birds of prey, deer, native Lahontan cutthroat trout and other native fish species, Kokanee Salmon, and other wildlife species) as well as scenic viewing are extremely popular due to the Taylor Creek's unique location and lagoon ecosystem. These recreation opportunities are dependent on the setting of Taylor Creek.</p>	<p>Regional</p> <p>Regional</p> <p>Regional</p> <p>National</p>	Flows out of Fallen Leaf Lake which is regulated by a dam. Free flowing below the dam.
Third Creek	28	Perennial	3.89	None	-----	Yes

Watercourse Name	GNIS Number	Hydrographic Category	NFS Miles	Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's)	Scale of Importance	Free Flowing
Trout Creek	63	Perennial	8.64	Wildlife - diversity of habitat (emphasis habitat [meadow]) for willow flycatcher and more late seral conifer habitat for spotted owl and goshawk). Presence of PACs and HRCAs, known goshawk nests, mule deer habitat.	Less than Regional	Yes
				Aquatic - A tributary to Trout Creek is Regionally important for the federally listed (endangered) Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged frog. The headwaters tributaries of this river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for reproduction and other life history requirements. The tributaries are a known occupied site. However, for this eligibility analysis, tributaries are not included.	Regional	
Truckee River	32	Perennial	0.56	Eligible, Not Suitable (Eight Eastside Rivers ROD, 1999)	-----	Yes
Tunnel Creek	14	Perennial	0.18	None	-----	Yes
Upper Truckee River	141	Intermittent/Perennial	13.22	About 7 miles Recommended 'Wild' River (Eight Eastside Rivers ROD, 1999)	-----	Yes
Ward Creek	28	Perennial	3.94	None	-----	Yes
Watson Creek	10	Perennial	2.64	None	-----	Yes

Table B 4. ORVs and Scale of Importance for tributaries of the Upper Truckee River

Watercourse Name	Miles	Potential Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's)	Scale of Importance	Free Flowing
Tributary 1	0.69	None	----	Yes
Tributary 2	0.82	None	----	Yes
Tributary 3	1.52	None	----	Yes
Tributary 4	0.84	None	----	Yes
Tributary 5	2.31	Aquatic - Lahontan Cutthroat trout habitat and populations are present in portions of this tributary.	Regional	Yes
		Scenic - Granitic and volcanic geology and Showers Lake provide a scenic backdrop.	Less than Regional	
Tributary 6	1.09	None	----	Yes
Tributary 7	1.51	Aquatic - Lahontan Cutthroat trout habitat and populations are present in portions of this tributary.	Regional	Yes
		Scenic - Granitic and volcanic geology and Dardanelles Lake provide a scenic backdrop.	Less than Regional	
Tributary 8	4.34	Aquatic - Lahontan Cutthroat trout habitat and populations are present in portions of this tributary.	Regional	Yes
		Geo/Hydro - Good example of a Merhten rock formation.	Less than Regional	
		Wildlife - Presence of PACs and HRCAs, known goshawk nests, eagle perch sites, and mule deer habitat.	Less than Regional	
Tributary 9	2.74	Wildlife - Presence of PACs and HRCAs, known goshawk nests, eagle perch sites, and mule deer habitat.	Less than Regional	Yes
		Recreation - A popular mountain bike and equestrian route is nearby the stream.	Less than Regional	
Tributary 10	5.79	Wildlife - Presence of PACs and HRCAs, known goshawk nests, and mule deer habitat.	Less than Regional	Yes
		Scenic - Meadows and aspen stands provide a scenic backdrop.	Less than Regional	
Tributary 11	2.45	Wildlife - Presence of PACs and HRCAs, known goshawk nests, and mule deer habitat. Recreation - The Hawley Grade National Scenic Trail/Pony Express Trail is nearby, but those values are not dependent on the river.	Less than Regional	Yes

Maps

Included in this section are overview maps showing all the rivers that were evaluated and a set of 12 smaller scale, more detailed maps. The detailed maps (Tiles 1-12) begin at the northeast corner of the Lake Tahoe Basin, and proceed clockwise.

