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Wild and Scenic Rivers Specialist Report

Introduction

This report evaluates and discloses the potential environmental consequences to the wild and scenic rivers resource that may result with the adoption of a revised land management plan. It examines, in detail, four different alternatives for revising the 1987 Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests (Apache-Sitgreaves NFs) land management plan (1987 plan).

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act is notable for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also recognizing the potential for their appropriate use and development. It encourages river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in developing goals for river protection.

Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs) may be designated by Congress or, if certain requirements are met, the Secretary of the Interior. Each river is administered by either a federal or state agency. Designated segments need not include the entire river and may include tributaries. For federally-administered rivers, the designated boundaries generally average one-quarter mile on either bank in the lower 48 states and one-half mile on rivers outside national parks in Alaska in order to protect river-related values.

Rivers are classified as wild, scenic, or recreational.

- Wild rivers - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- Scenic rivers - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- Recreational rivers - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Relevant Laws, Regulations, and Policy that Apply

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (PL 90-543)

36 CFR § 297 - Wild and Scenic Rivers

Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas
(47 FR 39454, Sept. 7, 1982)

FSM 1924 - Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

FSM 2300 - Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management; Chapter 2350 - Trail, River, and Similar Recreation Opportunities

Methodology and Analysis Process

For this analysis, the existing WSR recommendations were first reviewed. This review included the 1987 plan (U.S. Forest Service 1987) and the 1993 Resource Information Report (U.S. Forest Service 1993). During the review of the 1993 Report, it became apparent that some of the information was out-of-date (i.e., changes to the Threatened and Endangered species list) and other information was missing, so a river eligibility update for the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs was undertaken (U.S. Forest Service 2009). This update fulfills the national direction (Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 80) to include in the land management planning process a comprehensive evaluation of the potential for rivers in an administrative unit to be eligible for inclusion in the National System.

The following details the existing WSR recommendations and the update process.

1987 Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests Plan

The 1987 plan made the following recommendations for WSRs:

Recommend the mainstem of the Black River (approximately 16 miles) from the Buffalo Crossing area to the reservation boundary . . . be designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System as a scenic river (p. 169, electronic version).

Recommend 14 miles of the West Fork of the Black River for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Recommend 7 miles for wild designation, 3 miles for scenic designation, and 4 miles for recreation designation (p. 172, electronic version). (The West Fork of the Black River runs from the confluence of the East and West Forks of the Black River near Buffalo Crossing upstream to the forest boundary just south of the Mt. Baldy Wilderness.)

Recommend Chevelon Creek for addition to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a Scenic River. The recommendation will include 29.9 miles of Chevelon Canyon from the confluence of Woods Canyon and Willow Canyon downstream to the forest boundary except for Chevelon Canyon Lake (p. 175, electronic version).

Study the main stem of the Blue River from its confluence with the San Francisco River upstream to its confluence with McKittrick Creek in the Blue Range Primitive Area as a candidate stream for eligibility in the Wild and Scenic River System (p. 30, electronic version).

1993 WSR Resource Information Report

In 1993, the Forest Service finalized the Resource Information Report, Potential Wild-Scenic-Recreational River Designation, National Forests in Arizona (U.S. Forest Service 1993). This report identified 22 rivers and 374 miles as eligible¹ for WSR designation on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs.

¹ The eligibility of a river for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is determined by applying the criteria in sections 1(b) and 2(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of October 2, 1968 as further

In 2001, the Center for Biological Diversity brought suit against the government, claiming that the Forest Service had violated the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by failing to consider and provide protection for 57 rivers in Arizona, including those on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs. This case was heard by the District Court in Arizona (which ruled in favor of the Forest Service), appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (which initially ruled in favor of the plaintiffs), and then reheard by the Ninth Circuit.

On January 7, 2005, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals issued an amended opinion. The Ninth Circuit Court affirmed the district court's dismissal of the Center for Biological Diversity's suit for lack of standing. However, the court reversed the district court's opinion that the plaintiffs could not amend their complaint, concluding that the plaintiffs may be able to assert a claim against the Forest Service for failure to act.

In its opinion, the Court concluded that the Forest Service's 1993 Resource Information Report, prepared for the Arizona Congressional Delegation, constitutes eligibility for the 57 rivers contained in that report. Forest Service policy at FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8.12 states that management prescriptions for eligible rivers should provide the following protection:

1. ...free flowing characteristics cannot be modified.
2. Outstandingly remarkable values² (ORVs) must be protected, and to the extent practicable, enhanced.
3. Management and development of the river and its corridor cannot be modified to the degree that eligibility or classification would be affected.

As a result of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals amended opinion, then Regional Forester Harv Forsgren recommended that the Arizona forests update their eligibility determinations for all rivers during forest plan revision, because "the determinations . . . done in 1993 may no longer be an accurate measure of what rivers are eligible."

2009 River Eligibility Update

In August 2007, district interdisciplinary teams were requested to review the existing river eligibility information and to provide updates. They were also asked to review the list of ineligible rivers (from a draft of the 1993 Resource Information Report) and to provide information on why a river is not eligible (not free-flowing or no ORVs) or why a river should be reviewed for eligibility. Updates were gathered during meetings in late August/early to mid-September 2007.

The information gathered from the districts was incorporated into the eligibility documentation for each river. Information was also gathered from the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs GIS databases. Eligibility was also documented for five rivers, which had previously been found to be ineligible.

described in the United States Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of the Interior Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas dated September 7, 1982 (USDA-USDI Guidelines) found as Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, chapter 90. To be eligible for inclusion, a river must be free-flowing and, with its adjacent land area, possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable" values. The determination of eligibility is an assessment that does not require a decision or approval document, although the results of this inventory need to be documented as a part of the plan document or plan set of documents.

² ORVs include scenery, recreation, geology, fish populations and habitat, wildlife populations and habitat, historical and cultural, and other values.

Three rivers, found to be eligible in 1993, were determined to no longer have any ORVs and, therefore, are ineligible.

The following changes to the 1993 Eligibility Evaluations are documented in the 2009 WSR Eligibility Report for the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs (http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf/plan-revision/plan-set/WSR_Eligibility_Report_2009_05.pdf or the Plan Set of Documents).

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER BASIN

Willow Creek - Scenery and Geology ORVs were dropped. When compared to nearby river canyons, these values were not outstanding.

Willow Springs Canyon - Willow Springs Canyon is no longer eligible because there are no ORVs. When compared to other rivers in the area of comparison, the interdisciplinary team felt that the scenery was not unique and, therefore, was not an outstandingly remarkable value. Scenery was the only identified ORV.

Woods Canyon/Chevelon Creek - Chevelon Creek and Woods Canyon were combined into one evaluation because they are within the same drainage basin and the interdisciplinary team felt that the values were complimentary. The Geology ORV was dropped, because when compared to nearby canyons, this value was not outstanding. New segments were identified to accommodate facilities which cross or are within the river corridor.

West Fork Little Colorado River - Segment 2 was extended downstream. The section of Segment 3 with two fish barriers was removed because the free-flowing character of the river had been affected. The river section is no longer flowing in a natural condition and the gabion structures have modified the waterway. Another section of Segment 3, from the Government Springs trailhead/toilet to the forest boundary, was removed because its short length is not manageable as an eligible river.

East Fork Little Colorado River - The river section from the upper fish barrier downstream is no longer eligible because the two fish barriers affect the free-flowing character of the river. This river section is no longer flowing in a natural condition and the gabion structures have modified the waterway.

South Fork Little Colorado River - Scenery ORV was added. Prehistoric ORV was dropped because these resources are on state and private lands north of the forests. The river segment was extended south (upstream) to Forest Road 409. The original eligible segment was split to remove two fish barriers that affect the free-flowing character of the river. The river at these locations is no longer flowing in a natural condition and the concrete-slab structures have modified the waterway. The river north of the lower fish barrier was dropped for manageability reasons because it crosses less than $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of Forest Service land and is not contiguous to another river segment.

SALT RIVER BASIN

Bear Wallow Creek - Recreation and Wildlife ORVs were added. The original river segment was split to reflect the presence of a low, naturalized fish barrier in Segment 2.

Black River - Vegetation ORV was dropped.

West Fork Black River - Historic and Vegetation ORVs were dropped. Segment 1 was extended to below Forest Road 116. The section of Segment 2 with two fish barriers was removed because the free-flowing character of the river has been affected. The river section is no longer flowing in a natural condition and the gabion and concrete structures have modified the waterway. Segment 3 was dropped because there are no ORVs.

East Fork Black River - The North Fork East Fork Black River was analyzed separately. The remaining river was split into 3 segments. A portion of the original Segment 1 (now Segment 2) classification was changed from Scenic to Wild.

North Fork East Fork Black River - Segments 1 and 2 were added to the evaluation. Segment 3 was split from the East Fork Black River evaluation. Segment 3 classification was changed from Scenic to Wild.

Fish Creek - Scenery ORV was added. The original river segment was split to reflect the presence of a low, naturalized fish barrier in Segment 2.

Home Creek - Home Creek is no longer eligible because it is not free-flowing. Two dirt, gabion, and concrete fish barriers were constructed across it. It is no longer flowing in a natural condition and the structures have modified the waterway. Other river-related values are neither unique nor outstanding.

UPPER GILA RIVER BASIN

Campbell Blue Creek - Campbell Blue Creek has been analyzed separately from the Blue River. Wildlife and Vegetation ORVs were added.

Blue River - The Blue River was analyzed without Campbell Blue Creek. The original Segment 2, from the Smith Place to the confluence with the San Francisco River, was split into three segments. Segments 2 and 4 were reclassified as Wild. Segment 3, between the Blue River Trailhead (XXX Ranch) and ½ mile below Forest Road 475, remains Scenic.

KP Creek - Recreation, Fish, and Wildlife ORVs were added.

Little Blue Creek - Little Blue Creek was found to be eligible.

Turkey Creek - Turkey Creek was found to be eligible.

Coal Creek - Coal Creek was found to be eligible.

Dix Creek - Portions of Dix Creek were found to be eligible.

Sardine Creek - Sardine Creek was reclassified from Scenic to Wild because “The existence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, at the time of study need not bar Wild classification.”

Chitty Creek - Chitty Creek was found to be ineligible. Chitty Creek no longer has any ORVs because in 2007 a 1,000-year flood scoured the channel, removed the riparian vegetation and habitats, and filled the waterfall.

East Eagle Creek - East Eagle Creek was found to be eligible.

Eagle Creek - Upper Eagle Creek, from the headwaters (Dogwood Spring) south to Dry Prong Creek and south along Dry Prong Creek to East Eagle Creek, was found to be not eligible because there are no associated ORVs.

Assumptions

In the analysis for this resource, assumptions include the following:

- All mileage and acreage figures are approximate. They were calculated using the most current data available in the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs' Geographic Information System (GIS) databases.
- All identified river segments and associated corridors are managed in conformance with FSH 1909.12 - Land Management Planning Handbook, Chapter 82.5 – Interim Management of Eligible or Suitable Rivers.
- The 2011 Wallow Fire affected all or portions of 12 eligible and suitable wild and scenic rivers. The outstandingly remarkable values for these rivers were reviewed with a focus on the long-term assessment of eligibility because of the changed conditions. This review found the outstandingly remarkable values for each river are still valid and will remain valid into the future (Forest Service 2012).

Revision Topics Addressed in this Analysis

Wild and Scenic Rivers fall under the “Managed Recreation” revision topic.

There are no indicators for Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Summary of Alternatives

A summary of alternatives, including the key differences among alternatives, is outlined in the Environmental Impact Statement.

Description of Affected Environment (Existing Condition)

The Apache-Sitgreaves NFs do not have any designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. However, the forests currently have both eligible and suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Eligible Rivers

There are approximately 339 miles of 23 rivers (Table 1) that are eligible to be included in the National Wild and Scenic River System. There are 172 miles classified as wild, 66 miles classified as scenic, and 101 miles classified as recreational. These rivers are located in all ranger districts except Lakeside (Figure 1).

Eligible rivers are managed to retain their status until a suitability determination has been made whether to recommend their inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Table 1. Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers of the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs by River Classification

River Name	Wild (miles)	Scenic (miles)	Recreational (miles)	Total Miles
Bear Wallow Creek	3.7	-	0.9	4.6
Black River	18.3	0.5	-	18.8
Campbell Blue Creek ¹	4.1	-	8.0	12.1
Coal Creek ¹	9.6	0.6	7.7	17.9
Dix Creek	-	3.3	-	3.3
Eagle Creek	-	-	19.5	19.5
East Clear Creek ²	-	21.2	-	21.2
East Eagle Creek	7.5	3.5	3.5	14.5
East Fork Black River	3.3	1.2	8.2	12.7
East Fork Little Colorado River	-	9.3	-	9.3
Fish Creek	-	9.9	0.6	10.5
Little Blue Creek	18.4	-	-	18.4
Leonard Canyon ³	-	-	23.6	23.6
North Fork East Fork Black River	12.7	1.0	-	13.7
Pigeon Creek	4.8	-	10.3	15.1
San Francisco River	9.0	-	15.0	24.0
Sardine Creek	8.9	-	-	8.9
South Fork Little Colorado River	-	7.3	-	7.3
Turkey Creek	9.1	-	-	9.1
West Fork Black River	8.6	3.0	-	11.6
West Fork Little Colorado River	6.4	-	1.7	8.1
Willow Creek	18.9	-	-	18.9
Woods Canyon - Chevelon Creek	28.4	5.3	2.4	36.1
Total Miles	171.7	66.1	101.4	339.2

¹ Also located on the Gila NF. Total miles shown.

² Also located on the Coconino NF. A portion of this river is the boundary between the Apache-Sitgreaves NFS and the Coconino NF. Miles shown are the common boundary

³ Also located on the Coconino NF. Miles shown are the common boundary between the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs and the Coconino NF.

Portions of East Clear Creek and Leonard Canyon eligible river corridors are located on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs. The eligibility of these rivers was reviewed and affirmed by the Coconino NF (Kevil 2007).

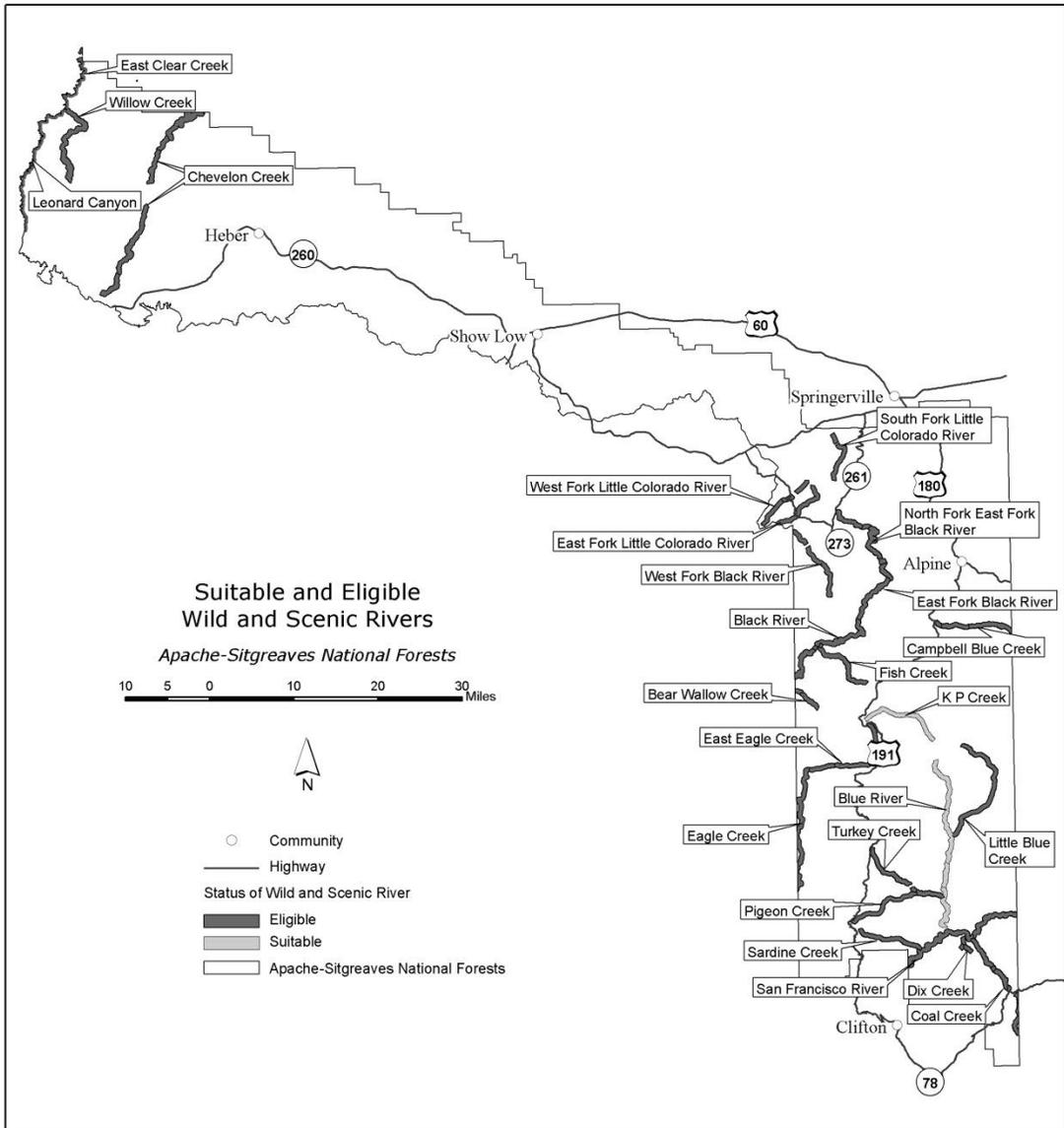


Figure 1. Eligible and Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs

Suitable Rivers

Suitable rivers on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs include portions of the Blue River and KP Creek (Figure 1 and Table 2). These rivers were found to be suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System through a separate environmental analysis (U.S. Forest Service 2010). Suitable rivers are managed to maintain their conditions and values until Congressional action is taken.

Table 2. Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers of the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs by River Classification

River Name	Wild (miles)	Scenic (miles)	Recreational (miles)	Total Miles
Blue River	23.3	4.2	-	27.5
KP Creek	11.3	-	-	11.3
Total Miles	34.6	4.2	0.0	38.8

River Corridors and Management Areas

A river corridor includes all NFS lands within one-quarter mile of each side of the eligible or suitable river. On the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs, there are 97,215 acres of eligible or suitable river corridors. These river corridors are found in most management areas across the forests; they do not occur in Developed Recreation Sites, Escudilla Demonstration Area, and Escudilla Wilderness Management Areas.

Portions of the eligible West Fork and East Fork Little Colorado Rivers are located within Mount Baldy Wilderness Management Area. All of the eligible Bear Wallow Creek is within Bear Wallow Wilderness Management Area. There are no eligible or suitable rivers in Escudilla Wilderness Management Area. A portion of the suitable Blue River and most of KP Creek are within the Blue Range Primitive Area and Additions Management Area.

Wallow Fire

In May and June of 2011, the Wallow Fire burned over 438,000 acres on the Apache NF and adjoining ownerships. The Wallow Fire directly affected all or portions of the following eligible and suitable WSRs:

Eligible rivers:

- Bear Wallow Creek
- Black River
- Campbell Blue Creek
- East Eagle Creek
- East Fork Black River
- East Fork Little Colorado River
- Fish Creek
- North Fork East Fork Black River
- South Fork Little Colorado River
- West Fork Black River
- West Fork Little Colorado River

Suitable river:

- KP Creek

The Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) for the above eligible and suitable WSRs were reviewed with a focus on the long-term assessment of eligibility because of the changed conditions. This review found the ORVs for each river are still valid and will remain valid into the future (U.S. Forest Service 2012).

Environmental Consequences of Alternatives

The land management plan provides a programmatic framework that guides site-specific actions but does not authorize, fund, or carryout any project or activity. Because the land management plan does not authorize or mandate any site-specific projects or activities (including ground-disturbing actions) there can be no direct effects. However, there may be implications, or longer-term environmental consequences, of managing the forests under this programmatic framework.

The number and acres of eligible and suitable river corridors do not vary by alternative; however, the management areas which the rivers overlay may change by alternative.

Consequences Common to All Alternatives

Eligible and suitable river segments and their corridors would be managed to maintain the outstanding values and qualities (the ORVs) that made them eligible or suitable for designation in accordance with FSH 1909.12, Chapter 82.5 - Interim Management of Eligible or Suitable Rivers. The presence of these river corridors may act to increase public interest and awareness of river resources, especially in the generally arid Southwest. Also, as populations increase and more people visit the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs, the value of managing these areas in their relatively natural condition would increase.

Effects of WSR Eligibility, Suitability, and Classification

The presence of an eligible or suitable river constrains the type and manner of projects and activities that may be conducted within the river corridor. Three constraints apply to activities in all eligible and suitable river corridors: 1) the protection of the free-flowing river character, 2) the protection of the identified ORVs, and 3) the maintenance of the river classification (wild, scenic, or recreational) unless a completed suitability study recommends a less restrictive classification. The overall effect of these constraints is to protect, maintain, and possibly enhance the values for which the river segments were found eligible or suitable.

Application of the management guidelines³ found in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 82.5 - Interim Management of Eligible or Suitable Rivers could also constraint the management of other resources within the river corridor, thereby minimizing the effects of activities on the ORVs. These guidelines vary by river classification with the most restrictions on wild river corridors and the least on recreational river corridors. Although some activities may be limited or restricted, river characteristics and ORVs would be maintained, protected, and potentially enhanced.

For example, a proposed mechanical vegetation treatment in a wild river corridor would not be allowed, but a proposed prescribed burn in the same area could be allowed as long as the identified ORVs are protected. (The effects of mechanical vegetation treatments and prescribed burning are described in other sections throughout the EIS.)

Effects of Management Activities on WSRs

Under all alternatives, management activities outside the eligible and suitable river corridors should not affect the ORVs because projects and activities are subject to standards, guidelines, and best management practices (BMPs).

³ These guidelines are specific to water resources projects, hydroelectric power, minerals, transportation system, utility proposal, recreation development, motorized travel, wildlife and fish projects, vegetation management, and domestic livestock grazing.

Effects of Alternatives on WSR Management

Eligible and suitable rivers corridors overlay a number of management areas across the alternatives. Because the interim management guidelines by WSR classification do not always match the management area direction, river corridors are managed by the more restrictive management area or river corridor direction, especially with regard to identified ORVs. The least restrictive management areas are Forest Land Management Area in Alternative A and General Forest Management Area in Alternatives B, C, and D, while the Wilderness Management Areas are the most restrictive management areas in all alternatives. Tables 3 and 4 below summarize the river corridor acreages by alternative, management area, and WSR classification. (More detailed information can be found in Appendix A.) Alternative A management areas generally do not correspond to the management areas in Alternatives B, C, and D.

Table 3. Alternative A - Acres in WSR Classification by Management Area

ALTERNATIVE A Management Area	WSR Classification (acres)		
	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Forest Land	8,133	6,933	4,707
Woodland	13,895	3,229	10,880
Riparian	4,724	1,189	3,498
Grasslands	1,314	1,390	297
Developed Recreation Sites (not mapped)	0	0	0
Mount Baldy Wilderness	1,283	635	8
Blue Range Primitive Area and Additions	12,344	0	0
Escudilla Demonstration Area	0	0	0
Research Natural Areas	5	148	0
Water	2	25	0
Bear Wallow Wilderness	977	0	286
Escudilla Wilderness	0	0	0
Black River (Mainstem)	4,127	174	102
West Fork Black River	4,415	325	1,792
Chevelon Canyon	5,245	1,125	450
East and West Forks Little Colorado River	558	358	209
Sandrock	1,329	1,103	0
Total Acres	58,351	16,634	22,229

Table 4. Acres in WSR Classification by Management Area for Alternatives B, C, and D

Management Area ¹	WSR Classification								
	Wild (acres)			Scenic (acres)			Recreational (acres)		
	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D
General Forest	13,360	37,091	7,887	8,056	14,920	5,612	8,579	20,488	8,409
Community-Forest Intermix	37	37	37	0	0	0	0	0	0
High Use Developed Recreation Area	124	124	124	0	0	0	0	0	0
Energy Corridor	0	0	0	38	38	38	0	0	0
Wildlife Quiet Area	492	492	795	0	0	421	17	17	17
Natural Landscape	27,466	3,735	118	6,864	0	46	13,294	1,387	1,417
Recommended Research Natural Area	2,268	2,268	1,675	886	886	747	43	43	32
Research Natural Area	0	0	0	155	155	155	0	0	0
Recommended Wilderness	0	0	33,111	0	0	8,981	2	0	12,059
Primitive Area	12,344	12,344	12,344	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilderness	2,260	2,260	2,260	635	635	635	294	294	294
Total Acres²	58,351	58,351	58,351	16,634	16,634	16,635	22,229	22,229	22,228

Note: Colors indicate where changes occur by alternative.

¹ Wild Horse Territory is not listed because there are no WSRs in the Management Area.

² Minor acre differences are due to rounding.

There is a general rule that the more restrictive management applies when there is a difference between WSR management and the management area(s) over which a river corridor lays. The location of a river corridor may affect its management if the management area it overlays has more restrictive management. Because some management areas change by alternative, a river corridor in the Natural Landscape Management Area in one alternative could be in the General Forest Management Area in another.

For example, under Alternative D, 21,040 acres of scenic and recreational river corridors would be managed under the more restrictive Recommended Wilderness Management Area. Recommended Wilderness management of scenic and recreational rivers corridors would provide greater protection to the river characteristics and ORVs through unsuitability for motorized vehicle use, unsuitability for timber production, and very high scenic integrity. This would restrict some activities that are allowable in scenic or recreational river corridors (e.g., construction of new roads, mechanical vegetation management). Conversely, a wild river corridor located in the General Forest Management Area in Alternatives B, C, and D (e.g., Segment 2 of West Fork Black River) would be managed according to wild river guidance, not General Forest Management Area direction.

Different management scenarios are present across the alternatives. Several are presented below:

- 1) The management area does not change by alternative and the river corridor management is more restrictive. For example, a portion of the wild segment of West Fork Little Colorado River overlays the Community-Forest Intermix Management Area in Alternatives B, C, and D and would be managed under the more restrictive wild river management.
- 2) The management area does not change by alternative and the management area direction is more restrictive. For example, management of the recreational segment of Bear Wallow Creek in the Wilderness Management Area in Alternatives B, C, and D would follow wilderness management guidance and procedures because Wilderness Management Area direction is more restrictive than recreational river guidance.
- 3) The management area (s) changes by alternative and the river corridor management is either more or less restrictive. For example, the recreational segment of Pigeon Creek overlays three management areas (Forest Land, Woodland, and Riparian) in Alternative A, the Natural Landscape Management Area in Alternative B, the General Forest Management Area in Alternative C, and the Recommended Wilderness Management Area in Alternative D. Under Alternatives A and C, recreational river corridor guidance would provide more river corridor protection, while under Alternatives B and D, the management area direction would provide more river corridor protection.

Regardless of which management area eligible and suitable river corridors overlay, the river characteristics and ORVs would be protected through application of the interim management guideline. For example, approximately two-thirds of the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs eligible and suitable rivers with fish populations and/or habitat have these ORVs.⁴ Management of WSRs

⁴ Rivers with Fish Populations and/or Habitat ORV(s): Chevelon Creek, East Fork Little Colorado River, Bear Wallow Creek, Black River, West Fork Black River, East Fork Black River, North Fork East Fork Black River, Fish Creek, Campbell Blue Creek, Blue River, KP Creek, San Francisco River, Coal Creek, Dix Creek, Eagle Creek, and East Eagle Creek

would provide additional protection for the fish populations and habitat. For example, construction of a dam on any river classification would be prohibited, which would maintain the fish habitat. Also as discussed above, a recreational or scenic river classification would provide greater protection for a Fish ORV when the river corridor overlays a General Forest or Community-Forest Intermix Management Area because of the requirement to protect ORVs.

Relationship of Short-Term Uses and Long-Term Productivity

There are no known trade-offs between short-term uses and long-term productivity.

Cumulative Environmental Consequences

The cumulative effects analysis area includes the watersheds of eligible and suitable rivers on adjacent national forests (Gila and Coconino NFs). This discussion is pertinent to all alternatives. There would be no cumulative environmental consequences to the suitable rivers on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs because they arise and are completely within the forests boundary. Most of the eligible rivers arise and are completely within the forests boundary. There would be beneficial cumulative effects to Leonard Canyon and East Clear Creek because the river corridors on the Coconino NF would be managed to maintain the free-flowing river character and to protect the ORVs. This would also be the case for the Campbell Blue Creek and Coal Creek corridors on the Gila NF.

The San Francisco River arises on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs west of Alpine, AZ, but flows through the Gila NF and private lands before reentering the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs. The upper San Francisco River from its headwaters through the Gila NF is not an eligible or suitable wild and scenic river. Only one Francisco River tributary, Whitewater Creek, on the Gila NF is an eligible wild and scenic river. There could be negative cumulative environmental consequences to the downstream eligible San Francisco River segment from vegetation treatments, wildland fire activities, and livestock grazing upstream on the Gila NF, but their extent is not known and they are not quantifiable. However, as with activities proposed for the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs, activities on the Gila NF would be subject to standards, guidelines, and BMPs. The greatest potential for negative consequences to the eligible San Francisco River would be from unplanned events that could affect the fish species and wildlife species and habitat outstandingly remarkable values (e.g., increased sedimentation, post-fire flooding).

Adaptive Management

New information would be considered during the process of evaluating whether an eligible river is suitable for recommendation into the National Wild Scenic Rivers system.

If a river is designated in the future, section 3 of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the development of a Comprehensive River Management Plan. The plan would address resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacities, and other management practices necessary or desirable to achieve the purposes of the Act.

Other Planning Efforts

Conflicts could arise between the requirement to maintain free-flowing rivers and the Arizona Department of Game and Fish desire to construct or improve fish barriers on eligible wild and scenic rivers on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs. If a proposal to construct or improve a fish barrier is

found to affect the free-flowing condition of an eligible river (through a “free-flow” analysis), then either the proposal should be modified or denied or a suitability study conducted on the eligible river. For example, a recent proposal to construct a fish barrier on an eligible river on the Apache-Sitgreaves NFs resulted in a suitability study that found most of the river to be suitable for designation as a National Wild and Scenic River. However, a portion of the river was found to be not suitable in order to allow for construction of the fish barrier and restoration of native fish populations (U.S. Forest Service 2010).

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Appendix A - Acres of Eligible and Suitable Rivers Corridors by Management Area

Table 5. Acres of Eligible and Suitable River Corridors by Alternative, Management Area (MA), and River Classification

River	Segment-Class (acres)	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D	
		MA	acres	MA	acres	MA	acres	MA	acres
ELIGIBLE RIVERS									
Bear Wallow Creek	1-Wild (976.6)	Wilderness	976.6	Wilderness	976.6	Wilderness	976.6	Wilderness	976.6
	2-Rec (287.1)	Wilderness Forest Land	285.6 1.5	Wilderness RW	285.6 1.5	Wilderness NL	285.6 1.5	Wilderness RW	285.6 1.5
Black River	1-Wild (3048.4)	Forest Land	703.6	NL	2488.9	GF	3048.4	RW	2456.5
		Black River W Fork BR Grasslands	2304.6 2.4 37.9	GF	559.6			GF	591.9
	2-Scenic (515.1)	Black River	151.4	NL	151.1	GF	151.1	RW GF	148.4 2.7
Campbell Blue Creek	1-Rec (329.4)	Forest Land	328.5	R-RNA	10.5	R-RNA	10.5	RW	92.0
		Riparian	0.9	NL GF	81.4 237.4	GF	318.9	GF	237.4
	2-Wild (1167.6)	Forest Land Woodland	946.1 221.5	R-RNA NL GF	470.3 466.0 231.4	R-RNA GF	470.3 697.4	RW GF	933.4 234.2
Coal Creek	3-Rec (1759.5 ¹)	Forest Land Woodland	628.1 1131.4	NL GF	1750.6 8.8	NL GF	212.2 1547.3	RW NL GF	1483.8 244.4 31.2
	1-Rec (1173.2 ¹)	Woodland	1173.2	NL	1173.2	NL	1173.2	NL	1173.2
	2-Rec (170.7)	Woodland	170.7	GF	170.7	GF	170.7	RW	170.7

River	Segment- Class (acres)	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D	
		MA	acres	MA	acres	MA	acres	MA	acres
Coal Creek (cont.)	3-Wild (1037.8)	Woodland	1037.8	GF	1037.8	GF	1037.8	RW GF	1037.2 0.6
	4-Scenic (178.1)	Woodland	178.1	NL GF EC	82.0 79.8 16.3	GF EC	161.8 16.3	RW EC	161.8 16.3
	5-Wild (1475.8)	Woodland Riparian	1277.8 197.9	NL	1475.8	GF	1475.8	RW GF	1473.7 2.1
Dix Creek	1-Scenic (405.5)	Woodland Riparian	332.0 73.5	NL GF	60.2 345.2	GF	405.5	RW GF	401.9 3.5
	2-Scenic (489.5)	Woodland Riparian	275.0 214.5	NL GF	489.5 0.02	GF	489.5	RW GF	486.2 3.3
Eagle Creek	1-Rec (3328.5)	Woodland Riparian	3010.9 371.6	NL GF	883.5 2499.0	GF	3382.5	RW GF	873.7 2508.8
East Clear Creek	1-Scenic (2549.2 ¹)	Woodland Riparian Forest Land	1879.9 630.0 39.3	NL GF	1892.2 657.1	GF	2549.2	RW GF	2398.1 151.1
East Eagle Creek	1-Scenic (1116.9)	Forest Land	1116.9	NL GF	1108.4 8.6	GF	1117.0	RW GF	1097.9 19.1
	2-Wild (2239.9)	Forest Land Woodland Riparian	1239.0 260.8 740.1	NL	2239.9	GF	2239.9	RW GF	2234.6 5.3
	3-Rec (2414.9)	Woodland Riparian Forest Land	558.3 425.3 70.4	NL	1054.0	GF	1054.0	RW	1054.0
East Fork Black River	1-Scenic (325.6)	Grasslands W Fork BR Forest Land	38.7 199.6 87.3	R-RNA GF	232.4 93.2	R-RNA GF	232.4 93.2	R-RNA GF	232.4 93.2

River	Segment-Class (acres)	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D	
		MA	acres	MA	acres	MA	acres	MA	acres
East Fork Black River (cont.)	2-Wild (937.9)	W Fork BR Forest Land Grasslands	647.0 289.3 1.5	R-RNA WQA GF	636.0 85.1 216.7	R-RNA WQA GF	636.0 85.1 216.7	R-RNA WQA GF	636.0 85.1 216.7
	3-Rec (2414.9)	W Fork BR Forest Land Grasslands	1792.5 572.4 50.0	R-RNA WQA GF	32.5 17.6 2364.9	R-RNA WQA GF	32.5 17.6 2364.9	R-RNA WQA GF	32.5 17.6 2364.9
East Fork Little Colorado River	1-Scenic (2628.3)	Wilderness	635.2	Wilderness	635.2	Wilderness	635.2	Wilderness	635.2
		RNA	147.8	NL	16.1	RNA	155.2	RW	16.8
		Water	24.8	RNA	155.2	GF	1837.9	RNA	155.2
		Forest Land	477.2	GF	1821.8			GF	1821.1
		Riparian	94.5						
		Grasslands	890.5						
		E&W Forks LCR	358.3						
Fish Creek	1-Scenic (2914.9)	Forest Land Black River	2892.5 22.4	R-RNA NL GF	654.1 1914.6 346.2	R-RNA GF	654.1 2260.8	RW R-RNA NL GF	1979.9 514.2 45.5 375.3
	2-Rec (125.3)	Forest Land Black River	23.4 101.9	NL GF	113.3 11.9	GF	125.3	RW GF	112.9 12.4
Leonard Canyon	1-Rec (3067.6 ¹)	Forest Land	2278.4	NL	716.6	GF	3067.6	RW	794.5
		Woodland	105.9	GF	2351.0			GF	2273.1
		Riparian	683.3						
Little Blue Creek	1-Wild (5348.8)	Primitive Area	5348.8	Primitive Area	5348.8	Primitive Area	5348.8	Primitive Area	5348.8
North Fork East Fork Black River	1-Wild (1414.3)	Grasslands	720.4	GF	1414.3	GF	1414.3	GF	1414.3
		W Fork BR	644.4						
		Forest Land	48.0						
		Water	2.0						

River	Segment- Class (acres)	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D	
		MA	acres	MA	acres	MA	acres	MA	acres
North Fork East Fork Black River (cont.)	2-Scenic (275.6)	Grasslands W Fork BR Forest Land Water	163.7 86.5 24.8 0.6	GF	275.6	GF	275.6	GF	275.6
	3-Wild (2240.9)	Grasslands W Fork BR Forest Land	457.0 1185.2 598.7	GF R-RNA	1201.9 1039.0	GF R-RNA	1201.9 1039.0	GF R-RNA	1201.9 1039.0
Pigeon Creek	1-Rec (3055.8)	Woodland Forest Land Riparian	1620.5 767.4 667.9	NL GF	3048.0 7.8	GF	3055.8	RW GF	3017.3 38.5
	2-Wild (3055.8)	Woodland Riparian Sandrock	370.6 577.0 272.6	NL	1220.3	GF	1220.3	RW	1220.3
San Francisco River	1-Wild (2671.8)	Woodland	2671.8	NL	2671.8	GF	2671.8	RW	2671.8
	2-Rec (4200.1)	Woodland Riparian	2850.6 1349.6	NL	4200.1	GF	4200.1	RW GF	4150.5 49.6
Sardine Creek	1-Wild (2544.3)	Woodland Riparian Forest Land	2075.9 23.6 444.8	NL	2544.3	GF	2544.3	RW	2544.3
South Fork Little Colorado River	1-Scenic (1789.3)	Forest Land Riparian Grasslands	1530.3 176.0 82.9	GF	1789.3	GF	1789.3	GF	1789.3
	2-Scenic (421.1)	Forest Land Woodland	355.5 65.6	GF	421.1	GF	421.1	WQA	421.1
Turkey Creek	1-Wild (2447.7)	Woodland	2447.7	NL GF	2360.7 87.0	GF	2447.7	RW GF	2398.9 48.8

River	Segment-Class (acres)	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D	
		MA	acres	MA	acres	MA	acres	MA	acres
Turkey Creek (cont.)	2-Wild (223.1)	Woodland Riparian	214.5 8.6	NL	223.1	GF	223.1	RW	223.1
West Fork Black River	1-Scenic (628.9)	Forest Land Grasslands W Fork BR	375.5 214.3 39.1	GF	628.9	GF	628.9	GF	628.9
	2-Wild (2552.2)	W Fork BR Forest Land Grasslands RNA	1936.4 589.8 20.8 5.2	GF	2552.2	GF	2552.2	GF	2552.2
West Fork Little Colorado River	1-Wild (1283.2)	Wilderness	1283.2	Wilderness	1283.2	Wilderness	1283.2	Wilderness	1283.2
	2-Rec (500.9)	Wilderness Forest Land E&W Forks LCR Grasslands	8.0 37.2 208.8 246.9	Wilderness NL GF	8.0 273.3 219.6	Wilderness GF	8.0 492.9	Wilderness RW GF	8.0 216.3 276.7
	3-Wild (611.9)	Forest Land E&W Forks LCR	103.4 558.4	CFI GF	37.4 624.4	CFI GF	37.4 624.4	CFI GF	37.4 624.4
Willow Creek	1-Wild (4805.1)	Forest Land	1652.7	NL	3251.6	GF	4805.1	RW	3984.9
		Riparian Woodland	2273.0 879.4	GF	1553.5			NL GF	47.7 772.5
Woods Canyon - Chevelon Creek	1-Wild (1402.3)	Chevelon Canyon Forest Land	518.9 883.3	NL HUDRA WQA GF	735.9 124.4 320.7 221.2	NL HUDRA WQA GF	735.9 124.4 320.7 221.2	RW HUDRA WQA	675.5 124.4 602.4
	2-Wild (3647.3)	Chevelon Canyon Forest Land Woodland	3349.9 291.6 5.8	NL WQA GF	2999.3 85.7 562.3	NL WQA GF	2999.3 85.7 562.3	RW NL WQA GF	3431.5 70.6 107.2 38.0

River	Segment-Class (acres)	Alternative A		Alternative B		Alternative C		Alternative D	
		MA	acres	MA	acres	MA	acres	MA	acres
Woods Canyon - Chevelon Creek (cont.)	3-Scenic (1610.5)	Chevelon Canyon	1125.0	GF	1589.0	GF	1589.0	RW	1153.5
		Woodland	451.8	EC	21.5	EC	21.5	GF	435.5
		Forest Land	33.6					EC	21.5
	4-Rec (708.0)	Chevelon Canyon	449.6	GF	708.0	GF	708.0	RW	91.7
		Woodland	258.4					GF	616.3
	5-Wild (2754.9)	Chevelon Canyon	1375.6	GF	2754.9	GF	2754.9	RW	2713.4
		Woodland	1379.3					GF	41.5
SUITABLE RIVERS									
Blue River	2-Wild (4777.2)	Primitive Area	3813.1	Primitive Area	3813.1	Primitive Area	3813.1	Primitive Area	3813.1
		Sandrock	964.1	NL	841.8	GF	841.8	RW	964.1
				R-RNA	122.3	R-RNA	122.3		
	3-Scenic (1150.0)	Sandrock	1103.0	NL	1150.0	GF	1150.0	RW	1136.7
		Woodland	47.0					GF	13.2
	4-Wild (2048.3)	Woodland	1052.5	NL	2048.3	GF	2048.3	RW	2048.3
		Riparian	903.8						
		Sandrock	92.0						
KP Creek	1-Wild (3449.7)	Primitive Area	3182.0	Primitive Area	3182.0	Primitive Area	3182.0	Primitive Area	3182.0
		Forest Land	190.9	GF	267.6	GF	267.6	RW	210.1
		Grasslands	76.7					GF	57.5
MA-Management Area		GF-General Forest		WQA-Wildlife Quiet Area		RNA-Research Natural Area			
Rec-Recreational		CFI-Community-Forest Intermix		NL-Natural Landscape		RW-Recommended Wilderness			
BR-Black River		EC-Energy Corridor		R-RNA-Recommended RNA		HUDRA-High Use Developed Recreation Area			
LCR-Little Colorado River									

¹ does not include acres on the Gila or Coconino NFs