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# Record of Decision and Forest Plan Amendments

## Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah



Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Manti-La Sal, and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests

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## **Record of Decision and Forest Plan Amendments**

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**Lead Agency:** U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

**Cooperating Agencies:** State of Utah; Bureau of Land Management (Utah State Office); Sweetwater County Conservation District; Uinta County Conservation District; and Sweetwater and Lincoln County, Wyoming

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**Abstract:** The Forest Service has conducted an environmental impact statement to evaluate the suitability of 86 eligible river segments (840 miles) on the National Forests in Utah for recommendation for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The area affected by the proposal includes National Forest System lands on the Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Manti-La Sal, and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests in Utah. Portions of those National Forests extend into Colorado and Wyoming, and those areas have been included in this study. The Forest Service evaluation also considered the cumulative impacts of designation of eligible and suitable river segments managed by other agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service. It is the determination of the Forest Service that 10 river segments totaling approximately 108 miles (74 miles classified as Wild, 22 miles classified as Scenic, and 12 miles classified as Recreational) of National Forest System lands in Utah administered by the Forest Service are suitable to be designated by Congress as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This Record of Decision (ROD) is the official administrative document containing the decision and preliminary administrative recommendation on which river segments are suitable for designation into the Wild and Scenic River System which is the purpose of the Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah. The package may proceed to the Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service will work cooperatively with the State of Utah and other agencies in the preparation of an interagency recommendation to Congress for the inclusion of rivers into the NWSR system. At this time the remaining nonsuitable 76 river segments (732 miles) in Utah located on National Forest System lands are no longer afforded agency interim protection under the Wild and Scenic River Act, and continue to be managed under direction from each respective Land and Resource Management Plan.

## Summary

The Forest Service has conducted an environmental analysis to evaluate the suitability of 86 eligible river segments on the National Forests in Utah for recommendation for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The area affected by this study includes National Forest System lands on the Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Manti-La Sal, and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests in Utah. Portions of those National Forests extend into Colorado and Wyoming, and those areas were included in this study. The Forest Service evaluation also considered the cumulative impacts of designation of eligible river segments managed by other Federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS). The purpose of this study is to assess the suitability of 86 eligible river segments (840 miles) and then make a preliminary administrative recommendation on which river segments on the National Forests in Utah are suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

National Forests in Utah have evaluated river segments on National Forest System lands for their potential eligibility for designation into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The eligibility inventory and tentative classification for 78 of the segments took place during forest land and resource management plan revision processes. In addition, eight stream segments on the Dixie National Forest were found eligible for suitability consideration by an interagency planning process that included the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (BLM) and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NPS). Interim protection for the resulting 86 eligible river segments is contained in Forest Plan standards, guidelines, and/or agency policies for those Forest Plans that do not contain direction on wild and scenic rivers.

From scoping comments on the Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* April 30, 2007, and 17 public meetings held around the State of Utah, including two meetings in Wyoming and Colorado, six key issues emerged as a concern and were analyzed in depth in Chapter 3 of the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (DEIS, FEIS). These six key issues guided the development and evaluation of the alternatives:

- Issue 1 – Designation of river segments into the National Wild and Scenic River System may affect existing and future water resource project developments.
- Issue 2 – Uses and activities may be precluded, limited or enhanced if the river segment and its corridor were included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System).
- Issue 3 – Designation of a Wild and Scenic River could change the economy of a community.
- Issue 4 – Designation offers long-term protection of resource values.
- Issue 5 – Consistency with wild and scenic river studies conducted by the BLM and NPS.
- Issue 6 – Consistency with state, county, and local government laws and plans.

On December 7, 2007 a Notice of Availability was published in the *Federal Register* announcing the availability of the DEIS. Ten public meetings were held January to February 2008 in Utah and Wyoming with the comment period for the DEIS ending February 15, 2008.

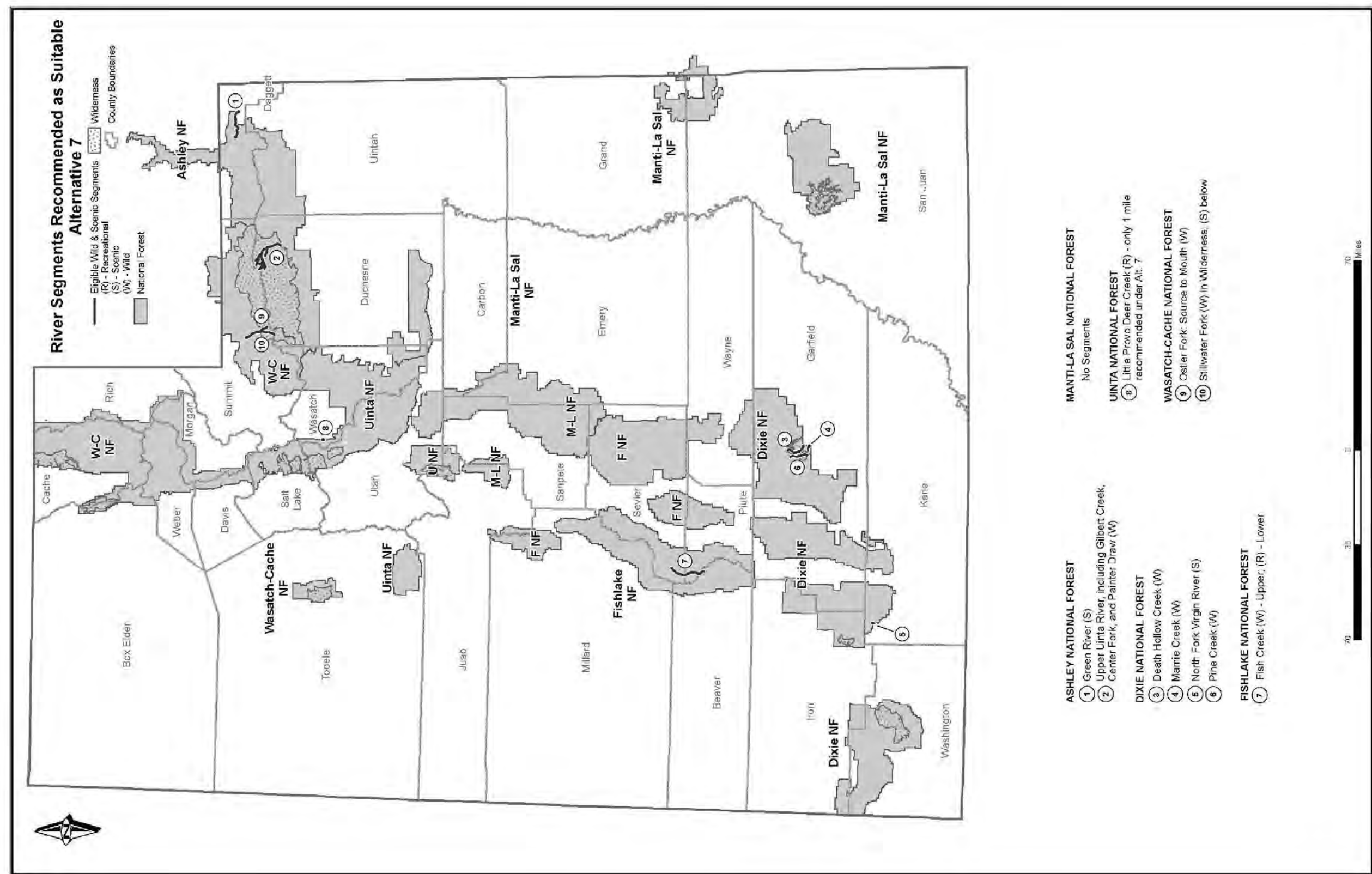
The Forest Supervisors decided to develop a seventh alternative based on the key issues described in Chapter 1, comments received during public open houses and over 2,500 written comments from DEIS reviewers, and an assessment of factors documented in the Suitability Evaluation Reports (FEIS and Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports). The Forest Service developed seven alternatives to the proposed action including: 1) No action, maintain eligibility of all river segments, 2) No rivers recommended, 3) Recommend rivers that best represent Utah Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) while having the least affect on existing or reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects and other developmental activities, 4) Recommend rivers that best represent Utah ORVs that could be adversely affected by existing or reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects and other developmental activities, 5) Recommend rivers with low cost for management that are consistent with

other Federal wild and scenic studies and which have limited negative impact to community economic development, 6) Recommend river segments recognized by public groups that represent a diversity of river systems in Utah and those that face future threats, and 7) Recommend river segments that reflect the broad range of public comments and emphasize specific suitability factors. The alternatives and effects of designation for each river segment were analyzed in the Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah FEIS.

The Forest Supervisor's have selected the Preferred Alternative (Alternative 7). It is the decision of the Forest Service that 10 river segments totaling approximately 108 miles (74 miles classified as Wild, 22 miles classified as Scenic, and 12 miles classified as Recreational) of National Forest System lands in Utah administered by the Forest Service are suitable to be considered by Congress as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The remaining 76 river segments (732 miles) located on National Forest System lands in Utah, and the portions of Roc Creek located in Colorado and West Fork Smiths Fork located in Wyoming, that are not suitable are no longer afforded agency protection as potential wild and scenic rivers. This decision amends the Forest Plans and completes the wild and scenic river suitability study process for the National Forests in Utah. This Record of Decision (ROD) is the preliminary administrative recommendation on which river segments on the National Forests in Utah are suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System.

The recommended suitable river segments, mileage, and classification are as follows:

<b>Selected Alternative 7 – River Segments</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Classification</b>
<b>Ashley National Forest</b>		
Green River	13	Scenic
Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Painter Draw	40	Wild
<b>Dixie National Forest</b>		
Death Hollow Creek	10	Wild
Mamie Creek	2	Wild
North Fork Virgin River	1	Scenic
Pine Creek	8	Wild
<b>Fishlake National Forest</b>		
Fish Creek	15	Wild - Upper (4.3 mi.); Recreational - Lower (10.5 mi.)
<b>Manti-La Sal National Forest</b>		
No segments.	0	Not Applicable (N/A)
<b>Uinta National Forest</b>		
Little Provo Deer Creek: Cascade Springs	1	Recreational
<b>Wasatch-Cache National Forest</b>		
Ostler Fork: Source to Mouth	4	Wild
Stillwater Fork: Source to Mouth	14	Wild within Wilderness (6 mi.); Scenic below Wilderness (8 mi.)
<b>Total</b>	108 miles	7 Wild classifications (74.3 miles)
		3 Scenic classifications (22 miles)
		2 Recreational classifications (11.5 miles)



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# **Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah**

## **Record of Decision and Forest Plan Amendments**

### **Background**

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The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act directs federal agencies to identify potential additions to the National System in Section 5(d)(1):

In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all Federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas, and all river basin and project plan reports submitted to the Congress shall consider and discuss any such potentials. The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall make specific studies and investigations to determine which additional wild, scenic and recreational river areas within the United States shall be evaluated in planning reports by all Federal agencies as potential alternative uses of the water and related land resources involved.

The Forest Service through its Forest Planning process completed eligibility studies on the National Forests in Utah and found a total of 86 river segments (totaling 840 miles) eligible for consideration for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. However, there was concern raised about leaving eligible river segments under interim protection for an extended period without completing suitability studies. The State of Utah and many counties wanted the Forest Service to complete the suitability step of wild and scenic river analysis. The Forest Supervisors in Utah determined that they would complete the process for determining which, if any, eligible rivers on the National Forests in Utah should be recommended as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In the spring of 2007, the Forest Service initiated this study to assess the suitability of the 86 eligible river segments identified in the Utah Forest Plans and during planning efforts and to identify those river segments that are suitable for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

The project record contains wild and scenic river suitability determinations based on the evaluation of 86 river segments (840 miles) identified as eligible by the National Forests in Utah through the land and resource management planning process or eligibility inventory and analysis processes. Factors considered in the determination are: tradeoffs in management scenarios other than designation; land ownership status; historical, currently existing, and reasonably foreseeable uses of the segment that could be affected; interest expressed by the public, and Tribal, Federal, State, and local agencies; estimated costs for management and protection of identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs); and the ability of the agency to manage and/or protect the river. The alternatives and effects of designation for each river segment were analyzed in the Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah FEIS.

The area affected by this study includes National Forest System lands on the Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Manti-La Sal, and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forests in Utah. Portions of those National Forests extend into Colorado and Wyoming, and those areas were included in this study. In 2008 following the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the Wasatch Cache and Uinta National Forests combined into one administrative unit named the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The analysis in the DEIS was written as two separate forests. Although the forests are now combined into one administrative unit the analysis is separate by forest to make comparison easier for the reader from DEIS to Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The Forest Service evaluation also considered the

cumulative impacts of designation of eligible and suitable river segments managed by other Federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS).

This recommendation is being made by the Forest Supervisors in Utah including: Kevin B. Elliott (Ashley National Forest), Robert G. MacWhorter (Dixie National Forest), Allen Rowley (Fishlake National Forest), Pamela Brown (Manti-La Sal National Forest), and Brian A. Ferebee (Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest). The decisions in this Record of Decision (ROD) are based on a review of the record that shows a thorough review of relevant scientific information, a consideration of responsible opposing views, and acknowledgement of incomplete or unavailable information, and disclosure of scientific uncertainty. The decision makers considered input from groups and individuals with responsible opposing views and have responded to comments in the FEIS, Chapter 6. The decision makers have considered current and accurate science and the scientific information that is necessary to adequately assess the effects of their decision.

The scientific integrity of the discussions and analyses presented in the FEIS are based on current and accurate science and this includes: scientific sources that are relied upon and referenced; relevant literature that is reviewed; scientific literature that is cited by the public is considered when shown to be relevant; opposing views are discussed when they are raised by the public or other agencies; and the disclosure of incomplete or unavailable information.

Scientific literature cited in the public comments is addressed in Chapter 6 – Responses to Comments. Some literature cited by the public presents different conclusions reached by researchers. When opposing views have been raised by the public or other agencies they are discussed in either the response to public comments (Chapter 6) or in the environmental document. The information is adequately complete for assessing the environmental effects of the proposal. The information that is collected is expected to represent most of the conditions found in the area at the present time.

## **Supplemental Information**

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The Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah FEIS (November 2008) is compiled from information contained in a series of forest planning and eligibility documents. The FEIS represents the summary of the Forest Service's project record of the evaluation of potential wild and scenic rivers on National Forest System lands administered by the Forest Service in Utah, as required in the Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 80 - Wild and Scenic River Evaluation.

Supplemental information to the Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah FEIS includes the following: Forest Service land and resource management plans and plan amendments; eligibility reports; the Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah DEIS and Appendices; public comments regarding the scoping document and DEIS; Utah National Forests Wild and Scenic Rivers DEIS Summary of Public Comment document; and other information contained in the project record.

## **Decisions and Rationale**

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Our decision is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on designation of rivers as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

It is our decision that 10 river segments totaling approximately 108 miles (74 miles classified as Wild, 22

miles classified as Scenic, and 12 miles classified as Recreational) of National Forest System lands in Utah administered by the Forest Service are determined to be suitable and should be recommended to Congress for designation as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. These 10 river segments are described throughout this Record of Decision document as the Selected Alternative 7 and in the Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah FEIS as “Alternative 7 – Recommend river segments that reflect the broad range of public comments and emphasize specific suitability factors.” This decision is based upon a review of the FEIS and other documents, public scoping and DEIS comments, and information garnered from public meetings. ROD Table 1 identifies the 10 recommended river segments in the Selected Alternative 7 and includes a description by National Forest of mileage, recommended classification, ORVs, Ranger District, and County.

This Record of Decision is the official administrative document which can be used as the basis for making eventual recommendations to Congress. This decision allows the remaining 76 river segments (732 miles) located on National Forest System lands in Utah, and the portions of Roc Creek located in Colorado and West Fork Smiths Fork located in Wyoming, that are not suitable are to be released from protective management for wild and scenic river purposes. River segments that were determined eligible but are not suitable for recommendation for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, are no longer afforded agency protection as potential wild and scenic rivers and rivers will continue to be managed by other underlying direction in each Land and Resource Management Plan. For a list of the 76 river segments that are not suitable, refer to the “River Segments Determined Not Suitable for Designation” section in this document and ROD Table 2.

As part of this decision, we are making Forest Plan Amendments on the following forests: Ashley National Forest, Dixie National Forest, Fishlake National Forest, and Uinta and Wasatch-Cache portions of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. There will not be a Forest Plan amendment for the Manti-La Sal National Forest since no mention of wild and scenic rivers occurs in their 1986 Forest Plan and there are no river segments as suitable for recommendation. The amendments are listed in Appendix A at the end of this Record of Decision.

**ROD Table 1. Suitable river segments by classification. (All mileage and acreage is approximate\*).**

<b>River Segment</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Acre*</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Outstandingly Remarkable Values</b>	<b>Ranger District</b>	<b>County</b>
<b>Ashley National Forest</b>						
Green River	13	2,816	Scenic	Scenic, Recreational, Fish, Wildlife, Historic, Cultural	Flaming Gorge	Daggett
Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Painter Draw	40	12,758	Wild	Geologic/Hydrologic, Wildlife	Roosevelt/ Duchesne	Duchesne
<b>Dixie National Forest</b>						
Death Hollow Creek	10	2,801	Wild	Scenic, Recreational	Escalante	Garfield
Mamie Creek	2	640	Wild	Scenic, Recreational	Escalante	Garfield
North Fork Virgin River	1	218	Scenic	Scenic/Geological, Recreational	Cedar City	Kane
Pine Creek	8	2,234	Wild	Scenic, Recreational, Geological, Ecological	Escalante	Garfield
<b>Fishlake National Forest</b>						
Fish Creek	15	4,736	Wild - Upper (4.3 mi.); Recreational - Lower (10.5	Prehistoric / Historic, Wildlife / Ecological, Fish	Beaver	Sevier and Piute

River Segment	Miles	Acres*	Classification	Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Ranger District	County
			mi.)			
<b>Manti-La Sal National Forest</b>						
No segments.	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Uinta Portion of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest</b>						
Little Provo Deer Creek	1	270	Recreational	Geological/ Hydrological, Ecological	Pleasant Grove	Wasatch
<b>Wasatch-Cache Portion of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest</b>						
Ostler Fork: Source to Mouth	4	1,250	Wild	Ecology	Evanston	Summit
Stillwater Fork: Source to Mouth	14	3,712	Wild within Wilderness (6 Mi.); Scenic below Wilderness (8 Mi.)	Scenic, Ecology	Evanston	Summit
<b>Total</b>	108 miles	30,805	7 Wild classifications (74.3 miles)			
			3 Scenic classifications (22 miles)			
			2 Recreational classifications (11.5 miles)			

\* Acres are approximate and within one year of designation or other date, detailed boundaries would be established based on Section 3 (b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act which states, "...boundaries shall include an average of not more than 320 acres of land per mile."

The Selected Alternative (Alternative 7) was developed based on comments received during public open houses and over 2,500 written comments from DEIS reviewers and on an assessment of factors documented in the Suitability Evaluation Reports (FEIS, Chapter 6 – Response to Comments and Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports). The key issues described in Chapter 1 of the FEIS were also used in the development of Alternative 7 (see FEIS, Section 1.11 – Issues). In selecting which river segments are suitable for recommendation in this decision, the following key suitability criteria and factors were considered:

- 1) The river segment contains multiple ORVs, ORVs underrepresented in the National System, or significant nationally. This factor helped determine river segments with ORVs or a combination of ORVs significant at a national scale.
- 2) The river segment contains multiple ORVs, ORVs underrepresented in the study segments or significant within Utah's six National Forests. This factor helped design an alternative with representative rivers across the National Forests in Utah.
- 3) The river segment(s) contribute to a river system. This factor recognizes the importance of managing some rivers at a watershed scale to best protect values.

- 4) The river segment would be best managed through designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This alternative contains those segments where the river's free-flowing condition, water quality and ORVs would be best protected if designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
- 5) Designation of the river segment would be compatible with, or will enhance other federal agency wild and scenic river recommendations, will complement other national forest management activities and has potential to stimulate tourism and economic growth. This includes: segments that are compatible with other federal agency wild and scenic river plans and recommendations; segments that would have the potential to stimulate tourism and related economic growth through designation; and segments that, if designated, would complement other national forest resource management activities.
- 6) Support from a broad range of public entities (federal agencies, state, local and tribal governments; and national and local publics). Through this factor river segments were included if supported by all parties, or with only limited opposition. This factor helped identify those segments that generally have a broad base of support.

The Forest Supervisors in Utah recognize that this decision will not completely satisfy every group or individual; however, they have concluded that it is an informed choice that provides a reasonable mix of river segments. Based on the effects analysis presented in Chapter 3 of the FEIS, the Selected Alternative meets the purpose and need for the project and with the exception of the Forest Plan Amendments, is consistent with all laws, regulations, and policy governing National Forest System land management (See ROD, Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations).

The suitability factors and criteria listed above were used as a guide for decision makers to review all aspects of a river segment consistently. Although objective factors are reviewed, the suitability decision is subjective and qualitative based on all the social, political, and resource factors derived from scoping and DEIS comments and other agency and public input. It is not a tally of the numbers of factors it meets, but a subjective (or qualitative) review of all the information presented to the decision maker. Due to the different nature of one community to the next, there are different social and economic factors that may have more weight than others for a particular community. Each Forest Supervisor is making the suitability decision for the river segments that are located on the National Forest for which they are responsible. Each Forest Supervisor may consider the weighting of the criteria differently than another Supervisor because of the differences in tradeoffs, social and physical environments that they operate within.

Many comments raised concerns about impacts to private land, water rights, and operation and maintenance of existing water developments. The following assumptions are included in this decision:

- *This decision applies only to river segments located on National Forest System lands.* Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, designation neither gives nor implies government control of private lands within the river corridor. The Forest Service has no authority to regulate or zone private lands and would not seek authority to do so. Although Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, management restrictions would apply only to public lands. People living within a river corridor would be able to use their property as they had before designation. Land use controls on private lands are solely a matter of local zoning. The federal government has no power to regulate or zone private lands under the Act; however, administering agencies may highlight the need for amendment to local zoning (where local zoning occurs). Although the Act includes provisions encouraging the protection of river values through state and local governmental land use planning, there are no binding provisions on local governments. (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council Q & A Compendium, 2006).
- *Designation of a segment would not affect existing, valid water rights.* Designation of a Wild, Scenic, and/or Recreational river could establish a water right that is non-consumptive. Congress

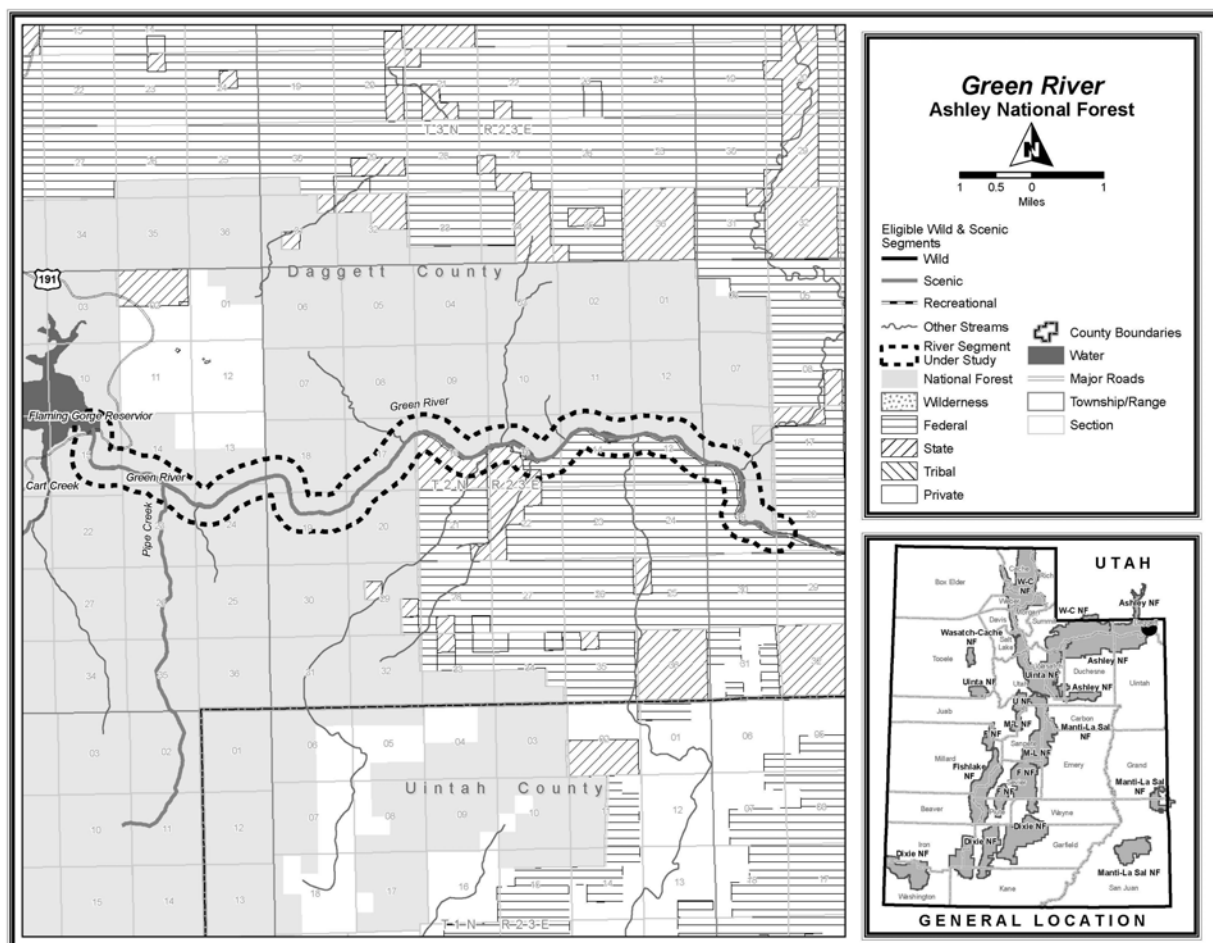
sometimes makes explicit the granting of water rights in legislation and courts have ruled that there is an implied federal water right upon designation, however it is junior to all existing rights. There would be no effect on existing downstream uses or future appropriations downstream because the water would remain instream through the designated segment and would arguably protect and enhance those uses. Future upstream water uses would be determined by the State of Utah pursuant to availability and State water law. Designation of a segment would not affect existing, valid water rights on that segment.

- *Designation will recognize operation and maintenance of existing water developments.* Maintenance access will continue and any new access would need to be requested, and would be guided and addressed in the Comprehensive River Management Plan (a required planning document once a river is designated by Congress). Emergency projects will need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis with the administering forest. A finding of suitability on a segment is based on existing conditions and will not remove existing authorized operation and maintenance access to water developments. The comprehensive river management plans developed after designation will recognize the current uses and authorizations while protecting the Outstanding Remarkable Values and free flow of the river.

## **Description of Rationale for the Suitable River Segments** \_\_\_\_\_

This section describes the river segments that were determined by the Forest Supervisors in Utah to be suitable and the rationale for those determinations. These river segments reflect the Selected Alternative, which was analyzed and described in the FEIS.

## Ashley National Forest Rationale



**Green River, Utah.** The 12.60 mile segment is classified as Scenic and begins at the Flaming Gorge Dam outlet works (NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sect. 15, T 2 N, R 22 E, SLM) and ends at the boundary of the Ashley National Forest (SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sect 19, T 2 N, R 24 E, SLM). It is located on the Flaming Gorge Ranger District, Daggett County, Utah in Congressional District UT-2. There are approximately 2,816 acres within the river corridor located on National Forest System land.

The segment begins immediately below Flaming Gorge Dam and flows through a deep, narrow canyon with many sheer cliffs. There are occasional steep breaks along the river and small side drainages. Most of the total stream flow is provided by runoff of melting snow in the high mountains of the Uinta Range in northeastern Utah and the Wyoming and Wind River Ranges of west central Wyoming. Flows are now controlled by operations of the Flaming Gorge Dam and Reservoir. From 1992 to present, the dam has been operated to meet the requirement of the four endangered fish in the river segments beyond the National Forest boundary. This is being done by releasing peak flows that more closely resemble pre-dam conditions. Pre-dam peak flows were typically 10,000 to 20,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), while base flows were typically 800 to 1,000 cfs. There are no diversions or significant channel modifications from the outlet works of the dam to the National Forest/Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area boundary.

The Green River has an existing water development, the Flaming Gorge Dam located above the segment. Maintenance access will continue and any new access will need to be requested, and guided and

addressed in the Comprehensive River Management Plan. Emergency projects will need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis with the administering forest. A finding of suitability on a segment is based on existing conditions and will not remove existing authorized operation and maintenance access to water developments. The comprehensive river management plans developed after designation will recognize the current uses and authorizations while protecting the Outstanding Remarkable Values and free flow of the river.

Land ownership of this river segment is broken up as follows:

<b>River Mile</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Acres</b>
0* – 5	Ashley National Forest (both sides of the river)	1,600
5 – 7	Division of Wildlife Resources administered lands - State of Utah (south side of the river)	320
5 – 7	Ashley National Forest (north side of river)	320
7 – 12.6	Bureau of Land Management (south side of river)	896
7 – 12.6*	Ashley National Forest (north side of the river)	896
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,032</b>
	<b>Total Acres on National Forest System Land</b>	<b>2,816</b>

\*Mileages begin at Flaming Gorge Dam (mile 0) and move downstream (mile 12.6).

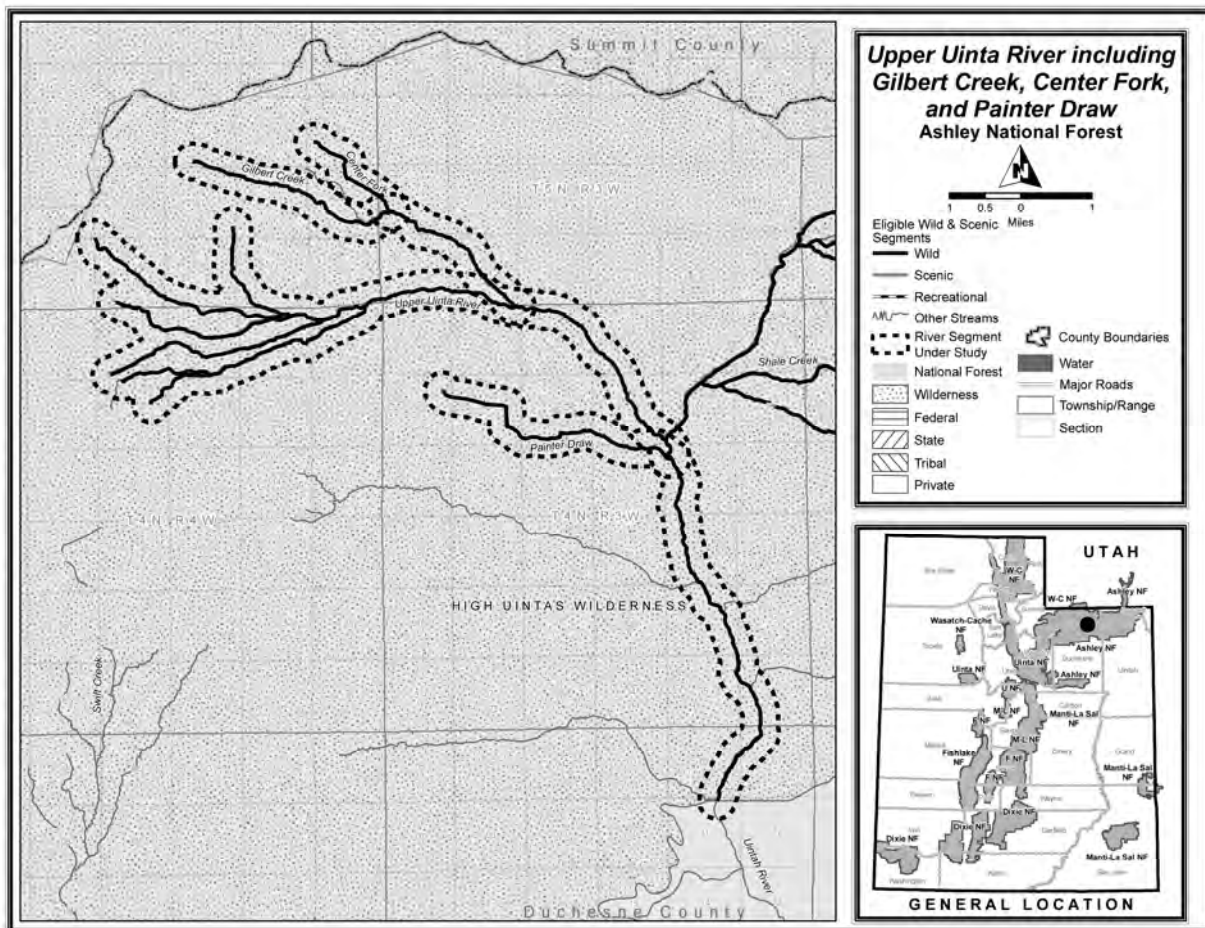
At miles 5 to 7 the south side of the Green River belongs to the State of Utah, Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), and at miles 7 to 12.6 the south side of the river is administered by the BLM. In October 2008, the Vernal Field Office of the BLM published their ROD and Approved Resource Management Plan. In that document, the Upper Green River segment (22 miles) from Little Hole to the Utah State line and the Lower Green River segment (30 miles) from public land boundary south of Ouray to the Carbon County line would continue to be managed as previously recommended as a suitable Scenic segment to protect its outstandingly remarkable values. A Forest Service finding of suitability is consistent and compatible with BLM determinations. Both the BLM and Forest Service are moving toward a suitability determination and Scenic classification. The State of Utah, DWR has expressed that a determination of suitability and Scenic classification for miles 5 to 7 as described earlier would not conflict with their management of the State's property and wildlife resources.

- There are five nationally significant (Scenic, Recreation, Fish, Historic, Cultural) ORVs and one regionally significant (Wildlife) ORV that would be protected. Refer to FEIS, Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports for a complete description of the ORVs.
- This segment is significant at the State level because it is a relatively large river with considerable commercial recreation value (e.g., fisheries and boating/rafting). This segment is one of the top “blue ribbon” fly fishing rivers in the United States. Anglers travel from all over the world to experience this exceptional tail water fishery which can produce trophy sized rainbow and brown trout. There are no other comparable segments in this study.
- This segment is a small part of a very large river system. Designation of this segment alone would have little potential to contribute to overall river system integrity since only the eligible river corridor would be affected. When considered in combination with other segments of the Green River that have been found suitable in BLM wild and scenic river studies (described earlier), it has moderate potential to help maintain system integrity.
- The Green River is located within the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (NRA), which provides some management direction for recreational and scenic values. However all ORVs could benefit from an integrated management approach with language specific to the river-related values,

especially given the high level of recreation use associated with the river corridor. This will be provided by the comprehensive river management plan developed following a wild and scenic river designation.

- The Green River is economically important to the local communities. There is potential for increased economic return if this segment is designated, given that Recreation is one of the ORVs and the existing business infrastructure related to recreation and tourism. The suitable finding, with a classification of Scenic, is consistent with the purpose of the Flaming Gorge NRA and with the results of a BLM suitability study that overlaps and extends downstream of this segment, as described earlier.
- There is strong public support for this segment; limited opposition provided there are no negative impacts to water rights, operation of Flaming Gorge Dam, or recreation-related businesses operating in the area. As described previously in the ROD and in the FEIS, designation would not affect existing, valid water rights or existing operations and maintenance activities associated with the dam. There may be economic benefits due to increased visitation following designation.

Summary: This segment meets most of the criteria considered for Alternative 7. It offers many outstanding values and some significant management challenges; therefore a comprehensive river management plan guided by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act will be a valuable tool. Designation is consistent with wild and scenic river study results on adjacent BLM lands and provides an opportunity to coordinate future management over a larger area (from the Flaming Gorge Dam to the Utah/Colorado state line). Designation will serve a broad range of local, national, and international river users, and will have economic as well as social benefits. This river clearly meets the objective of protecting outstanding rivers “for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations” (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, section 1(b)).



**Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Painter Draw, Utah.** The 39.87 mile segment of the Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Painter Draw is classified as Wild and is located entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area beginning in the Wilderness (SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sect. 28 T 5 N, R 4 W, USM) and ending at the Wilderness boundary (NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sect. 11 T 3 N, R 3 W, USM). It is located on the Ashley National Forest, Roosevelt/Duchesne Ranger Districts, Duchesne County, Utah in Congressional District UT-2. The river corridor is approximately 12,758 acres.

Upper Uinta River and its tributaries, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork and Painter Draw have their headwaters above tree line in a scoured cirque basin with ground moraine and drift. The watercourses enter a broad glacial valley basin along a glacial valley bottom consisting of hummocky ground moraine. As the watercourses descend below tree line, they pass by or through lakes, ponds, wet depressions and forested knolls. The segment then enters a mid portion of the drainage consisting of a V-shaped valley of moderately steep to very steep canyon side slopes that are covered with a thin veneer of boulder glacial moraine. They enter the main drainage, which is characterized by a relatively broad glacial canyon bottom covered by a thick veneer of hummocky ground moraine and outwash, and scattered wet meadows, seeps and springs. In many places this segment flows over bedrock with gradients of 3 percent to 15 percent.

- There is one nationally significant (Geologic/Hydrologic) ORV and one less than regional (Wildlife) ORV that would be protected. Refer to FEIS, Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports for a complete description of the ORVs.
- There are many similar eligible segments in the High Uintas Wilderness Area. It is an excellent representative of the mid- to high-elevation eligible rivers on the south slope of the Uinta Mountains and provides the best mix of values among the wilderness segments. This segment is a good representative of these wilderness river systems because of the diversity of landforms present along it, inclusion of tributaries (for system integrity), nationally significant ORV, and broad public support.
- The eligible segment encompasses the majority of the river system (including headwaters and tributaries), which provides a substantial opportunity to contribute to overall river system integrity.
- The segment is located entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area so some protections are already in place. Designation would protect free flow and ORVs for future generations to enjoy and appreciate and complement the intent of the Wilderness management strategies. A comprehensive river management plan specific to river-related values will be helpful in maintaining the ORVs.
- Designation is compatible with current management for wilderness values. Recreation use may increase following designation with associated potential for economic benefits to outfitter-guide operations and adjacent communities; this is expected to be fairly minor since the surrounding High Uintas Wilderness Area has been and will continue to be the primary attraction for most visitors.
- There is broad public support for designation of this segment. Opposition is based on concerns that options for downstream water developments might be restricted or foreclosed, or that existing water rights would be compromised. With respect to water rights concerns: as discussed earlier, designation would not affect existing, valid water rights. Specifically, the Duchesne County Water Conservancy District is exploring the possibility of a new reservoir approximately four miles below the Upper Uinta River segment (described in the Conceptual Analysis of Uinta and Green River Water Development Projects, Technical Memorandum 1-5, prepared by Franson and CH2M Hill). This project, if formally proposed, could include stabilization of existing wilderness reservoirs draining into the eligible segment. This project is still in the conceptual stage and does not meet the definition of reasonably foreseeable. Construction and operation of a new reservoir four miles below the eligible segment would not affect upstream ORVs. Therefore designation of the Upper Uinta River would not preclude consideration of a Uinta Reservoir project in the future, if the Conservancy District were to further develop this proposal.

After reviewing the criteria and restrictions in the DEIS, and based on experience with reservoir stabilization work elsewhere in the High Uintas Wilderness Area, the Program Director for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Central Utah Project (CUP) Completion Act Office believes stabilization projects can be completed consistent with management for free-flowing conditions and protection of ORVs under a wild and scenic river designation (Murray 2008).

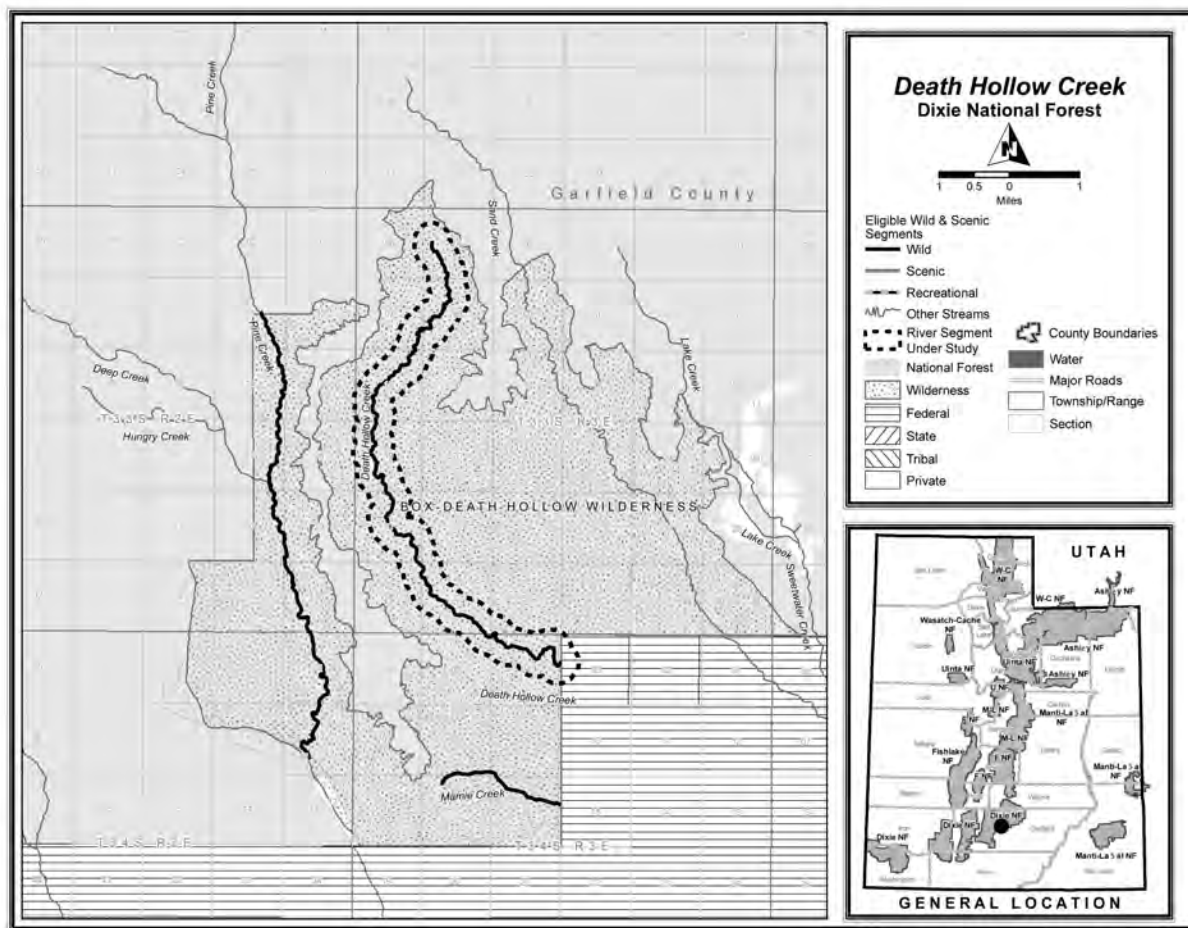
Furthermore, a finding of suitability on a segment is based on existing conditions and will not remove authorized operation and maintenance access to existing water developments. The need for ongoing management of water storage and delivery systems elsewhere in the Upper Uinta River drainage will be recognized in the comprehensive river management plan.

Summary: This segment meets a few of the criteria for Alternative 7. It is an excellent representative of the mid- to high-elevation eligible rivers on the south slope of the Uinta Mountains and adds to the

diversity of river systems included in this decision. Management following designation will require little new investment, due to the compatibility of Wild and Scenic River Act goals with the surrounding Wilderness management practices. Designation of the Upper Uinta River will add to enjoyment of this river corridor by recreationists as well as fulfilling conservation purposes of the Wild and Scenic River Act by protecting a large proportion of the Uinta River system.

Viewing the selection of suitable rivers from watersheds located in the Uinta mountain range, Alternative 7 includes two rivers on the north side (Stillwater Fork and Ostler Fork) and the Uinta River on the south side. In this context, the Uinta mountain range would be well represented with the selection of Alternative 7.

## **Dixie National Forest Rationale**

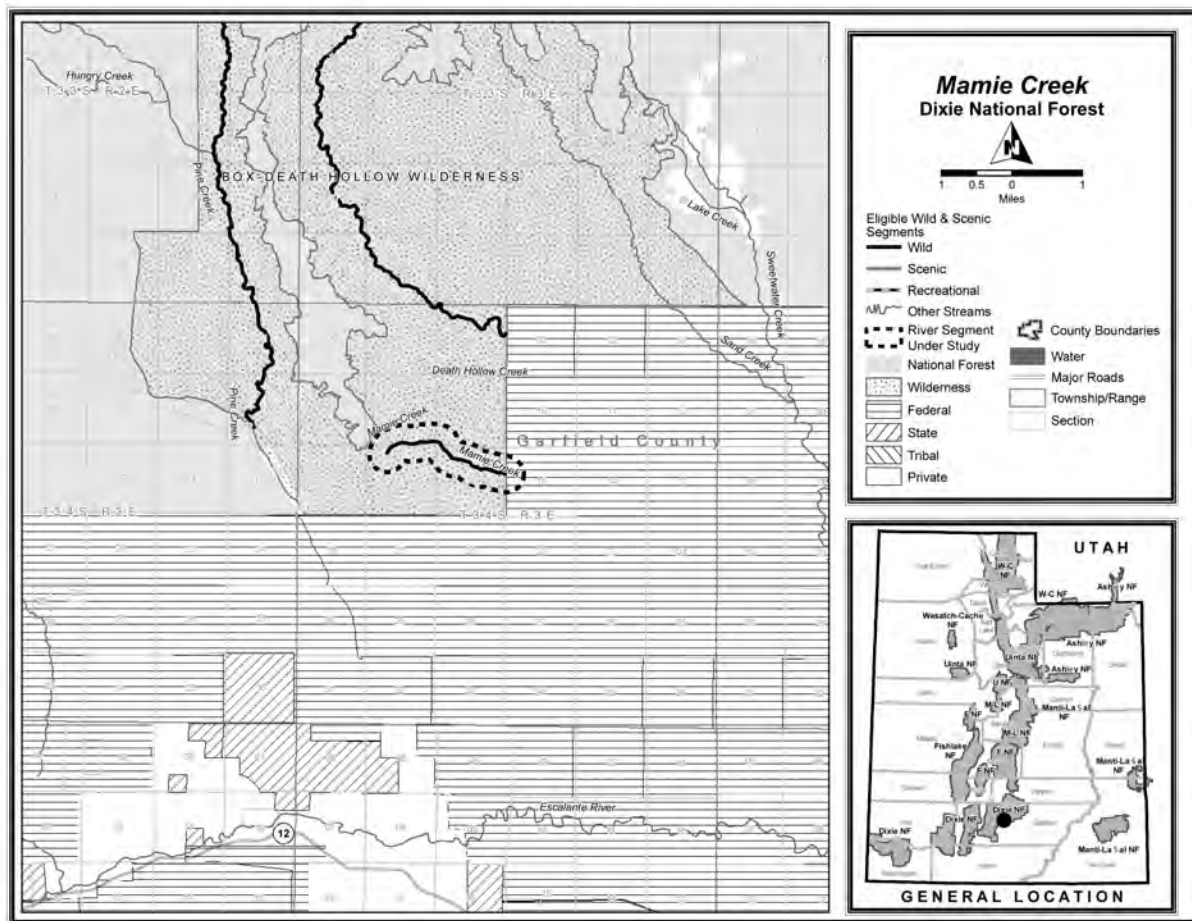


**Death Hollow Creek, Utah.** The 9.6 mile segment of Death Hollow Creek is classified as Wild and is located entirely in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness beginning at the headwaters (SW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 15, T 33S, R 3E, SLM) and ending at the Dixie National Forest boundary/Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Boundary (SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 4, T 34S, R 3E, SLM). It is located on the Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District, Garfield County, Utah in Congressional District 2. The river corridor is approximately 2,801 acres.

The upper headwaters of Death Hollow Creek are located in open ponderosa pine stand with a Manzanita understory that is surrounded by thousand foot cliffs. The lower reaches of the river flow through the Escalante Monocline and into Navajo Sandstone where the canyon narrows into a slot canyon and slickrock pocket catch and hold water year-round. The access route starts on the “Hells Backbone Road” (FS Road #30153) and steeply descends down a rocky rough route. This access point acts as the only way to enter or leave the drainage without hiking 20 or more miles. The route receives very low use and is primarily used by hikers attempting to travel the brutal three to four day trip to the Escalante River. This route requires swimming, rock climbing, and advanced navigation skills. The lower half of the drainage is managed by the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM).

- The Scenic and Recreational ORVs would be protected. This segment offers ORVs that are nationally significant and would offer unique contributions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by providing a nationally unique, primitive slot canyon experience. These resources are unique and exemplary among the river segments considered across the five National Forests in Utah. Refer to FEIS, Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports for a complete description of the ORVs.
- The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan and associated analysis identified Death Hollow Creek among the primary contributors to the Escalante River system. Designation would recognize the important role this segment has in contributing to watershed integrity.
- The Death Hollow Creek river corridor is entirely located within the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area and substantial protections are already in place. Designation would protect free flow and ORVs for future generations to enjoy and appreciate and complement the intent of the Wilderness management strategies.
- Death Hollow Creek was found suitable on BLM lands downstream from forest sections. A Forest Service finding of suitability is compatible with BLM determinations. Designation could stimulate additional tourism and related economic growth, although much of this impact has probably already occurred with the designation of the GSENM.
- Both positive and negative sentiment has been expressed towards a finding of suitability for this river segment. Local government officials and many public participants do not support the designation of this river segment. Various public groups and local residents have expressed an interest in this river segment being designated. There are no known river stewardship partners.

Summary: This segment has nationally significant ORVs and designation of this segment would provide a unique slot canyon and recreation experience to the National System. Designation would protect free flow and ORVs and complement the intent of the Wilderness management strategies. While Garfield County does not support the designation of this segment, since it is located within an existing Wilderness, the County’s opposition to this segment has not been as strong as to other segments outside of wilderness. There are no anticipated negative effects from designation because there are no competing resource considerations. Finally, the segment downstream on the GSENM has been found suitable and together these segments represent a significant contribution to the integrity of the Escalante River system.



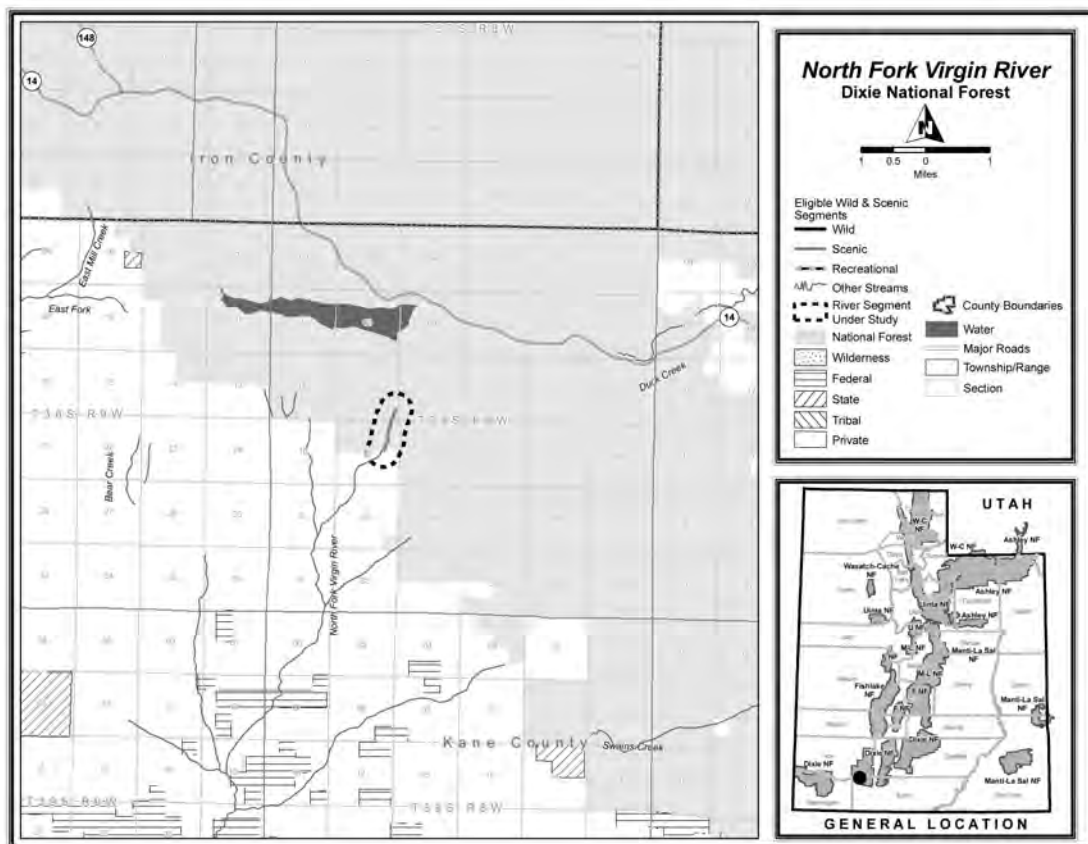
**Mamie Creek, Utah.** The 2.0 mile segment of Mamie Creek is classified as Wild and is located entirely in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness beginning at the headwaters (SE ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 17, T 34S, R 3E, SLM) and ending at the Dixie National Forest boundary/Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Boundary (NE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 16, T 34S, R 3E, SLM). It is located on the Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District, Garfield County, Utah in Congressional District 2. The river corridor is approximately 640 acres.

Mamie Creek provides unique scenic views as it carves through the Navajo Sandstone. A geological mixture of shapes, textures, and colors that are complimented by waterfalls and scenic pools creates the unique scenic value. There are no Forest Service system trails that access the river, but the river itself is used as a route to access the river as it carves its way down through the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area. The route receives very low use and is primarily used by hikers hiking up from Death Hollow while attempting to travel the brutal three to four day trip to the Escalante River. This route requires swimming, rock climbing, and advanced navigation skills. The lower half of the drainage is managed by the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

- Scenic and Recreational ORVs would be protected. Mamie Creek offers ORVs that are nationally significant and would offer unique contributions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This river segment provides a nationally unique, primitive slot canyon experience. Refer to FEIS, Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports for a complete description of the ORVs.
- Mamie Creek is one of the tributaries identified in the GSENM plan that contributes significantly to the flow of the Escalante River. As a perennial stream it provides flow consistently to the system.

- The Mamie Creek river corridor is entirely located in a designated wilderness area the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness Area and substantial protections are already in place. Designation would protect free flow and ORVs for future generations to enjoy and appreciate and complement and enhance the intent of the Wilderness management strategies.
- Mamie Creek was found suitable on BLM lands downstream from forest sections. A Forest Service finding of suitability is compatible with BLM determinations. Designation could stimulate additional tourism and related economic growth, although much of this impact has probably already occurred with the designation of the GSENM.
- Both positive and negative sentiment has been expressed towards a finding of suitability for this river segment. Local government officials and many public participants do not support the designation of this river segment. A limited number of other participants have expressed an interest in this river segment being designated.

**Summary:** This segment has nationally significant ORVs and designation of this segment would provide a unique slot canyon and recreation experience to the National System. Designation would protect free flow and ORVs and complement the intent of the Wilderness management strategies. While Garfield County does not support the designation of this segment, since it is located within an existing Wilderness the county's opposition to this segment has not been as strong as to other segments outside of wilderness. There are no anticipated negative effects from designation because there are no competing resource considerations. Finally, the segment downstream on the GSENM has been found suitable and together these segments represent a significant contribution to the integrity of the Escalante River system.



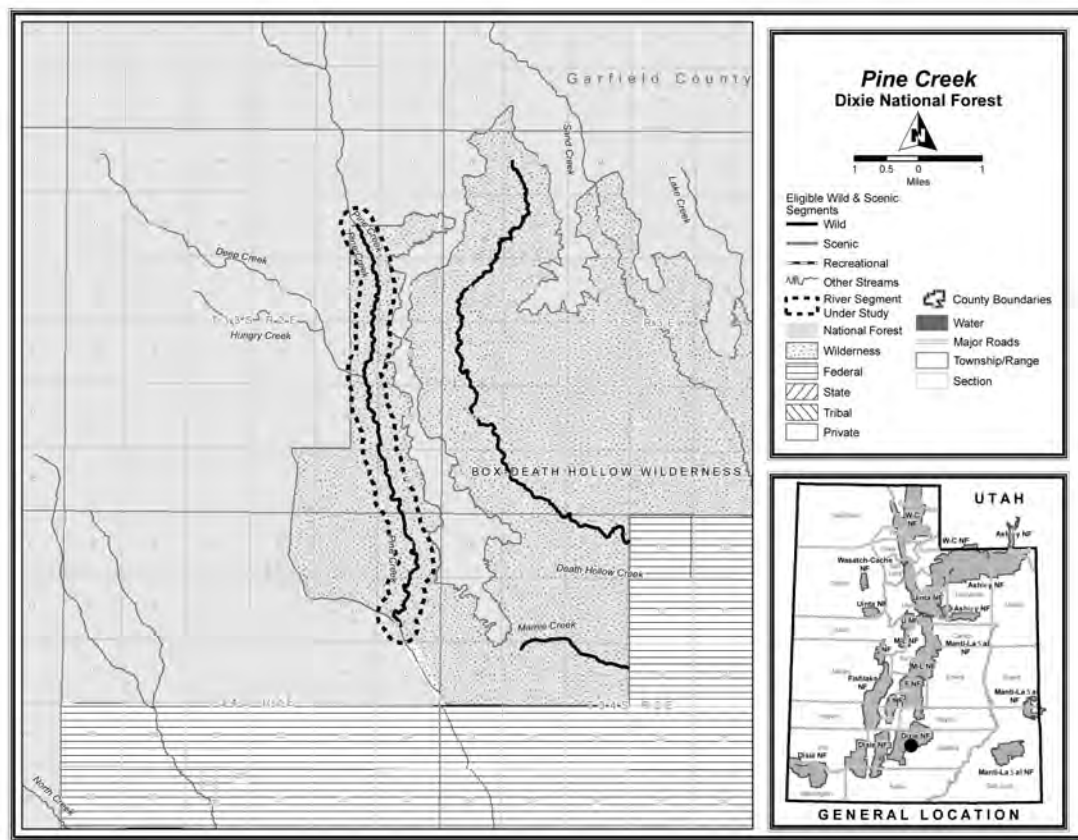
**North Fork Virgin River, Utah.** The 0.68 mile segment of North Fork Virgin River is classified as Scenic beginning at its headwaters (NW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 17, T 38 S, R 8 W, SLM) and ending at the Forest boundary (SW ¼ NW ¼ Sect. 20, T 38 S, R 8 W, SLM). It is located on the Dixie National Forest, Cedar City Ranger District, Kane County, Utah in Congressional District 2. The river corridor is approximately 218 acres.

The North Fork of the Virgin River begins at Cascade Falls, a perennial spring that is fed by Navajo Lake through underground lava tubes and a limestone solution channel. Cascade Falls is located in the Pink Cliffs on the south edge of the Markagunt Plateau. From here, the river flows as a boulder dominated, cascading to step-pool stream system through the Cretaceous rocks of the Grey Cliffs before cutting down through the Kolob Terrace into the Jurassic and Triassic rocks that define the regional landscape and Zion National Park. The stream corridor supports a diverse riparian plant community. Near Cascade Falls the watershed supports an abundance of bristlecone pine trees.

- Scenic/Geological and Recreational ORVs would be protected. The ORVs are unique to the National System because of the unique headwaters at Cascade Falls, the National Recreation Trail that leads to the falls, and the views (foregrounds and background). Refer to FEIS, Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports for a complete description of the ORVs.
- North Fork Virgin River is one of many tributaries to the Virgin River system that are located on Dixie National Forest System lands. It crosses a long distance of private land before it reenters public domain. Without coordination across the private land this segment alone does not likely contribute significantly to the integrity of the Virgin River system.
- The river corridor is relatively small in size and located within rugged steep terrain. Below the Virgin River Rim, there is a notable die off of Douglas-fir trees due to drought, age, and beetles. Resource activities in the area are not reasonably foreseeable.
- Currently, approximately 0.7 miles of this stream is recognized by the State of Utah as a Drinking Water Source Protection Zone. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Designation of this segment would compliment and strengthen these efforts.
- North Fork Virgin River flows from National Forest System lands onto private land. Downstream from the forest, the North Fork Virgin River has been found suitable by the Kanab Field Office (BLM) and Zion National Park. A Forest Service finding of suitability is compatible with NPS and BLM determinations. Designation could stimulate additional tourism and related economic growth, although much of this impact has probably already occurred with the designation of the Zion National Park.
- Both positive and negative sentiment has been expressed towards a finding of suitability for this river segment. Some public participants do not support the designation of this river segment. Various public groups and local residents have expressed an interest in this river segment being designated. The portions of the Virgin River downstream on National Park Service lands were included in the recent Washington County Growth and Conservation legislation that has been before Congress.

**Summary:** This segment has nationally significant and unique Scenic and Geological ORVs that would contribute to the National System. Management as a suitable river segment for wild and scenic rivers

would provide additional management tools to protect the resources of the area. While there was support and opposition expressed for designation on this segment, since the river segment was so short there was not especially strong sentiment expressed. There are no anticipated negative effects from designation because there are only limited competing resources considerations (most of which – it is anticipated – would not be impacted by Wild and Scenic Rivers suitability). Finally, the segment downstream on other Federal lands has been found suitable and together these segments represent a significant contribution to the Virgin River system.



**Pine Creek, Utah.** The 7.8 mile Pine Creek segment is classified as Wild and is located entirely in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness beginning at the north wilderness boundary (SW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 11, T 33S, R 2E, SLM) and ending at the south wilderness boundary (SE ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 12, T 33S, R 2E, SLM). It is located on the Dixie National Forest, Escalante Ranger District, Garfield County, Utah in Congressional District 2. The river corridor is approximately 2,234 acres.

The Box Trail (#43009) provides river-side hiking access the entire length of the creek as it carves its way down through the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area. The upper reaches of the creek are particularly scenic with steep cliffs ranging from 800 to 1,200 feet tall that descend to the creek's edge which is vegetated with large spruce and ponderosa pine trees. The lower reaches transition into sandy benches thick with willows and ponderosa pines, but maintain the spectacular views of the cliff walls. The trail is rough and requires hikers to wade through the river and navigate the slot canyon, the trail receives an average of two to three hikers per day during the summer months.

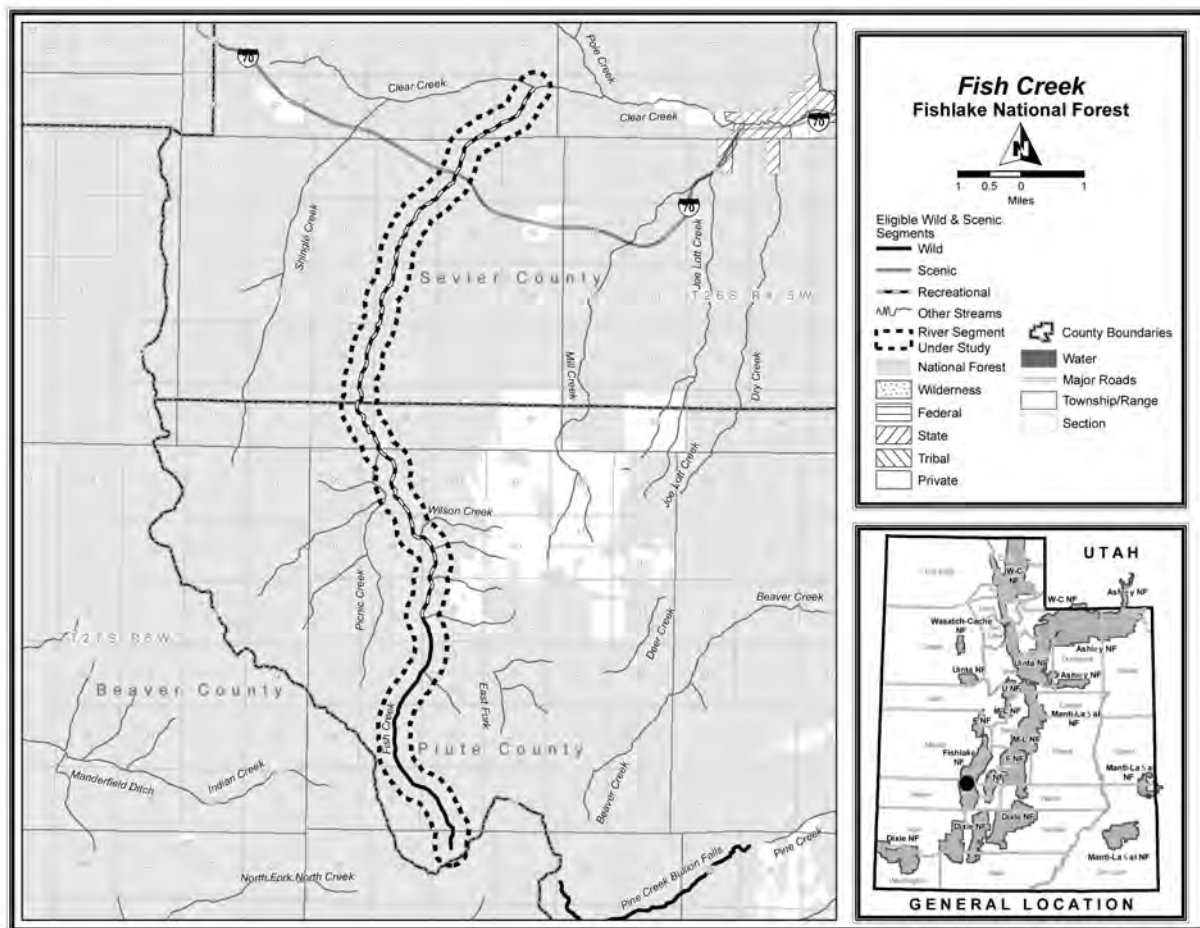
- Scenic, Recreational, Geological, and Ecological ORVs would be protected. Pine Creek offers ORVs that are nationally significant and would offer unique contributions to the National Wild and Scenic

Rivers System. The river segment provides a unique slot canyon experience. Refer to FEIS, Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports for a complete description of the ORVs.

- Pine Creek is one of the tributaries identified in the GSENM plan that contributes significantly to the flow of the Escalante River. As a perennial stream it provides flow consistently to the system.
- The Pine Creek river corridor is located entirely in the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness area and substantial protections are already in place. Designation would protect free flow and ORVs for future generations to enjoy and appreciate and complement and enhance the intent of the Wilderness management strategies.
- Pine Creek was found suitable on BLM lands (Escalante River) downstream from forest sections. A Forest Service finding of suitability is compatible with BLM determinations. Designation could stimulate additional tourism and related economic growth, although much of this impact has probably already occurred with the designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.
- Both positive and negative sentiment has been expressed towards a finding of suitability for this river segment. Local government officials and many public participants do not support the designation of this river segment. Others have expressed an interest in this river segment being designated.

Summary: This segment has nationally significant ORVs and designation of this segment would provide a unique slot canyon and recreation experience to the National System. Designation would protect free flow and ORVs and complement the intent of the Wilderness management strategies. While Garfield County does not support the designation of this segment, since it is located within an existing Wilderness the county's opposition to this segment has not been as strong as to other segments outside of wilderness. There are no anticipated negative effects from designation because there are no competing resource considerations. Finally, the segment downstream on the GSENM has been found suitable and together these segments represent a significant contribution to the integrity of the Escalante River system.

## Fishlake National Forest Rationale



**Fish Creek, Utah.** This 15 mile segment is split into a Wild and Recreational classification. Segment 1 is 4.3 miles and is classified as Wild beginning at its headwaters (NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sect 4, T.28S., R.5W., SLM) to the confluence of Trapper Creek in section 16 (NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sect. 16, T.27S., R.5W., SLM). The headwaters are within the Fish Creek Research Natural Area. Segment 2 is 10.5 miles and is classified as Recreational from the confluence of Trapper Creek in section 16 (NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sect. 16, T.27S., R.5W., SLM) to the confluence with Clear Creek (NW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sect. 36, T.25S., R.5W., SLM). It is located on the Fishlake National Forest, Beaver Ranger District, Sevier and Piute Counties, Utah in Congressional Districts UT-2 and UT-3. The river corridor is approximately 4,736 acres.

Fish Creek flows northward from its source between Mt. Belnap and Mt. Baldy, both located in the Tushar Mountains. An extensive riparian zone exists along Fish Creek on National Forest System lands with riparian vegetation consisting of willows, ash, cottonwoods, sedges, and grasses. As one moves away from the stream, vegetation changes to forms more typical of high plateau environments and includes coniferous trees at the higher elevations. The subalpine zone includes mountain brush, high plateau species, and understory plants.

- Prehistoric/Historic, Wildlife/Ecology, Fish in the form of a native fishery ORVs would be protected. Of the eligible river segments on the Fishlake National Forest, Fish Creek alone has the most ORVs

present. Designation would be a useful tool to protect the free-flowing character and multiple ORVs. Refer to FEIS, Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports for a complete description of the ORVs.

- This stream segment provides an intact system, from headwaters in an alpine-sub alpine setting down to a main stream in pinyon-juniper woodlands. It is the longest eligible river segment that is free flowing on National Forest System lands within the Fishlake National Forest. Beyond just being the longest, this provides a connected river system as opposed to a short, isolated section of a river the other river segments considered would provide. In addition, this intact, free flowing system crosses through an elevational range of plant communities from subalpine to low elevation pinyon-juniper stands, containing multiple remarkable values judged to be significant, especially when taken as a whole, within the State of Utah.
- Fish Creek flows northward from its source between Mt. Belknap and Mt. Baldy, both located in the Tushar Mountains. It has a large volume of water and high potential for future fisheries development. Fish Creek begins life as a first order tributary and ends up as a third order stream by the time it reaches Clear Creek. As a fisheries resource it has the potential of being a trophy native fishery. In its current condition it is also closest to reaching this potential.
- Of the eligible river segments considered, Fish Creek is the longest free flowing segment from the headwaters outside of Congressionally designated Wilderness. There are longer eligible segments headwater streams inside Wilderness. There are other longer eligible streams considered but they had restrictions on the free flow above the eligible segment. This characteristic makes Fish Creek a significant river segment in the State of Utah.
- There are four small, inaccessible private land tracts. These tracts were sites of historic hydroelectric power sites. The sites total less than 10 acres of private land within the river corridor. These tracts are along the Recreational portion of the river segment.
- In Fish Creek there is one existing water right that has not been exercised in over 20 years. This right was identified for use with hydropower generation at facilities that no longer exist. The use of the water for power generated apparently ended due to technical issues related to the stream and plant freezing in the winter. It is likely similar issues will arise if re-development is considered in the future, and this may impact the feasibility. The point of use for the water right is the private land near the confluence of Picnic Creek and Fish Creek. This location is in the Recreational portion of the Fish Creek segment and the historic water right and use would not be in conflict with a Recreational classification. As described previously in the ROD and in the FEIS, there is no affect to existing, valid water rights.
- In Fish Creek it appears the development of private land and existing mineral rights in the general area could generally proceed as the majority of private land is well removed from the Wild river segment. There are four small tracts of about 2 ½ acres each along the Recreational river segment. These tracts historically had motorized trail access from the east, outside of the river corridor. As the 2006 Fishlake National Forest Travel Plan decision is implemented in this area Trail #48 up the bottom of Fish Creek, Forest Development Road #1040, and non-system road coming down Wilson Creek from the east will be all changed to non-motorized access. Based on this existing direction future motorized access to the private lands in Fish Creek could be granted consistent with existing management direction and consistent with agency direction to provide access to private inholdings. This access if requested would likely come from the private land east of the river corridor, and should be able to be allowed with minimal additional impact on the Recreational portion of the river corridor. As described previously in the ROD and in the FEIS, there is no affect to private land.

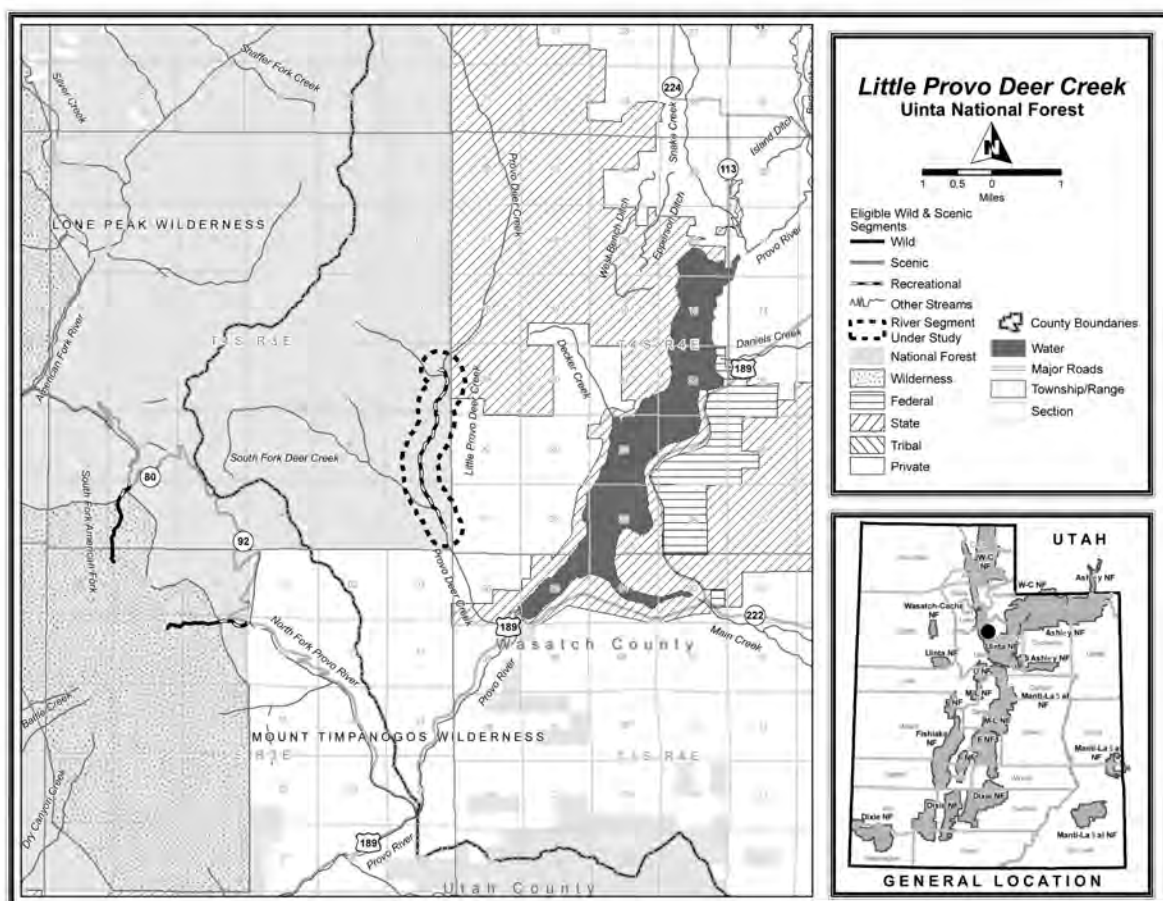
- There are patented mining claims on the east side of the drainage in the headwaters. The first recorded discovery was in 1888. These claims for gold “played out” in the early 1900s and have not been active since. In the event they become active again, the access for the claims would likely come from the closest existing roads east of the claims. Private land access would be outside of the corridor, approximately ½ to 2 miles east of the Recreational portion of the river segment. Designation should have no impact on the private land/patented mining claims and existing mineral claims in the area since these claims are outside of the Wild river corridor.
- Road access is limited to this stream. There is road access near the bottom end of the drainage, near I-70, FDR#583. This road is also Paiute Side Trail #15 and crosses Fish Creek approximately 1 mile south of I-70. There is one rough primitive road (FDR #1040) that accesses the small tract of private land near the confluence of Fish Creek and Picnic Creek. The segment of Fish Creek above the private land is determined suitable and classified as Wild. Below the private land Fish Creek is determined suitable and classified as Recreational. By classifying the lower river segment as Recreational there is no conflict with the existing road and motorized access.
- Designation would include the headwaters and create a system with no fragmentation, contributing to river system integrity. Designation of the entire river as Recreational or Wild will provide protection of an intact drainage to the benefit of wildlife and ecological processes within the drainage.
- Designation of this segment would compliment adjacent resource management activities, particularly near the headwaters area. These associated areas have been inventoried with Primitive and Semi-Primitive ROS classifications and designation would serve to increase compatibility overall. It is anticipated that maintaining the ORVs associated with this segment, and the recognition associated with formal designation (particularly to those from outside the area) would stimulate tourism and related economic growth to some extent.
- In almost all cases local county elected officials are opposed to any wild and scenic river designation. The issues most often cited for this opposition are impacts to water rights and water uses, potential negative impacts on private property, and impacts on mineral development. Early in the public involvement process the Sevier County Commission expressed opposition to the designation of Fish Creek. Also during scoping a private party expressed opposition to designation. The rationale was largely based on conflicts with potential mineral development. However, in subsequent discussions with the Sevier County Commissioners the findings of no impact on water rights, private property, and mineral rights from the designation of Fish Creek were shared with the Commissioners. No specific opposition to Fish Creek was voiced after this additional information was shared with the County Commissioners.

Summary: Fish Creek is one of the longest, intact river systems on the Fishlake National Forest. Fish Creek is the longest free flowing headwaters segment outside of Wilderness, considered in this analysis, and it has a high level of river system integrity. There would be no impact to existing, valid water rights or private property. There would be no impact to existing mineral claims along the Recreational portion of the river segment since it would continue to be open to new mineral exploration and oil and gas development. There may be an impact to potential mineral claims, because the Wild portion of the river segment is collocated in a Research Natural Area established in 1988, and approximately 4.3 miles (1,376 acres) would eventually be withdrawn from mineral entry upon designation by Congress. Existing or new locatable mining activity is subject to regulations in 36 CFR part 228 and must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. Designation of the Fish Creek would stimulate tourism and related economic growth to some extent as well as fulfilling conservation purposes of the Wild and Scenic River Act by protecting a large, intact river system with a high level of river basin integrity.

## **Manti-La Sal National Forest Rationale**

There are no segments being recommended as suitable on the Manti-La Sal National Forest. See ROD Table 2 for a discussion of why eligible river segments were not determined suitable.

## **Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Rationale**



**Little Provo Deer Creek, Utah.** This 1-mile section of the segment is classified as Recreational beginning in section (NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sect. 36, T4S, R3E, SLM) and ending in (SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sect. 24, T4S, R3E, SLM). The segment is located on the Uinta portion of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Pleasant Grove Ranger District, Wasatch County, Utah in Congressional District 2. The river corridor is approximately 270 acres.

The upper end of the segment is located where outflow from Cascade Springs joins the stream because Cascade Springs is an unusual feature and because flows from Cascade Springs substantially increase the volume of stream flow at this point. Originally, 2.6 miles of the Little Provo Deer Creek were found eligible, however, only the upper 1 mile of the eligible segment is being recommended as suitable for designation. The lower 1.6 miles of the segment were not recommended as suitable for the reasons described below.

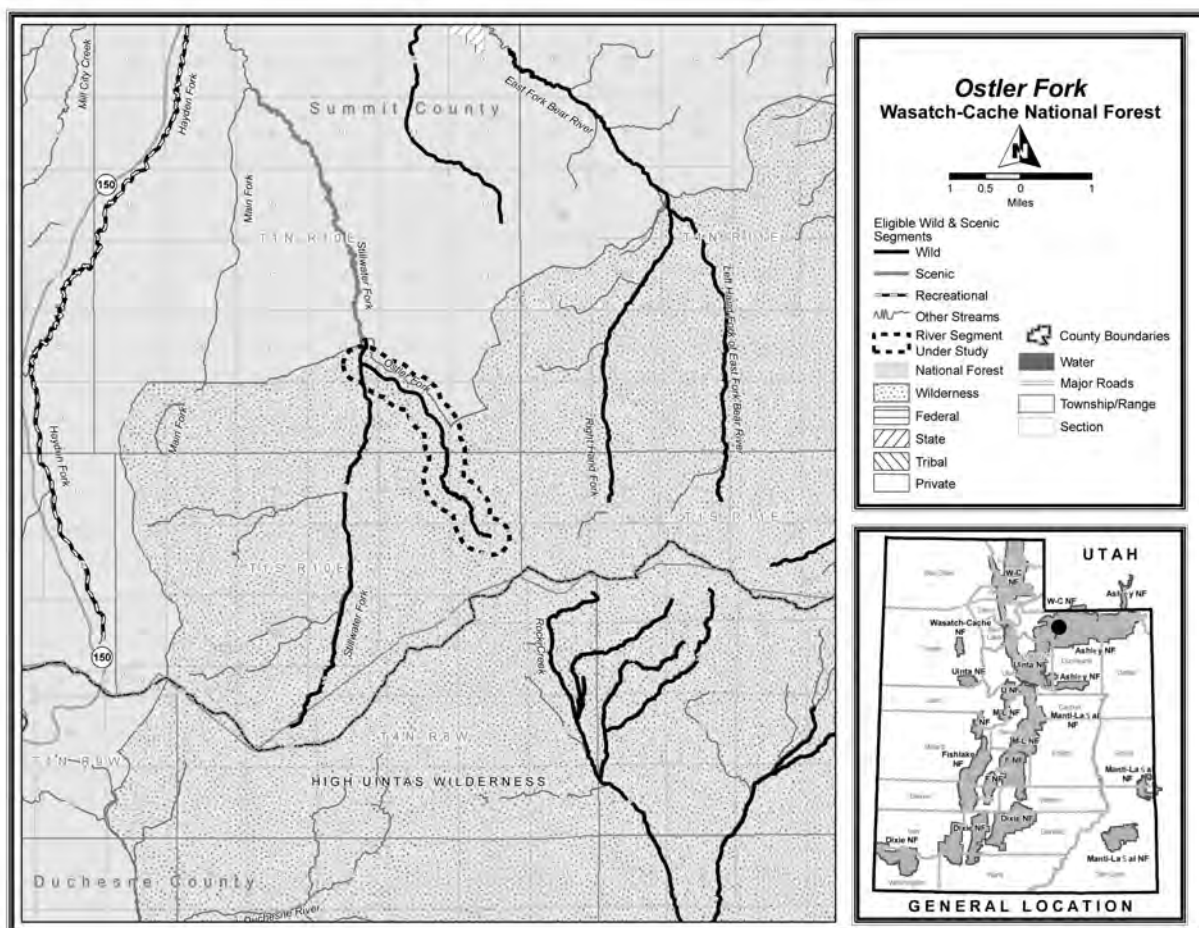
Little Provo Deer Creek is in many ways a typical Wasatch Mountains stream. However, it does have some unusual characteristics that set it apart from other river segments within the State. Cascade Springs is comprised of a relatively large set of perennial springs and cascading limestone pools. Several levels of naturally developed cascading pools with clear spring waters and wetlands, are present and these and the adjoining uplands are inhabited by a wide variety of flora and fauna. The Cascade Springs area is a highly developed recreation use area that includes a boardwalk/paved/graveled trail network that encircles or crosses the Cascade Springs pools, a kiosk/building, and interpretive and educational signs. Educational groups use the springs as a teaching site, and it is a designated wildlife viewing area.

Designation would not affect existing, valid water rights. The shortening of the segment avoids points of water use and diversion. The Utah Department of Natural Resources exercises a water right for about 2 cfs in the Little Provo Deer Creek drainage upstream of this segment, but this does not affect flows or ORVs in Cascade Springs. Due to the large input of water from Cascade Springs (about 50 cfs), this 2 cfs water use has very limited affect on flows and ORVs in Little Provo Deer Creek downstream of the Cascade Springs outflow. Other entities have water rights with designated points of use/diversion downstream of the recommended segment. Designation would not affect use, operation and maintenance access to these as described previously in this ROD and FEIS.

- There are two regionally significant ORVs (Geological/Hydrological and Ecological) that would be protected. The represented ORVs are very unique and not found on other eligible river segments to this degree within the State of Utah. Cascade Springs is a very unique feature comprised of a relatively large set of perennial springs and cascading limestone pools that have unusual geological and hydrologic features for the region of consideration and within the State of Utah. Several levels of naturally developed cascading pools with clear spring waters and wetlands, are present and these and the adjoining uplands are inhabited by a wide variety of flora and fauna. Refer to FEIS, Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports for a complete description of the ORVs.
- The suitable segment does not encompass the entire Little Provo Deer Creek stream system. Cascade Springs is located just west of and about midway down Little Provo Deer Creek. The stream was segmented where outflow from Cascade Springs joins the stream because of this very unusual feature (Cascade Springs), and because the stream upstream of Cascade Springs is substantially smaller, and the stream is impacted by roads and water diversions. The stream was segmented one mile downstream because below this point the stream is impacted by roads and water withdrawals. The selected segment encompasses Cascade Springs and its headwaters, and protects its contribution to this stream system.
- Designation would be compatible with other federal agency wild and scenic river recommendations, complement other national forest management activities, and would potentially stimulate tourism and economic growth. As described above, the recommended segment will not affect any existing, valid water rights and associated operations. The Cascade Springs area is a highly developed recreation use area and Wild and Scenic designation with a Recreational classification would be consistent with the present management. The Cascade Springs Recreation Site is a day-use area that includes a boardwalk/paved/graveled trail network that encircles or crosses the Cascade Springs pools, three restrooms, two paved parking areas, a kiosk/building, several benches, and interpretive and educational signs. The Cascade Springs area adjoins Wasatch Mountain State Park and is located a short distance from Sundance Resort, with visitors from both of these areas now visiting Cascade Springs. It is highly accessible including access by dirt and a paved maintained road, the Cascade Springs Scenic Drive [Forest Road #114], which connects to the Alpine Scenic Backway Loop. If designated, would likely be advertised for these and a slight increase in tourism may result.

- The selected river segment has support from the public, American Rivers, Utah Rivers Council and Center for Biological Diversity. However, Wasatch County Council did not support wild and scenic river designation for the entire 2.6-mile eligible segment of the Little Provo Deer Creek. However, the Council indicated they would understand a suitability decision on one mile in the vicinity of Cascade Springs.

**Summary:** Cascade Springs is a very unusual feature which is unique within the State of Utah. Designation of the Little Provo Deer Creek would stimulate tourism and related economic growth to some extent as well as fulfilling conservation purposes of the Wild and Scenic River Act by protecting and complementing current recreation use in the area that would be further managed with development of a comprehensive river management plan following designation.



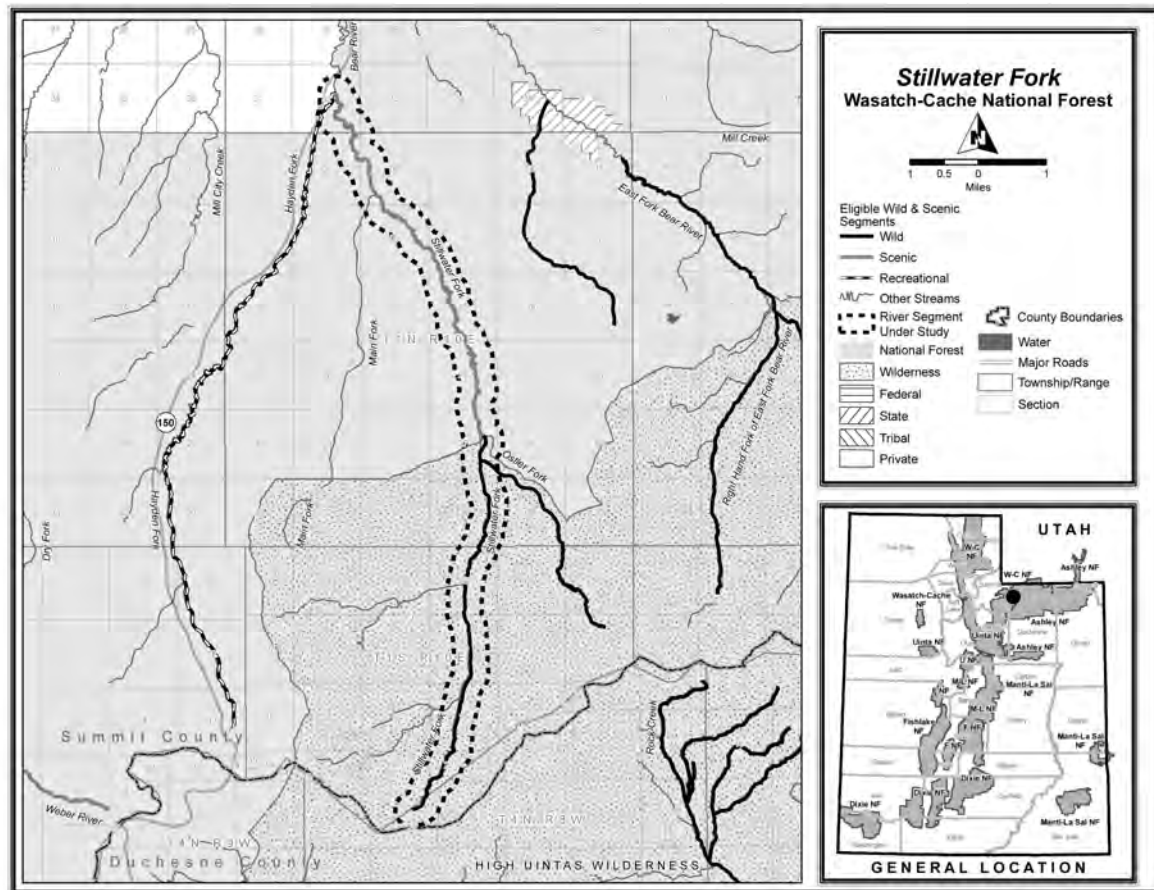
**Ostler Fork: Source to Mouth, Utah.** The 3.7 mile section of Ostler Fork is classified as Wild and is located entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, however some of the  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile stream corridor extends outside of the Wilderness and onto Forest land, beginning at its headwaters (NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sect. 12, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM) and ending at its confluence with Stillwater Fork (SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sect. 27, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM). The segment is located on the Wasatch-Cache portion of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah in Congressional District 1. The river corridor is approximately 1,250 acres.

Ostler Fork extends from its source at Amethyst Lake to its confluence with the Stillwater Fork and flows between the elevations of approximately 10,000 to 9,000 feet. The river originates from intensively glaciated headwaters and traverses through large glacial deposits, dropping rapidly through a bedrock valley.

The following rationale describes Ostler Fork, a tributary to Stillwater Fork:

- Ostler Fork was found to have Ecology as an ORV. Refer to FEIS, Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports for a complete description of the ORV.
- It can be argued that Ostler Fork is very similar to other eligible river segments, and the respective ORVs, on the North Slope of the High Uintas. One distinction of Ostler Fork is its near pristine condition which has been unaffected by non-native species. In other respects this river is very representative of the other eligible rivers and its selection will represent the Ecology ORV typically found on the north slope and will in turn represent those ORVs in the National System. The ecology of the overall area is represented by a diversity of riparian and forest habitat types including wet meadow complexes, dry meadows, willow communities, and heavily sedge covered overhanging streambanks. Adding to this vegetative diversity are mountain brush, aspen, and lodgepole-mixed conifer forests. The Ostler Fork segment, being a different hydrologic stream system adds to the complexity of resource values represented in the overall watershed. The steeper gradient of Ostler Fork, which originates from a high mountain lake, similar to many of the eligible river segments on the North Slope, provides diverse stream bank vegetative habitat along this Wild river segment.
- This river segment contributes to the Upper Bear River Basin integrity.
- This segment is located entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area and substantial protections are already in place. Designation would protect free flow and ORVs and complement the intent of the Wilderness management strategies.
- The selection of Ostler Fork as part of the Upper Bear River watershed was supported by many. It was supported by the Summit County Commissioners. There was no direct opposition to recommending Ostler Fork as suitable.

Summary: The Summary has been combined with Stillwater Fork.



**Stillwater Fork: Source to Mouth, Utah.** This 13.83 mile segment is split into a Wild and Scenic classification. Segment 1 is 6.13 miles (1,952 acres) and is classified as Wild and is located entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area beginning at its headwaters (NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sect. 29, T 4 S, R 8 E, Uintah Meridian and ending at the Wilderness boundary (SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sect. 27, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM). Segment 2 is 7.7 miles (1,760 acres) and is classified as Scenic beginning at the Wilderness boundary (SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sect. 27, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM) and ending at the confluence with Hayden Fork/Bear River (NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sect. 35, T 2 N, R 12 E, SLM). It is located on the Wasatch-Cache portion of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah in Congressional District 1. The river corridor is approximately 3,712 acres.

Stillwater Fork originates from intensively glaciated headlands and alpine settings in the Uinta Mountains and extends to broader floodplains, braided reaches, forests, and meadows at its lower elevations. The stream begins at near 11,000 feet to runs to about 8,500 feet at its lowest elevation. Vegetation in the upper cirque basin is spruce-fir krummholz and alpine meadows. Directly above the wilderness boundary vegetation is characterized by aspen, lodgepole, and some sagebrush openings at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forests at upper elevations. Natural appearing riparian ecosystems at lower elevations are dominated by willows with grass and sedge openings. There are extensive wetlands in the corridor, especially at Christmas Meadows.

The following rationale describes Stillwater Fork:

- The ORVs include Scenery and Ecology for the Stillwater which is the main river segment in the watershed. Refer to FEIS, Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports for a complete description of the ORVs.
- As noted above, this river segment and Ostler Fork are very similar to other eligible river segments, and the respective ORVs, on the North Slope of the High Uintas. Because of this, these two rivers are very representative of the other eligible rivers and their selection will represent the Scenery and Ecology ORVs typically found on the north slope and will in turn represent those ORVs in the National System. The scenery is outstanding in both foreground and landscape settings in the combined Stillwater-Ostler watershed with Christmas Meadows being a highly visible meadow complex and is very accessible to the public near the lower reaches of the Stillwater segment. The ecology of the overall area is represented by a diversity of riparian and forest habitat types including wet meadow complexes, dry meadows, willow communities, and heavily sedge covered overhanging streambanks. Adding to this vegetative diversity are mountain brush, aspen, and lodgepole-mixed conifer forests.
- There are 6.13 miles of Stillwater Fork classified as Wild located within the High Uintas Wilderness Area and substantial protections are already in place. Designation would protect free flow and ORVs and complement the intent of the Wilderness management strategies. There are 7.7 miles classified as Scenic that are located outside of the High Uintas Wilderness Area. Designation would best protect the rivers free-flowing condition and ORVs outside of wilderness.
- The 6 mile portion of the segment that is eligible for Wild recommendation is entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, and has been withdrawn from mineral entry. The 8 mile portion of the river corridor that has a recommended classification of Scenic is in a high oil and gas potential area and there are three active oil and gas leases on the segment. The entire Scenic portion of the segment is in an oil and gas leasing unit. There would be no impact to mining, because the Wild portion of the river located in the Wilderness Area has been withdrawn from entry and the Scenic portion of the river segment would continue to be open to new mineral exploration and oil and gas development. Existing or new locatable mining activity is subject to regulations in 36 CFR part 228 and must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment.
- In the Christmas Meadows area which is located in the mid to lower portion of the Scenic section, there is a summer home area, a campground, trailhead, and dispersed camping. These existing uses are compatible with designating this section as a Scenic river. Following designation by Congress, a comprehensive river management plan would be developed which would help manage recreation in the area and would complement a Scenic designation.
- The selection of the Stillwater Fork was specifically supported by the Summit County Commissioners and others. There was no direct opposition to recommending the Stillwater Fork as suitable.

Summary: The scenery in both foreground and background is outstanding and with Christmas Meadows being a highly visible meadow complex and very accessible to the public near the lower reaches of the Stillwater segment. Designation of Stillwater Fork would best protect the rivers free-flowing condition outside of wilderness. The ecological value of Ostler Fork is its undisturbed setting resulting in a, intact, naturally functioning system. In combination, the values of these two river segments provide a set of qualities that are worthy of national designation. The two river segments also provide watershed integrity which complements the ORVs. Designation of the Stillwater and Ostler will add to enjoyment of this river corridor by recreationists as well as fulfilling conservation purposes of the Wild and Scenic River Act.

Viewing the selection of suitable rivers from watersheds located in the High Uintas, Alternative 7 includes two rivers on the north side (Stillwater Fork and Ostler Fork) and the Uinta River on the south side. In this context, the Uinta mountain range would be well represented with the selection of Alternative 7.

## River Segments Determined Not Suitable for Designation

Seventy-six river segments were found not suitable because they only partially met or did not meet the criteria for selection for Alternative 7. This decision is a final determination that the remaining 76 eligible river segments (732 miles) located on National Forest System lands in Utah, and the portions of Roc Creek located in Colorado and West Fork Smiths Fork located in Wyoming, are not suitable for inclusion in the National System. Interim protection as provided by agency policy or Forest Plan direction on these rivers is removed and these river segments are no longer afforded agency protection as potential wild and scenic rivers. These 76 river segments will continue to be managed by other underlying management direction in each Land and Resource Management Plan. See ROD Table 2 for a description of these segments and the rationale for a not-suitable determination.

**ROD Table 2. River segment information and rationale for segments not recommended as suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (All mileages are approximate).**

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<b>Ashley National Forest</b>				
Middle Main Sheep Creek	5	Recreational	Flaming Gorge	Daggett
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has one regional (Scenic) and two national (Geologic/Hydrologic, Wildlife) ORVs. ORVs and ecological characteristics are not significantly different among eligible Utah streams.</li> <li>Limited contribution to the river system because it does not connect to other eligible segments, and does not include headwaters or tributaries. Only the eligible river corridor would be affected.</li> <li>Almost entirely within existing Sheep Creek Geologic Area which emphasizes management for scenic/geologic values already. Additional protection under WSR is not necessary to maintain ORVs.</li> <li>Designation is consistent with Sheep Creek Geologic Area and Scenic Backway, may increase visitation/tourism. For the most part this would be drive-through visits and would not have significant economic benefits.</li> <li>Not strongly supported or opposed; relatively few comments (formal or informal) compared to other segments on the Ashley NF.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only one of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (presence of one or more national ORVs). Benefits of designation were fairly minor and/or could be met through other means.</p>				
Lower Main Sheep Creek	4	Recreational	Flaming Gorge	Daggett
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has five regional ORVs (Recreational, Geologic/Hydrologic, Fish, Wildlife, Other Similar Values). Kokanee salmon are a unique value at the State level.</li> <li>Limited contribution to the overall river system because this is only the lower section, does not connect to other eligible segments, and does not include headwaters or tributaries. Only the eligible river corridor would be affected.</li> <li>Within Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area (NRA), which provides management direction for recreation and other values contributing to public enjoyment of the NRA. This direction is sufficient to maintain the ORVs.</li> <li>Designation consistent with NRA purpose. Existing tourism values related to kokanee viewing, adjacent Byway and Backway roads, and recreation facilities may be enhanced with designation, but the potential for additional economic benefits is fairly limited given the nature of the river-related activities (mostly drive-through viewing).</li> <li>Not strongly supported or opposed; relatively few comments (formal or informal) compared to other segments on the Ashley NF.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only one of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (multiple regional ORVs, unique contribution at the state level). Benefits of designation were relatively minor and/or could be achieved through other means.</p>				
Carter Creek	16	Scenic	Flaming Gorge	Daggett
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has two regional ORVs (Historic, Cultural). ORVs and ecological characteristics are not significantly different among eligible Utah streams.</li> </ul>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The eligible segment does not include a large portion of the Carter Creek headwaters, which decreases the opportunity to contribute to river system integrity. Only the eligible river corridor would be affected.</li> <li>Occurs in general Forest area and Flaming Gorge NRA; WSR designation would add to protection in general Forest portion. However, the Cultural and Historical ORVs are covered well by laws and policies for archaeological resources.</li> <li>Protection of ORVs is consistent with (and already occurring) under present management.</li> <li>Not strongly supported or opposed; relatively few comments (formal or informal) compared to other segments on the Ashley NF.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment did not strongly meet any of the criteria considered for Alternative 7. Benefits of designation are relatively minor and/or could be achieved through other means.</p>				
Cart Creek Proper	10	Scenic	Flaming Gorge	Daggett
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has one regional ORV (Cultural). ORVs and ecological characteristics are not significantly different among eligible Utah streams.</li> <li>The eligible segment does not include the headwater and tributaries above the Highway 191 crossing, which decreases the opportunity to contribute to river system integrity.</li> <li>Occurs in general Forest area and Flaming Gorge NRA; WSR designation would add to protection in general Forest portion. However the ORV (Cultural) is covered well by laws and policies for archaeological resources.</li> <li>Protection of ORV consistent with (and already occurring) under present management.</li> <li>Not strongly supported or opposed; relatively few comments (formal or informal) compared to other segments on the Ashley NF.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment did not strongly meet any of the criteria considered for Alternative 7. Benefits of designation are relatively minor and/or could be achieved through other means.</p>				
Pipe Creek	6	Scenic	Flaming Gorge	Daggett
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has one regional ORV (Cultural). ORVs and ecological characteristics are not significantly different among eligible Utah streams.</li> <li>The proposed segment includes the majority of the Pipe Creek system, which provides a high opportunity to contribute to system integrity. However it is a fairly small creek and its effect on downstream systems (the Green River) is minor.</li> <li>Occurs in Flaming Gorge NRA; ORV (cultural) is covered well by laws and policies for archaeological resources.</li> <li>Protection of ORV consistent with (and already occurring) under present management.</li> <li>Not strongly supported or opposed; relatively few comments (formal or informal) compared to other segments on the Ashley NF.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only one of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity), and only at a fairly small scale. Other benefits of designation are relatively minor and/or could be achieved through other means.</p>				
Reader Creek	6	Scenic	Vernal	Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has one national (Other Similar Values), four regional (Scenic, Recreational, Geologic/ Hydrologic, Fish), and one less than regional (Wildlife) ORV. ORVs and ecological characteristics are not significantly different among eligible Utah streams.</li> <li>The proposed segment includes the majority of the Reader Creek river system, which is a tributary to the larger Whiterocks River system. Designation would protect Reader Creek in its entirety but have relatively little effect on the larger Whiterocks River unless it were combined with other eligible segments such as Upper Whiterocks, East Fork Whiterocks, Middle Whiterocks, and West Fork Whiterocks.</li> <li>Located in general Forest area. Management for the Fisheries ORV is guided by an existing interagency Conservation Agreement and Strategy. Other ORVs may benefit from management under an integrated, comprehensive river management plan.</li> <li>Consistent with current management emphasis.</li> <li>Often mentioned in comment letters, almost always in conjunction with other Whiterocks segments (not as a stand-alone recommendation). Limited opposition if recommended by itself, considerable opposition if combined with other Whiterocks segments due to potential conflict with future water development and management for water yield to supply downstream uses.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only two of the criteria considered for Alternative 7. Two additional criteria (contribution to system integrity, WSR as best management tool) are only partly met, based on limited geographic scope and adequate existing management direction for the Fisheries ORV. Geographic scope could be expanded if combined with other segments in the Whiterocks system, but the other segments do not strongly meet the other criteria in Alternative 7.</p>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
West Fork Whiterocks River	11	Scenic	Vernal	Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has two regional ORVs (Scenic, Recreation). ORVs and ecological characteristics are not significantly different among eligible Utah streams.</li> <li>The proposed segment includes the majority of the West Fork Whiterocks river system, which is a tributary to the main stem Whiterocks River. Designation would protect West Fork system integrity but have relatively little effect on the larger Whiterocks River unless it were combined with other eligible segments such as Upper Whiterocks, East Fork Whiterocks, Middle Whiterocks, and Reader Creek.</li> <li>Located in general Forest area, could benefit from specific management direction developed under WSR. Scenic and Recreation ORVs are consistent with current management practices which are mostly recreation related.</li> <li>Consistent with current management emphasis.</li> <li>Substantial public support for designation in combination with other segments on the Whiterocks River (not as a stand-alone recommendation); local officials oppose due to potential conflict with future water development and management for water yield to supply downstream uses.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only two of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity, WSR as best management tool), and only to a limited extent given the geographic scope and consistency with current management. Geographic scope could be expanded if combined with other segments in the Whiterocks system, but the other segments do not strongly meet the other factors in Alternative 7.</p>				
Upper Whiterocks River *(Upper and East Fork Whiterocks combined in SER)	4	Scenic	Vernal	Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has two regional ORVs (Scenic, Recreation). ORVs and ecological characteristics are not significantly different among eligible Utah streams.</li> <li>The proposed segment includes a large portion of the Upper Whiterocks river system, but excludes the headwater areas above the reservoir, which were not found eligible. Designation would have minor effects on downstream system integrity unless additional segments in this watershed, such as Reader Creek, East Fork Whiterocks, Middle Whiterocks, and West Fork Whiterocks were also recommended.</li> <li>Occurs in general Forest area, would benefit from additional protection under WSR.</li> <li>Scenic and Recreation ORVs are consistent with majority of existing Management Area prescriptions and activities.</li> <li>Substantial public support for designation in combination with other segments on the Whiterocks River (not as a stand-alone recommendation); local officials oppose due to potential conflict with future water development and management for water yield to supply downstream uses.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only two of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity, WSR as best management tool), and only to a limited extent given the geographic scope, omission of headwaters, and consistency with current management. Geographic scope could be expanded if combined with other segments in the Whiterocks system, but most other segments do not strongly meet other factors in Alternative 7.</p>				
East Fork Whiterocks River *(Upper and East Fork Whiterocks combined in SER)	4	Scenic	Vernal	Uintah & Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has one regional ORV (Scenic). ORVs and ecological characteristics are not significantly different among eligible Utah streams.</li> <li>The proposed segment includes a large portion of the East Fork Whiterocks river system, except for the headwater areas above the reservoir, which were not found eligible. Designation would have minor effects on downstream system integrity unless additional segments in this watershed, such as Reader Creek, Upper Whiterocks, Middle Whiterocks, and West Fork Whiterocks were also recommended.</li> <li>Occurs in general Forest area, would benefit from additional protection under WSR.</li> <li>Scenic ORV is consistent with majority of existing Management Area prescriptions and activities.</li> <li>Substantial public support for designation in combination with other segments on the Whiterocks River (not as a stand-alone recommendation); local officials oppose due to potential conflict with future water development and management for water yield to supply downstream uses.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only two of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity, WSR as best management tool), and only to a limited extent given the geographic scope, omission of headwaters and consistency with current management. Geographic scope could be expanded if combined with other segments in the Whiterocks system, but the other segments do not strongly meet the other factors in Alternative 7.</p>				
Middle Whiterocks River	9	Wild	Vernal	Uintah & Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has one regional ORV (Scenic). ORVs and ecological characteristics are not significantly different</li> </ul>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<p>among eligible Utah streams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The eligible segment does not include the headwaters and tributaries of the river system, which limits its contribution to overall system integrity. Designation would have minor effects on the surrounding river system integrity unless additional segments in this watershed, such as Reader Creek, Upper Whiterocks, East Fork Whiterocks, and West Fork Whiterocks were also recommended.</li> <li>Occurs in general Forest area, would benefit from additional protection under WSR.</li> <li>Most of segment is remote, access is difficult, and there is little active management occurring that would conflict with or impact the Scenic ORV.</li> <li>Substantial public support for designation in combination with other segments on the Whiterocks River (not as a stand-alone recommendation); local officials oppose due to potential conflict with future water development and management for water yield to supply downstream uses.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment did not strongly meet any of the criteria considered for Alternative 7. Benefits of designation were relatively minor due to remote location and difficult access.</p>				
Lower Dry Fork Creek	7	Recreational	Vernal	Uintah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has four regional ORVs (Geologic/Hydrologic, Wildlife, Historic, Cultural).</li> <li>Karst system makes this interesting and unusual among eligible Utah streams.</li> <li>Limited contribution to the overall river system, because this is a lower section in the system and does not include headwaters or tributary drainages. Only the eligible river corridor would be affected.</li> <li>Segment is located in and protected by management practices for a municipal watershed.</li> <li>Current management is compatible with protection of ORVs. Flows onto BLM for a short distance but BLM RMP did not find it suitable.</li> <li>Not strongly supported or opposed; relatively few comments (formal or informal) compared to other segments on the Ashley NF. Does not meet State criterion for perennial flow.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only one of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (multiple regional ORVs, unique contribution at the state level). Benefits of designation are relatively minor and/or could be achieved through other means.</p>				
South Fork Ashley Creek	15	Scenic	Vernal	Uintah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has two regional (Geologic/Hydrologic, Scenic) and one less than regional (Wildlife) ORVs. ORVs and ecological characteristics are not significantly different among eligible Utah streams.</li> <li>The proposed segment includes the entire length of the South Fork of Ashley Creek, which is a tributary to the main stem Ashley Creek. Designation would protect South Fork system integrity and have moderate effect on the integrity of the larger Ashley Creek system. If combined with Ashley Gorge would include the headwaters to forest boundary, and also would encompass all the life zones and ecosystems in the Uinta Mountains, ranging from alpine to high desert.</li> <li>Occurs in general Forest area, would benefit from additional protection under WSR.</li> <li>Current management is compatible with protection of ORVs.</li> <li>Moderate support for designation if entire Ashley Creek system is proposed together. However, it was mentioned less often than other systems in Uintas. Considerable opposition due to potential conflict with future water development and management for water yield to supply downstream uses.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only two of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity, WSR as best management tool).</p>				
Black Canyon	10	Wild	Vernal	Uintah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has one national (Wildlife) and two regional (Scenic, Geologic/Hydrologic) ORVs. ORVs and ecological characteristics are not significantly different among eligible Utah streams</li> <li>The proposed segment includes the majority of the Black Canyon river system, which provides a high opportunity to contribute to system integrity for this stream. It is a tributary to Ashley Creek, and its designation would have relatively little effect on the larger Ashley Creek system unless it were combined with other eligible segments such as Ashley Gorge and South Fork Ashley Creek.</li> <li>Occurs in general Forest area. Due to its remote location and steep topography, there are few management activities occurring in or near the river corridor. Existing management direction is sufficient to maintain ORVs.</li> <li>Current management is compatible with protection of ORVs.</li> <li>Not strongly supported or opposed as a stand-alone recommendation; relatively few comments (formal or informal) compared to other segments on the Ashley NF. Does not meet State criterion for perennial flow (portions are intermittent due to water entering underlying karst systems).</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only two of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (presence of one or more national ORVs, contribution to system integrity). Its contribution to system integrity is limited in scope due to the small size of</p>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
this stream and its location (near the lower end of the Forest Service portion of the Ashley Creek watershed). Benefits of designation are fairly minor and/or could be met through other means.				
Ashley Gorge Creek	10	Wild	Vernal	Uintah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has three national ORVs (Scenic, Geologic/Hydrologic, Other Similar Value) and two regional ORVs (Wildlife, Historic). ORVs and ecological characteristics are not significantly different among eligible Utah streams.</li> <li>The proposed segment does not include the headwaters and tributaries, which lowers overall contribution to river system integrity. Designation would have minor effects on the surrounding river system integrity unless additional segments in this watershed were also recommended. In particular, Ashley Gorge combined with South Fork Ashley would include the headwaters to forest boundary, and would also encompass all the life zones and ecosystems in the Uinta Mountains, ranging from alpine to high desert.</li> <li>Most of this segment occurs in general Forest area, though a short section flows through a Research Natural Area. Given the number and variety of ORVs identified, it could benefit from integrated management plan specific to the river corridor values. However the majority of the segment is within a steep, rugged canyon with limited access, and there is little active management occurring that would conflict with or impact the ORVs.</li> <li>Current management is compatible with protection of ORVs. Flows onto BLM for a short distance but BLM RMP did not find suitable.</li> <li>Moderate support for designation if entire Ashley Creek system is proposed together. It was mentioned less often than some other river systems in Uintas. Considerable opposition due to potential conflict with future water development opportunities upstream of the segment.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only two of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (related to number and significance of ORVs). Also meets management tool factor (WSR as best management tool). However the benefits of designation are fairly minor given the inaccessible nature of the segment and limited potential for management impacts.</p>				
Upper Rock Creek *(Upper Rock Creek and Fall Creek combined in SER)	21	Wild	Duchesne	Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has one regional ORV (Scenic). Other high elevation wilderness streams in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>The eligible segment includes a large portion of the river system (headwaters and tributaries), which provides a high opportunity to contribute to overall river system integrity. The larger scale river system integrity could be improved by considering Upper Rock, Fall Creek, West Fork Rock Creek, and Fish Creek together.</li> <li>Occurs in existing Wilderness, substantial protections already in place.</li> <li>Current management is compatible with and reflects values similar to the ORVs.</li> <li>Not strongly supported or opposed; relatively few comments (formal or informal) compared to other segments on the Ashley NF.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only one of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity); substantial protections already in place.</p>				
Fall Creek *(Upper Rock Creek and Fall Creek combined in SER)	6	Wild	Duchesne	Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has one regional ORV (Scenic). Other high elevation wilderness streams in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>The eligible segment includes a large portion of the river system, which provides a high opportunity to contribute to overall river system integrity. The larger scale river system integrity could be improved by considering Upper Rock, Fall Creek, West Fork Rock Creek, and Fish Creek together.</li> <li>Occurs in existing Wilderness, substantial protections already in place.</li> <li>Current management is compatible with and reflects values similar to the ORVs.</li> <li>Not strongly supported or opposed; relatively few comments (formal or informal) compared to other segments on the Ashley NF.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only one of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity); substantial protections already in place.</p>				
West Fork Rock Creek, including Fish Creek	13	Wild	Duchesne	Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has two regional ORVs (Scenic, Historic). Other high elevation wilderness streams in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>The eligible segment includes a large portion of the river system, which provides a high opportunity to contribute to overall river system integrity. The larger scale river system integrity could be improved by considering Upper Rock, Fall Creek, West Fork Rock Creek, and Fish Creek together.</li> </ul>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurs in existing Wilderness, substantial protections already in place.</li> <li>Current management is compatible with and reflects values similar to the ORVs.</li> <li>Not strongly supported or opposed; relatively few comments (formal or informal) compared to other segments on the Ashley NF.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only one of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity); substantial protections already in place.</p>				
Upper Lake Fork River, including Ottoson and East Basin Creeks *(Upper Lake Fork and Oweep Creek combined in SER)	35	Wild	Duchesne	Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has one regional ORV (Scenic). Other high elevation wilderness streams in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>The eligible segment includes a large portion of the river system (headwaters and tributaries), which provides a high opportunity to contribute to overall river system integrity. The larger scale river system integrity could be improved by considering Upper Lake Fork, East Basin, Ottoson, and Oweep Creek together.</li> <li>Occurs in existing Wilderness, substantial protections already in place.</li> <li>Current management is compatible with and reflects values similar to the ORVs.</li> <li>Not strongly supported or opposed; relatively few comments (formal or informal) compared to other segments on the Ashley NF.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only one of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity); substantial protections already in place.</p>				
Oweep Creek *(Upper Lake Fork and Oweep Creek combined in SER)	20	Wild	Duchesne	Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has one regional ORV (Scenic). Other high elevation wilderness streams in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>The eligible segment includes the majority of the river system (headwaters and tributaries), which provides a high opportunity to contribute to overall river system integrity. The larger scale river system integrity could be improved by considering Upper Lake Fork, East Basin, Ottoson, and Oweep Creek together.</li> <li>Occurs in existing Wilderness, substantial protections already in place.</li> <li>Current management is compatible with and reflects values similar to the ORVs.</li> <li>Not strongly supported or opposed; relatively few comments (formal or informal) compared to other segments on the Ashley NF.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only one of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity); substantial protections already in place.</p>				
Upper Yellowstone Creek, including Milk Creek	33	Wild	Duchesne	Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has two regional ORVs (Scenic, Geologic/Hydrologic), and one less than regional ORV (Wildlife). Other high elevation wilderness streams in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>The eligible segment includes the majority of the river system (headwaters and tributaries), which provides a high opportunity to contribute to overall river system integrity. The larger scale river system integrity could be improved by considering Yellowstone and Garfield Creeks together.</li> <li>Occurs in existing Wilderness, substantial protections already in place.</li> <li>Current management is compatible with and reflects values similar to the ORVs.</li> <li>Substantial public support, relatively little opposition if no conflict with ongoing high lakes stabilization.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets only two of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity, broad support). Substantial protections already in place.</p>				
Garfield Creek	17	Wild	Duchesne	Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has one regional ORV (Cultural). Other high elevation wilderness streams in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>The eligible segment includes the majority of the river system (headwaters and tributaries), which provides a high opportunity to contribute to overall river system integrity. The larger scale river system integrity could be improved by considering Garfield and Yellowstone Creeks together.</li> <li>Occurs in existing Wilderness, substantial protections already in place.</li> <li>Current management is compatible with and reflects values similar to the ORVs.</li> <li>Substantial public support in conjunction with other parts of Yellowstone system, relatively little opposition if no conflict with ongoing high lakes stabilization.</li> </ul>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<p><b>Summary:</b> This segment meets only two of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity, broad support). Substantial protections already in place.</p>				
Shale Creek and Tributaries	10	Wild	Duchesne	Duchesne
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has two regional ORVs (Historic, Cultural). Other high elevation wilderness streams in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>The proposed segments include a large portion of the tributary river system, except for the headwater areas above the reservoirs, which were not found eligible. The larger scale river system integrity could be improved by considering the Shale Creek segments together with the Upper Uinta River segments.</li> <li>Occurs in existing Wilderness, substantial protections already in place.</li> <li>Current management is compatible with and reflects values similar to the ORVs.</li> <li>Substantial public support in conjunction with Upper Uinta River; substantial opposition based on existing water storage and delivery systems.</li> </ul> <p><b>Summary:</b> This segment partially meets only one of the criteria considered for Alternative 7 (contribution to system integrity). Contribution is limited by existing man-made facilities and omission of headwaters. Substantial protections already in place.</p>				
<b>Dixie National Forest</b>				
East Fork Boulder Creek	3	Wild	Escalante	Garfield
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Scenic, Recreational, and Fish ORVs. The creek is regionally known as a highly productive Colorado River cutthroat trout and brook trout fishery. The predominant recreational uses in this area are hiking, recreational fishing and hunting.</li> <li>It is one of the tributaries identified in the GSENM plan that contributes significantly to the flow of the Escalante River. As a perennial stream it provides flow consistently to the system.</li> <li>The river corridor is entirely located in the Boulder Mountain/Boulder Top/Deer Lake Roadless Area (1999 Roadless Areas). Designation of this segment would compliment and enhance the intent of this management strategy.</li> <li>The segment was found suitable on BLM lands (Lower Boulder Creek) downstream from forest sections. A Forest Service finding of suitability would be compatible with BLM determinations. Designation could stimulate additional tourism and related economic growth, although much of this impact has probably already occurred with the designation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.</li> <li>Both positive and negative sentiment has been expressed towards a finding of suitability for this river segment. Local government officials and many public participants do not support the designation of this river segment. Various public groups and local residents have expressed an interest in this river segment being designated.</li> </ul> <p><b>Summary:</b> The ORVs are regionally significant, but do not necessary represent the "best in the nation." It is one of quite a few river segments in the state that is managed to help Colorado Cutthroat Trout. While this value is unique and exemplary, it is not necessarily the most valuable in the State. Conservation Agreements already in place provide protection and management tools for managing the existing ORVs. While there was both support and opposition for this segment expressed during the Statewide process there are some significant competing resource values for lands and water in the river corridor. Forest plan management and the conservation agreement can continue to provide values to the broader Escalante River System even without the segment being found suitable. Benefits of designation could be met through other means.</p>				
Moody Wash	5	Wild	Pine Valley	Washing-ton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Ecological, Geological/Hydrological, and Fish ORVs. Moody Wash is a semi-arid desert stream system that is very closely connected to and dependant upon a shallow alluvial groundwater table. Unlike the majority of similar systems in southwest Utah and the southwest U.S. that have been impacted by development, groundwater pumping, channel modifications, and invasive species such as tamarisk, Moody Wash is still a fully functioning semi-arid desert stream system. Moody Wash supports healthy, self-sustaining populations of native wildlife, including State of Utah sensitive species, and diverse, resilient riparian plant communities. Moody Wash is considered a very important refuge area for Virgin spinedace (<i>Lepidomeda mollispinis mollispinis</i>), a state sensitive species, in the Virgin River Basin. It is the only tributary to the Santa Clara River that has its historic range intact and occupied. During annual periods of high flow spinedace are connected throughout the drainage; in periods of low flow spinedace recede to upper areas of perennial flow as refugia habitat. The population of Virgin spinedace in Moody Wash is a self-sustaining, breeding population, and is considered an important population that could be used to restock other areas Moody Wash also contains desert sucker (<i>Catostomus clarkia</i>), also a state sensitive species list, speckled dace (<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i>), and habitat for the Arizona toad (<i>Bufo microscaphus</i>) (also called southwestern toad), another state sensitive species.</li> </ul>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Virgin River Water Basin is very large and Moody Wash does not contribute much water to the basin. It is a unique area in the basin because of the volcanic geology, but isn't likely critical to basin integrity.</li> <li>The Moody Wash river corridor is entirely located in the Dixie National Forest's Moody Wash Roadless Area (1999 Roadless Areas). Designation of this segment would compliment and enhance the intent of this management strategy.</li> <li>Moody Wash below the Forest Service boundary has not been found suitable by BLM. Designation would not likely stimulate additional tourism and related economic growth because the values that would be protected are not recreational or scenic.</li> <li>Both positive and negative sentiment has been expressed towards a finding of suitability for this river segment. Local government officials and many public participants do not support the designation of this river segment. Various public groups and local residents have expressed an interest in this river segment being designated.</li> <li>A Conservation Agreement exists to address the Virgin River Spinedace in this area. The Forest and other partners are working on conservation for the unique values of Moody Wash through the Virgin River Program.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The ORVs would likely contribute to the National System because these values are under threat throughout the Desert Southwest. Moody Wash is also relatively unique in the State of Utah. Management for some of the ORVs identified are protected through existing conservation agreements. These agreements and the Virgin River Program provide ample protection and focus for some of these values. Additionally, the potentially competing resource uses in the river corridor would benefit from flexible management that can be adapted to changing resource conditions and needs. The Dixie National Forest has been accepted as a partner to the Virgin River Program on a trial basis and the forest will work with partners to enhance management for Moody Wash. It is anticipated that this approach may provide a better set of management tools for managing the unique values of Moody Wash. Moody Wash is an important refuge for Virgin River system biodiversity, but it is currently cut off from the rest of the system by a utility corridor. Therefore, it doesn't contribute much to the river system's integrity.</p>				
Slickrock Canyon – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	2	Wild	Fremont River	Garfield
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has multiple ORVs including Scenic, Recreational, Cultural, and Ecological.</li> <li>The stream is intermittent, recreational use is currently very low, with little expected increase. The stream is an inherently scenic landscape.</li> <li>The ecological values are adequately protected by existing Forest Plan direction.</li> <li>This segment of river does not appear to contribute significantly to larger intact river system.</li> <li>No roads exist in the area. Due to its physical canyon setting, lack of roads or extractive resource management activities occurring in or near the river corridor, existing management direction is sufficient to maintain ORVs.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> Benefits of designation were relatively minor and/or could be achieved through other means.</p>				
Cottonwood Canyon – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	6	Wild	Fremont River	Garfield
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has multiple ORVs including Scenic, Recreational, and Cultural.</li> <li>The recreational use is currently very low, with little expected increase. The stream is an inherently scenic landscape.</li> <li>No roads exist in the area. No roads or extractive resource management activities that could be an impact on the ORVs are planned, nor seem likely in the future.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> Benefits of designation were relatively minor due to relative inaccessibility and no competing resource projects.</p>				
The Gulch – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	2	Recreational	Fremont River	Garfield
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has multiple ORVs including Scenic, Recreational, and Cultural.</li> <li>The recreational use is currently low, with easy motorized access by the Burr Trail. The stream is an inherently scenic landscape. Like so much of the surrounding landscape the area has been used intermittently by Native Americans and pioneers, but significant sites, or artifacts have not been identified specific to this river segment.</li> <li>No extractive resource management activities that could be an impact on the ORVs are planned, nor seem likely in the future.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> Benefits of designation were relatively minor due to no competing resource projects.</p>				
Steep Creek – (Located on Dixie NF, but administered by Fishlake NF)	7	Wild	Fremont River	Garfield
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment has multiple ORVs including Scenic, Recreational, and Ecological.</li> <li>The recreational use is currently very low, with little expected increase. The stream is an inherently scenic</li> </ul>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
landscape. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ecological values are adequately protected by existing LRMP.</li> <li>No roads exist in the area and no extractive resource management activities that could be an impact on the ORVs are planned, nor seem likely in the future.</li> </ul> <u>Summary:</u> Benefits of designation were relatively minor due to relative inaccessibility and no competing resource projects.				
<b>Fishlake National Forest</b>				
Salina Creek	7	Wild	Richfield	Sevier
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designation is not needed to protect the single remarkable value of Recreation provided by the present fishery.</li> <li>Access to this river segment is limited to FDR #600 at the bottom end, or ½ to ¾ of a mile cross country travel off of several Forest Service Trails. While the river has a desirable fishing opportunity, access that facilitates its full development is limited.</li> <li>No roads exist in the area, none are planned, and no extractive resource management activities that could be an impact on the ORVs are planned nor seem likely in the future.</li> <li>There are several streams on the Fishlake National Forest that offer a recreation opportunity for high quality trout fishing for native as well as non-native trout. Streams were not found eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system based solely on the single ORV of recreational fishing because such streams are relatively common. Certainly a high quality fishery is a noteworthy consideration at the State level; however, to be noteworthy at a National level more than a recreational fishery ORV should be present.</li> <li>Local County government is not supportive of designation.</li> </ul> <u>Summary:</u> Benefits of designation were relatively minor due to relative inaccessibility and no competing resource projects.				
Corn Creek	2	Scenic	Fillmore	Millard
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designation is not needed to protect the single remarkable value of a Recreation, provided by the present fishery.</li> <li>The segment is accessed by existing trails and receives high recreation use as a fishery of native trout in a semi-primitive setting. The use of this river segment is often associated with the Forest Service Adelaide Campground. Below the identified segment there is high enough level of motorized use that the fishing experience is altered. Above the segment there is not enough water to sustain a fishery.</li> <li>The segment is small and very isolated from other water resources that could contribute to its river system integrity.</li> <li>No additional developments that could be an impact on the single ORV are foreseen.</li> <li>There is direction in the existing Forest Plan that provides protection for the remarkable value.</li> <li>There are several streams on the Fishlake National Forest that offer a recreation opportunity for high quality trout fishing for native as well as non-native trout. Streams were not found eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system based solely on the single ORV of recreational fishing because such streams are relatively common. Certainly a high quality fishery is a noteworthy consideration at the State level; however, to be noteworthy at a National level more than a recreational fishery ORV should be present.</li> <li>Local County government is not supportive of designation.</li> </ul> <u>Summary:</u> Benefits of designation were relatively minor and/or could be achieved through other means.				
Pine Creek / Bullion Falls	4	Wild	Beaver	Piute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designation is not needed to protect the ORVs of a Native Fisheries and Wildlife/Ecology.</li> <li>This is a relatively short headwaters segment and it is isolated from other river segments which lowers overall contribution to river system integrity. If it were connected to other segments its ORVs would be greater.</li> <li>No roads exist in the area, none are planned, and no extractive resource management activities that could be an impact on the ORVs are planned nor seem likely in the future.</li> <li>There is direction in the existing LRMP that provides protection for the remarkable values, specifically in the form of a designated Research Natural Area.</li> <li>Local County government is not supportive of designation.</li> </ul> <u>Summary:</u> Benefits of designation were relatively minor and/or could be achieved through other means.				
Manning Creek	4	Wild	Richfield	Piute
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designation is not needed to protect the ORV of Native Fisheries.</li> <li>This is a relative short segment isolated from other water resources which lowers overall contribution to river system integrity.</li> <li>The river segment above is influenced by a reservoir, and is easily accessed with motor vehicles. Below the 3.8</li> </ul>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<p>mile river segment the river segment is accessible by ATVs and larger motor vehicles. The specific river segment is sandwiched between motorized access to the top and bottom of the river.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment is in a rugged and remote canyon dominated by natural processes. Given the physical canyon setting no roads or extractive resource management activities that could be an impact on the ORVs are planned, nor seem likely in the future.</li> <li>The State of Utah owns a water right that supports instream flow.</li> <li>There is direction in the existing Forest Plan to provide protection for the remarkable value.</li> <li>There are several streams on the Fishlake National Forest that offer a recreation opportunity for high quality trout fishing for native as well as non-native trout. Streams were not found eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River system based solely on the single ORV of recreational fishing because such streams are relatively common. Certainly a high quality fishery is a noteworthy consideration at the State level; however, to be noteworthy at a National level more than a recreational fishery ORV should be present.</li> <li>Local County government is not supportive of designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> Benefits of designation were relatively minor and/or could be achieved through other means.</p>				
<b>Manti-La Sal National Forest</b>				
Miners Basin (Placer Creek)	2	Recreational	Moab	Grand
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Historic ORV is well represented in the National River System.</li> <li>There are several remaining structures of the old mining town but these structures are not within the management abilities of the Forest. The historic structures that require protection are owned by the claimants whose mining claims remain active. Wild and Scenic River designation would not change ownership.</li> <li>The segment is very small. The segment itself is a result of mining activity.</li> <li>This is a small segment and does not connect to any other federal agency recommendation. Tourism exists in the Moab area and there are currently a number of people visiting Miners Basin. It is not, however, a primary draw to the area.</li> <li>This segment does not generate enthusiasm either for or against designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment does not meet any of the criteria considered for Alternative 7. The ORV cannot be protected by the Forest Service.</p>				
Mill Creek Gorge	3	Wild	Moab	San Juan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Scenic, Geologic/ Hydrologic, and Other Similar Values. This segment has a unique setting and geology as compared to other nationally designated segments. There are several other segments with similar values in the study.</li> <li>This segment is only a small piece of a larger system, with a low contribution to river system integrity.</li> <li>Segment is in an RNA and Semi-Primitive Recreation emphasis area.</li> <li>There is private land and BLM land across the Forest boundary with development. The BLM did not find their segment of Mill Creek Gorge suitable under their preferred alternative. A Forest Service finding of suitability would be compatible with BLM determinations.</li> <li>The segment is in San Juan County but drains into Grand County. San Juan County's plan does not support designation. Grand County is neutral. Other interest groups are supportive.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment does not meet any of the criteria considered for Alternative 7.</p>				
Roc Creek	9	Wild	Moab	San Juan & Montrose (Colorado)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Scenic and Geologic/ Hydrologic. This segment has a unique setting and geology as compared to other nationally designated segments. There are other eligible segments identified in this study with similar values that are significant within the State.</li> <li>This segment is a small tributary of the Dolores River and headwaters begin in private property and cuts through private property before reaching the Dolores.</li> <li>This segment is in a Roadless Area and in a semi-primitive recreation emphasis area.</li> <li>The headwaters are both state and private lands. As the segment leaves the forest the water is used for agriculture and culinary purposes. There is no connection to other federal lands. The canyon is very steep and difficult to access. Visitation would be difficult. Due to its steep topography and difficult access, existing management direction is sufficient to maintain ORVs.</li> <li>Very few comments on this segment. No demonstrated commitment from publics.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment does not meet most of the criteria developed for Alternative 7. Both the headwaters and downstream segments are privately managed. The segment on National Forest System Lands is located in a deep</p>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
canyon that is currently in a semi-primitive recreation area. Benefits of designation were relatively minor due to relative inaccessibility and visitation would be limited.				
Huntington Creek	19	Recreational	Ferron/Price	Emery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Scenic and Recreational, but they are well represented nationally and by other segments in this study.</li> <li>Both upper and lower impoundments segment this river.</li> <li>The Forest Plan provides adequate protection to maintain the river corridor's free-flowing character, water quality, and ORVs. This river corridor, historically known as an energy corridor, has required flexibility in the use and manipulation of water. Designation would not allow the flexibility necessary to maintain industrial, agricultural, or local economies.</li> <li>There are no recommended suitable segments downstream on other agency lands. Recreation and tourism are currently high as the National Scenic Byway has promoted this corridor for approximately 10 years. Economic benefits and growth would most probably be slowed to some extent.</li> <li>Comments from energy/power companies, locals and local government, and state government are unanimous in opposition. Other groups and publics outside Emery County support designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment does not meet any of the criteria considered for Alternative 7.</p>				
Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek	21	Scenic - Upper Fish Creek and Lower Gooseberry (17.05 Miles); Recreational – Fish Creek (3.6 miles)	Ferron/ Price	Carbon, Sanpete & Utah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Wildlife ORV is represented nationally.</li> <li>Segment contains the largest population of Willow Flycatchers known in the state and is an outstanding example of good riparian management.</li> <li>The segment has an intact hydrological system.</li> <li>Other important uses would not be available with designation. It is located in a semi-primitive non-motorized recreation area.</li> <li>There are no other recommendations for designation from other federal agencies below Schofield Reservoir.</li> <li>There is strong opposition from Sanpete County and its residents, the State and the congressional delegation. There is support for designation from the Carbon County Commission and some local residents. Other groups and publics outside Sanpete County also strongly support designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment does not meet most of the criteria developed for Alternative 7. Designation is extremely contentious. There is no support from State and Sanpete County local government representatives or from the majority of national congressional delegates for inclusion of these segments in the WSR System. Carbon County government, interest groups and individuals living outside either Carbon or Sanpete Counties support designation. The ability to manipulate surroundings for water production and transport dramatically affects the economies of both counties as well as the quality of life experienced by citizens. The protection afforded this drainage by inclusion in a semi-primitive recreation area, adequately protects the value and flows of this segment.</p>				
Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek	5	Scenic	Ferron/Price	Emery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Scenic ORV is represented nationally and in the statewide study.</li> <li>Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek flows through multiple reservoirs. The contribution to Huntington Creek is approximately two-thirds of the flow but is regulated by the reservoirs.</li> <li>The segment is located in a semi-primitive non-motorized recreation area and in an Inventoried Roadless Area.</li> <li>The Forest Plan provides adequate protection to maintain the river corridor's free-flowing character, water quality, and ORVs. This drainage has historically been known as an energy corridor and has required flexibility in the use, storage, and manipulation of water. Designation would not allow the flexibility necessary to maintain industrial, agricultural, or local economies.</li> <li>The congressional delegation, state, local government, energy companies and residents do not support designation. Other groups and publics outside of Emery County support designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment does not meet any of the criteria considered for Alternative 7.</p>				
Hammond Canyon	10	Scenic	Monticello	San Juan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Scenic, Geology and Cultural ORVs are unique in the national system and in the statewide suitability study.</li> <li>The segment is a very small portion of the watershed.</li> <li>The current Forest Plan is consistent with designation. The Cultural ORV is protected well by laws and policies</li> </ul>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<p>for archaeological resources. The segment is in an Inventoried Roadless Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are no connecting segments on other federal lands under consideration for designation. If tourism were to generate visitation additional law enforcement would be required to protect cultural resources.</li> <li>State law does not support designation and county government and local citizens do not support designation. Other groups and publics outside the county support designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment does not meet most of the criteria developed for Alternative 7. The segment occupies a small portion of the watershed and is not connected to any other segments under consideration. Existing laws provide protection for the archaeological values, and the segment lies within an Inventoried Roadless Area; adequate protection currently exists.</p>				
Chippean and Allen Canyons	21	Scenic: Chippean Canyon (2.6 miles); Recreational: Allen Canyon (19 miles)	Monticello	San Juan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Cultural.</li> <li>Chippean and Allen are very small tributaries to Cottonwood Creek.</li> <li>The Cultural ORV is protected well by laws and policies for archaeological resources. Chippean and a portion of Allen Canyon is within an Inventoried Roadless Area.</li> <li>There are no federally connected eligible or suitable river segments on other federal land connecting with this segment.</li> <li>San Juan County and the majority of residents strongly oppose designating this segment. Other groups support designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment does not meet any of the criteria considered for Alternative 7. Benefits of designation were relatively minor due to the Cultural ORV is currently protected by existing laws.</p>				
Upper Dark, Horse Pasture, Peavine & Kigalia Canyons in Upper Dark Canyon	26	Recreational	Monticello	San Juan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Geologic and Cultural which offer high potential for scientific research. Cultural resources and geology are significantly different in the state.</li> <li>Contains the entire upper watershed of Dark Canyon and would contribute to the basin integrity.</li> <li>The values within the Dark Canyon Wilderness are protected by existing laws and designation. The remaining segment is within a Roadless Area and semi-primitive recreation area.</li> <li>The BLM did not extend their suitable segment to the Forest boundary and has not yet signed their plan. It is unlikely tourism would increase beyond its current growth. The segment is within the Dark Canyon Wilderness and has an elevated status as a result and substantial protections are already in place.</li> <li>County government and local residents do not support designation. Designation would be contrary to Utah State law states that water must be flowing at all times. Other groups and publics outside San Juan County support designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets half of the criteria considered for Alternative 7. Benefits of designation were relatively minor because the values are protected by existing laws. These segments lie within the Dark Canyon Wilderness, an Inventoried Roadless Area, or semi-primitive recreation area (as identified in the Forest Plan). The BLM portion of Dark Canyon begins at Youngs Canyon, below the Forest boundary.</p>				
Lower Dark Canyon, including Poison Canyon, Deadman Canyon, and Woodenshoe and Cherry Canyons	41	Wild	Monticello	San Juan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Cultural, but is important nationally and has high research potential.</li> <li>Segment has one ORV and is represented in other statewide study segments.</li> <li>Segment would contribute to the basin integrity. Segment contains the entire upper watershed of Woodenshoe Canyon and a portion of Dark Canyon.</li> <li>Segment is within a designated Wilderness Area and a Roadless Area.</li> <li>The BLM did not extend their suitable segment to the Forest boundary and had not yet signed their plan. It is unlikely tourism would increase beyond its current growth. The segment is within the Dark Canyon Wilderness and has an elevated status as a result and substantial protections are already in place.</li> <li>County government and local residents do not support designation. Designation would be contrary to state law states that water must be flowing at all times. Other groups and publics outside San Juan County support designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment does not meet most of the criteria developed for Alternative 7. Benefits of designation were relatively minor because the Cultural ORV is protected by existing laws. These segments lie within the Dark Canyon</p>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
Wilderness, an Inventoried Roadless Area. The BLM portion of Dark Canyon begins at Youngs Canyon, below the Forest boundary.				
<b>Uinta Portion of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest</b>				
North Fork, Provo River	1	Wild within Wilderness; Recreational below Wilderness	Pleasant Grove	Utah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Scenic, which is represented nationally and in the statewide study.</li> <li>This segment is only a small tributary of the much larger Provo River, and does not connect to any other federal agency recommendation. The segment has an intact hydrological system.</li> <li>The Provo River watershed contributes to the water system that feeds the Salt Lake Metropolitan water system providing water to parts of Utah and Salt Lake Valleys. The water feeding the system is monitored very closely for water quality. Designation of these segments would not change the short- or long-term management. There are no activities planned for this area due to the existing developments and the Wilderness designation. The legislated wilderness management requirements and the Forest Plan will protect these segments from activities that would degrade the ORVs that were recognized.</li> <li>There are no connecting segments on other federal lands under consideration for designation. It is doubtful that the designation of this river would complement or enhance the agencies wild and scenic river inventory. The area is used extensively. The river segment is located in the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness Area and is adequately protected with Wilderness Management guidelines, the addition of Wild and Scenic designation isn't needed for additional protection.</li> <li>The public seemed to have indifferences as to the inclusion or exclusion of these segments of stream, since they really did not seem to add a significant or unique value to the system. Utah County, BYU Aspen Grove, and North Fork Special District do not support designation. Utah Rivers Council and two public comments on DEIS supported designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> Segment 1—Recreational: The portion of the river that lies outside of the wilderness classified as Recreational is ephemeral in nature. There are many rivers in the state that have this type of characteristics and are watered year round. This segment of the river would not add anything significant to the inventory of the wild and scenic river system. Management of this section of river is not expected to change because of its location in and adjacent to the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness, Theater-in-the-Pines Group Site, Alpine Loop Scenic Backway, and Mt. Timpanogos Campground and Mt. Timpanogos Trail. Segment 2—Wild: The portion of the stream within the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness is eligible as a Wild river. This segment of river would not add anything significant to the inventory of the wild and scenic river system. Because of its location within Wilderness, the scenery ORV here would be protected by existing laws, regulations, and Forest Plan direction regardless of classification.</p>				
South Fork, American Fork River	1	Wild within Wilderness; Recreational below Wilderness	Pleasant Grove	Utah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Scenic, which is represented nationally and in the statewide study.</li> <li>The South Fork American Fork is only a small tributary of the much larger American Fork River, and the South Fork does not connect to any other federal agency recommendation. The segment has an intact hydrological system.</li> <li>American Fork River supplies irrigation systems in Utah Valley. Designation of these segments would not change the short- or long-term management. There are no activities planned for this area due to the existing developments and the Wilderness designation. The legislated wilderness management requirements and the Forest Plan will protect these segments from activities that would degrade the ORVs that were recognized.</li> <li>There are no connecting segments on other federal lands under consideration for designation. It is doubtful that the designation of this river would complement or enhance the agencies wild and scenic river inventory. The area is used extensively. A portion of the river segment is located in the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness Area and is adequately protected with Wilderness Management guidelines, the addition of Wild and Scenic designation isn't needed for additional protection.</li> <li>The public seemed to have indifferences as to the inclusion or exclusion of these segments of stream.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> In the Recreational portion of the segment (Segment 1) the portion of the river that lies outside of the wilderness runs through the Timpooneke Campground would not add anything significant to the inventory of the wild and scenic river system. Management of this section of river is not expected to change because of its location within the campground and adjacency to the Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness. The portion of the segment (Segment 2) within the Wilderness that is eligible as a Wild river, would not add anything significant to the inventory of the National Wild and Scenic River System. Because of its location within Wilderness, the scenery ORV here would be protected by</p>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
existing laws, regulations, and Forest Plan direction regardless of classification.				
Fifth Water Creek	8	Scenic	Spanish Fork	Utah
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Recreational which is represented nationally and in the statewide study.</li> <li>Fifth Water Creek is a 7.8-mile long tributary of Sixth Water Creek, a tributary of Diamond Fork Creek and the Spanish Fork River. The segment does not connect to any other federal agency recommendation. The segment has an intact hydrological system, though an emergency overflow/system maintenance outlet from Central Utah Project water development facilities is located within the watershed and could occasionally substantially augment flows in the stream.</li> <li>The primary management prescription adjacent to the corridor is 6.1 Non-forested Ecosystem, and much of the corridor is within Inventoried Roadless Areas. While the river segment is a popular hiking, horseback riding, and open to motorcycles on the upper half, the primary interest is the protection of the hot springs within the creek corridor. Except for the popularity of the hot springs, this segment would not receive very much notoriety. The area surrounding Fifth Water is currently under an oil and gas lease, and within a grazing allotment. Designation would not be the best tool for management of this river segment. The area would still be protected under the requirements of the Federal Laws, rules and regulations; the 2003 LMRP standards and guidelines; the fact that there are no opportunities within the corridor for any timber management activities; and the steep, rugged terrain would constrain any possibilities of developing any oil and gas facilities adjacent to this popular area.</li> <li>The Bureau of Reclamation and the Central Utah Water Conservancy District are concerned that classification would forgo any opportunities to construct any water developments to meet the future demands of water users within the Wasatch front; specifically in Utah County. The Bureau of Reclamation and Department of Interior Central Utah Project Office do not support the designation of Fifth Water Creek segment based on concerns that designation could have negative effects on their ability to access and maintain existing water development facilities and power transmission lines in the river corridor. The State of Utah does not support designation of this river segment. Utah County feels designation is not needed to protect this segment, others disagree.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> Recreational ORVs are well represented in the national system, and in the Statewide study. Designation of this section is not supported by local governments, and some area users. The primary attraction to this segment, the hot pots, can be protected under existing policy and Forest Plan direction.</p>				
Little Provo Deer Creek	2	Recreational	Spanish Fork	Wasatch
<p>Originally, 2.6 miles of the Little Provo Deer Creek were found eligible. However, as described previously in this ROD, only the upper 1 mile of the eligible segment (located where outflow from Cascade Springs joins the stream) is being recommended as suitable for designation because: Cascade Springs is an unusual feature, has a very unique geological/hydrological/ecological feature for the State, and because flows from Cascade Springs substantially increase the volume of stream flow at this point, and the stream upstream is impacted by roads and water diversions. Therefore, it was recommended that Alternative 7 only include the portion of the segment that is most directly influenced by Cascade Springs - that being the portion upstream to the forest boundary and that portion down stream to the recreation dispersed site. The lower 1.6 miles of the segment were not included in Alternative 7 and was not recommended as suitable.</p> <p>The following information describes this 1.6 miles which is not being recommended as suitable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Geological/Hydrological, and Ecological which are not underrepresented in the National System, and evidence of those values within this 1.6-mile reach are not significant within the Utah National Forests that are being studied. The geological/hydrological and ecological ORVS within the statewide study are represented by the portion of Little Provo Deer Creek being recommended for designation.</li> <li>Segment is part of the Provo River watershed which contributes to the water system that feeds the Salt Lake Metropolitan water system providing water to Salt Lake Valley. The water feeding the system is monitored very closely for water quality. The management from the National Forest through the Forest plan will protect this segment from activities that would degrade the ORVs that were recognized in this segment for consideration.</li> <li>Designation of this Segment would not change the short- or long-term management.</li> <li>It is doubtful that the designation of this segment would complement or enhance the agencies wild and scenic river inventory.</li> <li>The public seemed to have indifferences as to the inclusion or exclusion of this portion of Lower Provo Deer Creek. Wasatch County Commissioners questioned the inclusion of this area since it did not seem to add a significant or unique value to the system.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This portion of Lower Provo Deer Creek does not possess any features or values not better represented in the recommended section of Little Provo Deer Creek. This portion of Little Provo Deer Creek is more heavily impacted by roads, and designation would have more potential to impact nearby water uses. In addition, for the most</p>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
part only the stream and one side of the corridor for this reach is located on National Forest System lands. Management of this section is not expected to change because of its location.				
<b>Wasatch-Cache portion of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest</b>				
Henry's Fork: Henry's Fork Lake to Trailhead	8	Wild	Mountain View	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, and Ecology.</li> <li>Contributes to the upper basin integrity of the Henry's Fork Drainage.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation. All but a small amount of this segment is in existing Wilderness and substantial protections for ORVs are already in place</li> <li>Complements wilderness management.</li> <li>Support by some public but not local interests.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The Henry's Fork segment was not selected as suitable because the ORVs it possesses are best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. In addition, all but a small amount of this segment is in existing Wilderness and substantial protections for its ORVs are already in place. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
West Fork Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	10	Wild within Wilderness (4.6 Mi.); Scenic below Wilderness (5.5 Mi.)	Mountain View	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Wildlife and Ecology. Other high elevation rivers in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>Contributes to basin integrity only if other segments in the Beaver Creek Drainage were also found suitable.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation.</li> <li>Complements wilderness management.</li> <li>Concern about private lands.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The West Fork Beaver Creek segment was not selected as suitable because the ORVs it possesses are best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. In addition, a portion of this segment is in existing Wilderness where substantial protections for its ORVs are already in place. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
Middle Fork Beaver Creek: Beaver Lake to Confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek	11	Wild within Wilderness (6.9 Mi.); Scenic below Wilderness (4.2 Mi.)	Mountain View	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Wildlife and Ecology. Other high elevation rivers in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>Contributes to basin integrity only if other segments in Beaver Creek Drainage were also found suitable.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation.</li> <li>Complements wilderness management.</li> <li>Concern about private lands.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The Middle Fork Beaver Creek segment was not selected as suitable because the ORVs it possesses are best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. In addition, a portion of this segment is in existing Wilderness where substantial protections for its ORVs are already in place. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
Thompson Creek: Source to Hoop Lake Diversion	5	Wild	Mountain View	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Wildlife. Other high elevation wilderness rivers in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>Complements wilderness management.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation. This segment is in existing Wilderness, and substantial protections for ORVs are already in place.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> Thompson Creek segment was not selected as suitable because the ORV it possesses is best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. In addition, this segment is in existing Wilderness where substantial protection for its ORV is already in place. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
West Fork Blacks Fork: Source to Trailhead	12	Wild within	Mountain View	Summit

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
		Wilderness (8 Mi.); Scenic below Wilderness (3 Mi.)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains two ORVs including Scenic and Ecology. Other high elevation rivers in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>Contributes to the upper Black's Fork basin integrity only if other segments in Blacks Fork drainage were also found suitable.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation. Most of this segment is in existing Wilderness.</li> <li>Complements wilderness management.</li> <li>Some publics are concerned about ability to manage timber resources and livestock use.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The West Fork Blacks Fork segment was not selected as suitable because the ORVs it possesses are best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. In addition, a portion of this segment is in existing Wilderness where substantial protections for its ORVs are already in place. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
East Fork Blacks Fork: Headwaters to confluence with Little East Fork	10	Wild	Evanston	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Ecology. Other high elevation wilderness rivers in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>Contributes to the upper Black's Fork basin integrity only if other segments in Blacks Fork drainage were also found suitable.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation. This segment is in existing Wilderness and substantial protections for ORVs are already in place.</li> <li>Complements wilderness management.</li> <li>Some public support; concern from grazing permittees.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The East Fork Blacks Fork segment was not selected as suitable because the ORV it possesses is best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. In addition, this segment is in existing Wilderness where substantial protection for its ORV is already in place. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
Little East Fork: Source to Mouth	9	Wild	Evanston	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Ecology. Other high elevation wilderness rivers in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>Contributes to the Black's Fork basin integrity only if other segments in Blacks Fork drainage were also found suitable.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation.</li> <li>Complements wilderness management.</li> <li>Some public support; concern about grazing management.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The Little East Fork Blacks Fork segment was not selected as suitable because the ORV it possesses are best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. In addition, this segment is in existing Wilderness where substantial protection for its ORV is already in place. It is best managed under existing laws and regulations. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
Blacks Fork: Confluence of West Fork and East Fork to Meeks Cabin Reservoir	3	Recreational	Evanston	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is History. The ORV is located on private land over which the Forest Service has no jurisdiction and would be unable to manage or maintain.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation.</li> <li>It does not contribute to basin integrity because it is short and disconnected from other Black Fork segments.</li> <li>Some public support but concerns about private lands, grazing management and future reservoir enlargement opportunities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The Blacks Fork segment was not selected as suitable because the ORV is located on private land over which the Forest Service has no jurisdiction. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
West Fork Smiths Fork: Source to Forest Boundary	14	Wild (4 mi.); Scenic (10 mi.)	Mountain View	Summit (Utah) & Uinta (Wyoming)

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is History.</li> <li>Contributes to Smiths Fork basin integrity, only when combined with the East Fork of Smiths Fork.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation.</li> <li>Complements wilderness management in existing Wilderness.</li> <li>Concern from Water Conservancy District. No stated public support during DEIS comment period.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The West Fork Smiths Fork segment was not selected as suitable because existing laws provide protection for the archaeological values. It is best managed under existing management direction. In addition, a portion of this segment is in existing Wilderness where substantial protection is already in place. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
East Fork Smiths Fork: Red Castle Lake to Trailhead	12	Wild	Mountain View	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, and Ecology. Other high elevation wilderness rivers in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>Contributes to the upper Smiths Fork basin integrity only when combined with the West Fork of Smiths Fork.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation. Most of this segment is in existing Wilderness and substantial protections for ORVs are already in place.</li> <li>Complements wilderness management where the segment is located in Wilderness.</li> <li>Stated opposition from water users and grazing permittees.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The East Fork Smiths Fork segment was not selected as suitable because the ORVs it possesses are best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. In addition, most of this segment is in existing Wilderness where substantial protections for its ORVs are already in place. It is best managed under existing laws and regulations. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
Hayden Fork: Source to Mouth	12	Recreational	Evanston	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Scenic and Ecology. Other high elevation rivers in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>Contributes to the upper Bear River basin integrity when combined with other eligible headwater streams of the Bear River.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation.</li> <li>Complements current management direction. Its proximity to the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway could stimulate additional tourism.</li> <li>Stated concern from the State of Utah, Department of Transportation about the impact designation could have on management of nearby Highway 150. Some public support.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The Hayden segment was not selected as suitable because the ORVs it possesses are best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable and conflicts with highway management. It is best managed under current management direction. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
Left, Right, and East Forks Bear River: Alsop Lake and Norice Lake to near Trailhead	13	Wild	Evanston	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Scenic, Geology/ Hydrology, and Ecology. Other high elevation wilderness rivers in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>Contributes to the upper Bear River drainage integrity when combined with other eligible headwater streams of the Bear River.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation. A portion of this segment is in existing Wilderness and substantial protections for ORVs are already in place.</li> <li>Complements wilderness management.</li> <li>Some public support.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The Left Hand Fork, Right Hand Fork, and East Fork Bear River segment was not selected as suitable because the ORVs they possesses are best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. In addition, most of this segment is in existing Wilderness where substantial protections for ORVs are already in place. It is best managed under current management direction. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
Boundary Creek: Source to Confluence with East Fork Bear River	4	Wild	Evanston	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Ecology. Other high elevation rivers in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>Free-flowing character would be best protected under designation.</li> </ul>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some public support.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The Boundary Creek segment was not selected as suitable because the ORV it possesses is best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. It is best managed under current management direction. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
High Creek: High Creek Lake to Forest Boundary	7	Wild (4 miles); Recreational (3 mi.)	Logan	Cache
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Ecology. Although this ORV is fairly significant at the local level (comparative to nearby drainages), it's probably not significant at the National scale, nor in the National Forests of Utah.</li> <li>This stream contributes little to a river/basin system.</li> <li>A portion of this segment is in existing Wilderness and substantial protections for ORVs are already in place. Designation would likely not provide any stimulation to tourism or enhance other management activities.</li> <li>There was minimal support for inclusion in the wild and scenic river system. Cache County opposes designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The High Creek segment was not selected as suitable because the ORVs it possesses are not significant at the national scale or in National Forests in Utah. In addition, the ORV is protected by wilderness management. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
Left Hand Fork Blacksmiths Fork: Source to Mouth	15	Recreational	Logan	Cache
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Scenic. Opportunities here are similar to those available on many creeks in Utah.</li> <li>Within the Blacksmith Fork river system, this is the only segment considered so its designation wouldn't add to the integrity of the system.</li> <li>The primary threat to this segment is impacts to the Scenic ORV from development of adjacent private lands. Designation as a WSR would not facilitate the management of this issue.</li> <li>Designation of this segment could make needed restoration efforts more complex and relationships between federal and private landowners more difficult.</li> <li>There was minimal support for designation (mostly anglers) and several comments did not support designation. Cache County opposes designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The segment was not selected as suitable because the ORV it possesses is not significant at the national scale or in National Forests in Utah, Development of private land could threaten the Scenic ORV. It is best managed under current management direction. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7.</p>				
Logan River: Idaho State line to confluence with Beaver Creek	7	Scenic	Logan	Cache
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Fish. This segment is part of a system that supports a meta-population of Bonneville Cutthroat trout, a species that occurs in the eastern Great Basin and therefore is somewhat unique on a national scale.</li> <li>Designation of this segment would contribute significantly to the integrity of the Logan River basin assuming other segments, primarily the lower Logan River were designated as well.</li> <li>Designation as a WSR could provide additional protection to the segment above current management direction.</li> <li>Designation would likely not provide any stimulation to tourism or enhance other management activities, nor would it conflict with.</li> <li>There was some support for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic river system and several comments specifically opposed designation. Cache County opposes designation. SITLA concern over mineral rights access. Grazing permittees expressed concern about the potential designation on permitted grazing activities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The main Logan River segments and the multiple tributaries were some of the most controversial of the river segments evaluated in this suitability study. A summary of the rationale not to select these river segments as suitable is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government support for and against suitability was highly divided with Logan City supporting the designation and Cache County Commissioners, State of Utah, and SITLA not supporting suitability designation.</li> <li>Local public support was divided with local individuals highly supporting designation to protect the free flowing Logan river segments, and other public not supporting the designation due to concerns about the impacts on other management activities.</li> <li>The Bonneville Cutthroat trout is the ORV for the eligible river segments that are tributaries to the main Logan River. Coordination of permitted grazing activities and management of fisheries habitat would be best accomplished under the Forest Plan and range allotment management planning, not under the Wild and Scenic River Act.</li> </ul>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main Logan River segment below the confluence with Beaver Creek has many existing management activities including utility corridors and Logan Canyon highway management that may require river bank modifications in some places. Designation as a Wild &amp; Scenic River could create conflicting management goals.</li> </ul>				
Logan River: Confluence with Beaver Creek to Bridge at Guinavah-Malibu Campground	19	Recreational	Logan	Cache
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including Fish, Scenic, Geology/Hydrology, Ecology, and Recreation. The two most significant from a national perspective are Scenery, Geology and Fish. The diversity of the scenery and the significant change in the view in each of the four seasons are unique on a national scale. The geologic features that exist along the river are also unique. This segment is part of a system that supports a meta-population of Bonneville Cutthroat trout, a species that occurs in the eastern Great Basin. It is the strongest and largest metapopulation of Bonneville Cutthroat Trout within its historical range, and therefore is somewhat unique on a national scale. Ecology is also significant with species present that exist nowhere else and vegetative communities are present which are limited in scope nationally. While the recreation opportunities that occur along the river are not unique individually, the diversity of opportunity through all four seasons provides a unique opportunity on a national scale.</li> <li>Designation of this segment of river would contribute significantly to the integrity of the Logan River basin.</li> <li>WSR designation would be compatible with current Forest Plan and Scenic Byway designations and would provide additional protection to the river, primarily by providing consideration of the ORVs in future management of the state highway.</li> <li>WSR designation would be complementary with the current designation as a state Blue Ribbon fishery and National Scenic Byway designations. Designation would not conflict with future development on private/SITLA lands.</li> <li>A large number of comments were received related to designation of the Lower segment of the Logan River. Many letters supporting designation as a WSR were received as a result of organized campaigns; the City of Logan supports designation as well. Cache County and the State of Utah oppose designation, primarily due to concerns about how the designation might affect future road and water projects. Grazing permittees expressed concern about the potential designation on permitted grazing activities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The main Logan River segments and the multiple tributaries were some of the most controversial of the river segments evaluated in this suitability study. A summary of the rationale not to select these river segments as suitable is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Government support for and against suitability was highly divided with Logan City supporting the designation and Cache County Commissioners, State of Utah, and SITLA not supporting suitability designation.</li> <li>Local public support was divided with local individuals highly supporting designation to protect the free flowing Logan river segments, and other public not supporting the designation due to concerns about the impacts on other management activities.</li> <li>The Bonneville Cutthroat trout is the ORV for the eligible river segments that are tributaries to the main Logan River. Coordination of permitted grazing activities and management of fisheries habitat would be best accomplished under the Forest Plan and range allotment management planning, not under the Wild and Scenic River Act.</li> <li>The main Logan River segment below the confluence with Beaver Creek has many existing management activities including utility corridors and Logan Canyon highway management that may require river bank modifications in some places. Designation as a Wild &amp; Scenic River could create conflicting management goals.</li> </ul>				
Beaver Creek: South Boundary of State Land to Mouth	3	Recreational	Logan	Cache
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Fish. This segment is part of a system that supports a meta-population of Bonneville Cutthroat trout, a species that occurs in the eastern Great Basin and therefore is somewhat unique on a national scale.</li> <li>Designation of this segment would contribute significantly to the integrity of the Logan River basin fishery, assuming other segments, primarily the lower Logan River were designated as well.</li> <li>Designation as a WSR could provide additional protection to the segment above current management direction.</li> <li>The potential impacts to this segment would be related to the future development of SITLA and adjacent private land. Designation as a WSR could make issues surrounding this development more complex, but would not preclude future development.</li> <li>A large number of comments were received on this segment, both in support of and opposed to designation. Cache County, SITLA, and the State of Utah all opposed designation due to the potential impacts on future projects.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> There is development in SITLA and adjacent private land that could affect the ORV. While the value of fish as an ORV is enhanced if combined with other segments in the Logan River system, this and the other segments</p>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
in the Logan River system do not strongly meet the factors in Alternative 7.				
White Pine Creek: Source to Mouth	1	Scenic	Logan	Cache
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Fish. This segment is part of a system that supports a meta-population of Bonneville Cutthroat trout, a species that occurs in the eastern Great Basin and therefore is somewhat unique on a national scale.</li> <li>Designation of this segment would contribute significantly to the integrity of the Logan River basin, assuming other segments, primarily the lower Logan River were designated as well.</li> <li>Designation as a WSR could provide additional protection to the segment above current management direction. (See above comment).</li> <li>There was some support for inclusion in the wild and scenic river system and several comments specifically opposed designation. Cache County opposes designation. SITLA concern over mineral rights access.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> While the value of fish as an ORV is enhanced if combined with other segments in the Logan River system, this and the other segments in the Logan River system do not strongly meet the factors in Alternative 7.</p>				
Temple Fork: Source to Mouth	6	Scenic	Logan	Cache
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Fish. This segment is part of a system that supports a meta-population of Bonneville Cutthroat trout, a species that occurs in the eastern Great Basin and therefore is <i>somewhat</i> unique on a national scale.</li> <li>Designation of this segment would contribute significantly to the integrity of the Logan River basin, assuming other segments, primarily the lower Logan River were designated as well.</li> <li>Designation as a WSR could provide additional protection to the segment above current management direction. (See above comment).</li> <li>There was some support for inclusion in the wild and scenic river system and several comments specifically opposed designation. Cache County opposes designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> While the value of fish as an ORV is enhanced if combined with other segments in the Logan River system, this and the other segments in the Logan River system do not strongly meet the factors in Alternative 7.</p>				
Spawn Creek: Source to Mouth	4	Scenic	Logan	Cache
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Fish. This segment is part of a system that supports a meta-population of Bonneville Cutthroat trout, a species that occurs in the eastern Great Basin and therefore is <i>somewhat</i> unique on a national scale.</li> <li>Designation of this segment would contribute significantly to the integrity of the Logan River basin, assuming other segments, primarily the lower Logan River were designated as well.</li> <li>Designation as a WSR could provide additional protection to the segment above current management direction. (See above comment).</li> <li>There was some support for inclusion in the wild and scenic river system and several comments specifically opposed designation. Cache County opposes designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> While the value of fish as an ORV is enhanced if combined with other segments in the Logan River system, this and the other segments in the Logan River system do not strongly meet the factors in Alternative 7.</p>				
Bunchgrass Creek: Source to Mouth	5	Scenic	Logan	Cache
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Fish. This segment is part of a system that supports a meta-population of Bonneville Cutthroat trout, a species that occurs in the eastern Great Basin and therefore is somewhat unique on a national scale.</li> <li>Designation of this segment would contribute significantly to the integrity of the Logan River basin, assuming other segments, primarily the lower Logan River were designated as well.</li> <li>Designation as a WSR could provide additional protection to the segment above current management direction. (See above comment).</li> <li>There was some support for inclusion in the wild and scenic river system and several comments specifically opposed designation. Cache County opposes designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> While the value of fish as an ORV is enhanced if combined with other segments in the Logan River system, this and the other segments in the Logan River system do not strongly meet the factors in Alternative 7.</p>				
Little Bear Creek: Little Bear Spring to Mouth	1	Scenic	Logan	Cache
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Fish. This segment is part of a system that supports a meta-population of Bonneville Cutthroat trout, a species that occurs in the eastern Great Basin and therefore is somewhat unique on a national scale.</li> <li>Designation of this segment would contribute significantly to the integrity of the Logan River basin, assuming</li> </ul>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<p>other segments, primarily the lower Logan River were designated as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designation as a WSR could provide additional protection to the segment above current management direction. (See above comment).</li> <li>• There was some support for inclusion in the wild and scenic river system and several comments specifically opposed designation. Cache County opposes designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> While the value of fish as an ORV is enhanced if combined with other segments in the Logan River system, this and the other segments in the Logan River system do not strongly meet the factors in Alternative 7.</p>				
Main Fork Weber River: Source to Forest Boundary	6	Scenic	Kamas & Evanston	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This segment contains one ORV which is Scenic.</li> <li>• This segment contributes to the Weber River System and basin Integrity.</li> <li>• This segment would be best managed by means other than through designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.</li> <li>• Large portions of the segment are managed as recommended wilderness and management that emphasizes an undeveloped character. This management would complement designation.</li> <li>• This segment received some support by the public for designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The Main Fork Weber River was not selected as suitable because the single ORV it possesses is best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7, but would be best managed under existing management direction.</p>				
Middle Fork Weber River: Source to Forest Boundary	6	Wild	Kamas	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This segment contains one ORV which is Scenic. Other high elevation rivers in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>• This segment contributes to the Weber River System and basin Integrity.</li> <li>• This segment would be best managed by means other than through designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.</li> <li>• This segment complements current management of recommended wilderness and one that emphasizes an undeveloped character.</li> <li>• This segment received some support by the public for designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The Middle Fork Weber River was not selected as suitable because the single ORV it possesses is best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7, but would be best managed under existing management direction.</p>				
Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	6	Recreational	Kamas	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This segment contains one ORV which is Recreation. Other high elevation rivers in the state study have similar values.</li> <li>• This segment does not contribute to a River System because of the highly altered flow pattern created by past water projects within the basin.</li> <li>• This segment would be best managed by means other than through designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.</li> <li>• This segment is within a Scenic Byway corridor and designation would complement national forest management activities and have potential to stimulate tourism and economic growth.</li> <li>• This segment received some support by the public for designation, but there were concerns and issues from the local irrigation company and the State of Utah not favoring designation.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> Beaver Creek was not selected as suitable because the ORV it possesses is best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. In addition, there are potential management conflicts with highway management. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7 but would be best managed under existing management direction.</p>				
Provo River: Trial Lake to U35 Bridge	20	Recreational	Kamas	Summit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This segment contains two ORVs including Scenic and Recreational.</li> <li>• This segment contributes to river system and basin integrity.</li> <li>• Designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act would complement Scenic Byway designation.</li> <li>• Wild and Scenic designation has the potential to stimulate tourism and economic growth given the River's easy access.</li> <li>• This segment received some support by the public and other local agencies for designation but there were concerns and issues from the Provo River Water Users Association. The State of Utah had concerns about</li> </ul>				

River Segment	Miles	Classification	Ranger District	County
<p>maintenance and future construction work along the Highway 150, the Mirror Lake Scenic Byway.</p> <p><u>Summary:</u> The Provo River was not selected as suitable because the ORVs it possesses are best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. In addition, there are potential management conflicts with existing highway and water agreements. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7 but would be best managed under existing management direction.</p>				
Left Fork South Fork Ogden River: Frost Canyon/Bear Canyon Confluence to Causey	5	Wild	Ogden	Weber
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Scenic.</li> <li>Meets this criterion because it contributes to the integrity of the Weber River basin.</li> <li>The Left Fork of the South Fork of the Ogden is located in a remote area of the ranger district. The mouth of the river is accessible only by boat from remote area on Causey Reservoir and for this reason it receives virtually no use. There is little active management occurring that would impact the ORV.</li> <li>Complements current management of recommended wilderness.</li> <li>Remote nature and existing land management prescription provide adequate protection for this segment.</li> <li>No comments were received specifically for the Left Fork South Fork Ogden River during the public comment period for the DEIS.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> The Left Fork South Fork Ogden River was not selected as suitable because the ORV it possesses is best represented on other rivers in the state that were selected as suitable. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7 but would be best managed under existing management direction.</p>				
Willard Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	4	Scenic	Ogden	Box Elder
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains two ORVs including Scenic and Wildlife. Its values are represented by other rivers in the State. This segment is not unique at a state or national level.</li> <li>Few management activities occurring that would impact the ORV.</li> <li>The segment did not receive support from the Box Elder County Commissioners due to questions regarding the overall value of potentially designating Willard Creek as a Wild and Scenic River.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> This segment meets one of the criteria of Alternative 7, and would be best managed under existing management direction.</p>				
Red Butte Creek: Source to Red Butte Reservoir	3	Scenic	Salt Lake	Salt Lake
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains one ORV which is Ecology.</li> <li>The segment already has a high level of protection from its Research Natural Area status. Designation would complement this management.</li> <li>The Red Butte area is closed to public entry to protect natural conditions.</li> <li>Supported by water conservancy district above the dam.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> Substantial protection for its ORV is already in place through the Research Natural Area designation. This segment meets some of the criteria of Alternative 7, but would be best managed under existing management direction.</p>				
Little Cottonwood Creek: Source to Murray City Diversion	8	Recreational	Salt Lake	Salt Lake
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This segment contains multiple ORVs including: Scenic, Geology/ Hydrology, and Ecology.</li> <li>There are potential management conflicts with existing ski areas and highway management.</li> <li>The ability to treat mine run-off to remove toxic materials could be impeded by free-flowing requirements of Wild and Scenic designation.</li> <li>Land use controls in Little Cottonwood Canyon by Salt Lake City Public Utilities currently provide a level of management protection.</li> <li>Salt Lake City (Public Utilities) holds most of the water rights in the canyon and volume is critical to the valley's population. Wild and scenic designation could affect the City's plans for managing their water supply, such as changes to diversions.</li> </ul> <p><u>Summary:</u> Little Cottonwood Creek meets many of the criteria of Alternative 7; however, the complex management of a municipal watershed, two ski areas and highway management this segment is not best managed under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.</p>				
<b>Total Miles</b>	732			

## Summary of Impacts of the Selected Alternative

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The DEIS and FEIS analysis focused on the impacts that would result from implementing the different alternatives that found various river segments suitable or not-suitable from the 86 Forest Service eligible rivers. The alternatives were developed in response to the issues associated with protecting ORVs and free flow through wild and scenic river designation. See FEIS for additional details.

It is important to remember that whether these river segments are designated by Congress or not, the National Forests in Utah each have forest plans, and these forest plans describe the various management actions and activities that preserve and protect riparian areas. The analysis of impacts of wild and scenic river designation, therefore, was not separated from these ongoing planning efforts and management actions. In the impact analysis of each alternative combination of river segments, consideration was given to how the ongoing action would affect and be affected by the implementation of the alternatives. The method of analysis focused on the combination of river segments and the total mileage involved in each issue addressed in the EIS. The following section summarizes the conclusions reached on the impacts of implementing the Selected Alternative for the major areas of concern. See the FEIS, Chapter 3 for complete documentation of the assumptions and impacts from implementing the Selected Alternative.

### **How Key Issues Were Considered**

#### **Issue 1 – Designation of river segments into the National Wild and Scenic River System may affect existing and future water resource project developments.**

Currently there are existing water developments on the Green River (Flaming Gorge Dam) and upstream on the Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Painter Draw. The comprehensive river management plans developed after designation will recognize the current uses and authorizations while protecting the Outstanding Remarkable Values and free flow of the river. Operation and maintenance needs of existing water developments, such as the Flaming Gorge Dam, above or below segments are recognized. After reviewing the criteria and restrictions in the DEIS, and based on experience with reservoir stabilization work elsewhere in the High Uintas Wilderness Area, the Program Director for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Central Utah Project (CUP) Completion Act Office believes stabilization projects can be completed consistent with management for free-flowing conditions and protection of ORVs under a wild and scenic river designation (Murray 2008).

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act prohibits the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) from licensing the construction of hydroelectric facilities on rivers that have been designated as components of the National System. Further, the Act prohibits other federal agencies from assisting in the construction of any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on a designated river. Section 7(a) of the Act recognizes that water resource projects, above or below a designated wild and scenic river would not be precluded from licensing provided the project does not invade the area or unreasonably diminish the river values present at the time of designation. Determinations of proposed water resources projects under Section 7(a) are made by the river-administering agency.

Under the Selected Alternative, there are no reasonably foreseeable water resource projects that would be prohibited. Water resource projects by definition include: dams, diversions, and other modifications of the waterway (WSR Act 16b). Reasonably foreseeable future projects have been defined as those Federal or Non-Federal projects not yet undertaken that are based on information presented to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Interdisciplinary Team which includes: completed and approved plans, project documents that are in the final stages of the NEPA process (e.g., final or draft environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment), or projects that are documented as approved and ready to implement.

There is concern that options for downstream water developments might be restricted or foreclosed, or that existing water rights would be compromised. Specifically, the Duchesne County Water Conservancy District is exploring the possibility of a new reservoir approximately four miles below the Upper Uinta River segment (described in the Conceptual Analysis of Uinta and Green River Water Development Projects, Technical Memorandum 1-5, prepared by Franson and CH2M Hill). This project, if formally proposed, could include stabilization of existing wilderness reservoirs draining into the eligible segment. This project is still in the conceptual stage and does not meet the definition of reasonably foreseeable as described earlier. Construction and operation of a new reservoir four miles below the eligible segment would not affect upstream ORVs. Therefore designation of the Upper Uinta River would not preclude consideration of a Uinta Reservoir project in the future, if the Conservancy District were to further develop this proposal.

The FEIS, Section 3.12 – Water Resources and Water Development section describes a proposal for a potential reservoir site (Wyuta) identified in Wyoming and Utah's Bear River Water Plan located at T01N R10E Section 09, two heights proposed; 130 feet and 170 feet, with capacities of 6,325 acre-feet and 146,000 acre-feet respectively. These projects would be located on-stream in the middle of the Stillwater Fork segment (UT); Stillwater Reservoir site (WY). This proposed project is not reasonably foreseeable.

See the FEIS, Chapter 3, Section 3.12 – Water Resources and Water Development for complete documentation of the assumptions and impacts from implementing the Selected Alternative.

**Issue 2 – Uses and activities may be precluded, limited or enhanced if the river segment and its corridor were included in the National System.**

Depending on the classification of a river, designation could preclude, limit, or enhance some uses and activities. A variety of existing and potential uses and activities including: grazing/agricultural, transportation system maintenance or development, access, recreation, mining/minerals/energy development, and habitat and/or watershed restoration projects occur within or near the eligible rivers.

**Grazing/Agricultural** – Generally, existing agricultural practices (e.g., livestock grazing activities) and related structures would not be affected by designation. However, if a river segment is designated by Congress, grazing is subject to evaluation during the development of the Comprehensive River Management Plan by the river-administering agencies in order to determine whether such uses and activities are consistent with protecting and enhancing the ORVs. Grazing and other uses can continue if and when consistent with protecting and enhancing river values. If these grazing activities or uses are determined inconsistent, then changes in livestock and/or grazing practices may be required.

Currently, there are no grazing activities or uses that have been determined inconsistent with a suitability recommendation that would require changes in livestock numbers and/or grazing practices on the Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, or Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Currently grazing is not impacting ORVs, classification, or “free-flowing” character and with proper management of grazing these values can be protected. Grazing would be subject to evaluation during the Comprehensive River Management Plan analysis on the following river segments:

- There is an allotment in the headwaters of the Upper Uinta River, in the Painter Basin.
- The Fish Creek segment passes through two allotments.
- The Pine Creek segment is located within an allotment. However, there is no grazing within the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness and therefore no grazing on the riverbanks.
- There is an allotment in Stillwater Fork.
- There is no grazing except for recreational stock use (horses, llamas) along the majority of the Ostler Fork segment. The lower portion of this corridor is within an allotment, where the river corridor is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding.

**Transportation System Maintenance or Development, Access** – Overall there is not expected to be any significant consequences on the existing roads, bridges, highways, or rights of way as a result of the Selected Alternative. Regardless of designation, there is a possibility that bridges or highway design could be modified to avoid effects on the free-flowing character of recommended rivers or to address fish passage issues.

Generally, access routes within the river corridors would continue to be available for public use. However, if that type of use adversely affected the ORVs identified for the river area, the route could be closed or regulated. Acceptability may be determined by historical or valid rights involved, or subject to, specific legislative language, if provided, for motorized use (vehicles or watercraft powered by motors). Motorized use on land or water is best determined by the comprehensive river management planning process and considers factors such as effects (positive or negative) on river values, user demand for such motorized recreation, health and safety to users, and acceptability with desired experiences and other values for which the river was designated (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council Q & A Compendium, 2006).

### **Segments Classified as Wild**

Wild segments are by definition without roads. There are no existing roads or trails located in the Death Hollow Creek and Mamie Creek river corridors. There are no roads but there are some trails within the river corridors of the Upper Uinta River, Fish Creek, Pine Creek, Ostler Fork, and Stillwater Fork (Wild within Wilderness 6 miles).

Wild rivers preclude future road building within their corridors, including logging roads. New road construction is already prohibited in Wilderness areas. In the Selected Alternative, there would be no impact to seven segments (70 miles) recommended with a Wild classification located in a designated Wilderness area including: Upper Uinta River, Death Hollow Creek, Mamie Creek, Pine Creek, Stillwater Fork (Wild within Wilderness 6 miles), and Ostler Fork. The Wild portion of Fish Creek (upper 4.3 miles) is located in the Fish Creek Research Natural Area. It is highly unlikely that new road construction would be allowed in the Research Natural Area, nor are there plans for new road construction, therefore there would be no impact.

### **Segments Classified as Scenic**

Scenic segments typically have only limited road access. The Green River is accessible by Flaming Gorge/Uintas National Scenic Byway (US Highway 191) to and across Flaming Gorge Dam and then by a Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation service road that provides access to the Spillway Boat Ramp immediately below the dam. Forest Development Road 075 provides access to the Little Hole Boat Ramp. The Little Hole National Recreation Trail goes from the Spillway Boat Ramp to Little Hole Boat Ramp (approximately 7 miles) the trail continues along the segment for approximately 1.0 miles with accessed by an undeveloped trail in the remaining 4.6 miles of the river segment to the boundary of the National Forest/Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. The Green River has one road, two phone, two pipelines, one power, and one reservoir right of way. It is possible for a road right of way to exist in the BLM records, without actual physical evidence of a road on the ground.

An error was made during the classification of the North Fork of Virgin River during eligibility. It was classified as Wild, but was changed to Scenic in the DEIS and FEIS. There are significant signs of human activity and road access from the private land within ½ mile of the river corridor and road access from Federal lands is within ⅛ mile of river corridor.

The Cascade Falls National Recreation Trail (#32055) provides access to a viewpoint at Cascade Fall. The trail begins at the trailhead that is located at the ending terminus of Forest Service Road #054. The trailhead is also accessible by the Virgin River Rim Trail (#32011) and the Markagunt AVT System (Trail #51).

Access to Stillwater Fork (Scenic below the Wilderness 8 miles) is provided by Forest Roads 057 and 113 which are one lane gravel roads with turnouts.

In corridors around segments classified as Scenic, existing roads would be maintained and no new roads built. This includes the Green River, North Fork Virgin River, and Stillwater Fork (below the Wilderness boundary) for a total of 22 miles. No new roads are planned within these river corridors; therefore, the impacts to new road construction as a result of designation would be minimal to none.

### **Segments Classified as Recreational**

Recreational segments may have roads and other developments within the corridor. Vehicular access to Fish Creek (Recreational lower 10.5 miles) exists at the lower, northern end of near County Road 4, which is adjacent to Interstate 70 (I-70). Access to Fish Creek is limited to several historic mining routes and a hiking trail along the lower one-half of the drainage. A portion of Fish Creek from I-70 south for approximately 3 miles is paralleled by an old road and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) trail. The portion from I-70 to the Clear Creek road is easy to hike with evidence of some ATV use. There are a couple of places on the southern reaches of the stream that are accessible by four-wheel drive vehicles and ATVs.

Little Provo Deer Creek – The recommended section of this stream contains several trails, and is accessed by several roads. The Cascade Springs Scenic Drive [Forest Road (FR) #114] a paved, 2-lane road maintained by the Forest Service accesses Cascade Springs. This road connects to the Alpine Scenic Backway Loop (State Road 92), and via the Cascade Springs Road (FR #216) and a Wasatch County road through Wasatch Mountain State Park to Midway, Utah. FR #216 is a native-surfaced Maintenance Level 3 road that becomes soft and slick when wet. The Wasatch County road is similar to the Cascade Springs Road. The Little Deer Creek Road (FR #475), runs south from Cascade Springs along the stream. FR #475 is a Maintenance Level #2, high-clearance vehicle road that becomes soft when wet. It is generally very rough, and steep and rocky in spots. The Cascade Springs Trail, designated a National Recreation/History Trail in November of 1978, consists of a set of paved trails connecting the parking areas, kiosk, and restrooms with a series of trails that encircle or cross the Cascade Springs pools at the Cascade Springs Recreation Site. Two bridges and a boardwalk allow water from the springs and Little Provo Deer Creek to pass largely unimpeded.

In segments classified as Recreational, new roads could be built. This includes the lower 10.5 miles of Fish Creek and 1.0 mile of the Little Provo Deer Creek for a total of 11.5 miles. Little Provo Deer Creek has one road right of way. It is possible for a road right of way to exist in the BLM records, without actual physical evidence of a road on the ground. No new roads are planned within these river corridors; therefore, the impacts to new road construction as a result of designation would be minimal.

**Recreation** – All Segments classified and Wild, Scenic, or Recreational - In general, following the designation of a segment by Congress, recreational opportunities could be enhanced. Recreation trends on nationally recognized areas indicate that recreation would generally increase for a few years, and then taper down and gradually level off to pre-designation conditions. Comprehensive river management plans would address user capacity, and balance the quantity and quality of the recreation activities and facilities to protect the desired recreation experience and non-recreation ORVs.

**Mining/Minerals/Energy Development** – There is no past or present mineral development activity on the following river segments: Green River, Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Painter Draw, North Fork Virgin River, or Ostler Fork. Therefore, there would be no impact on mining.

### **Segments Classified as Wild**

Most segments classified as Wild are already withdrawn from mineral entry because the segment is located within a designated Wilderness area. This includes: Upper Uinta River, Death Hollow Creek, Mamie Creek, Pine Creek (with the exception of existing carbon dioxide lease described below), Stillwater Fork (Wild section), and Ostler Fork. The Wild portion of Fish Creek (4.3 miles) is located in the Fish Creek Research Natural Area, and has not been withdrawn from mineral entry. If designated as a wild and scenic river, 4.3 miles (1,376 acres) classified as Wild of Fish Creek would be withdrawn from mineral entry.

The following information is a summary of mining/oil and gas on the Wild portions of the segments:

- *Pine Creek* – There is one authorized oil and gas lease within the river corridor which was filed in 1976 for carbon dioxide mining in the west half of section 13. This oil and gas lease predated the wilderness designation. Currently there is no activity associated with this lease. The development associated with this lease consists of a well located on Antone's Bench, outside of the Box-Death Hollow Wilderness.
- *Death Hollow Creek* – There are two suspended authorized oil and gas leases within the river corridor that were filed in 1968 for CO<sub>2</sub> mining at T 34S, R 3E, Section 4 and Section 6. As part of the Death Hollow Wilderness this area has been withdrawn from additional mineral entry.
- *Mamie Creek* – There are two suspended authorized oil and gas leases within the river corridor that were filed in 1968 for CO<sub>2</sub> mining at T 34S, R 3E, Section 9 and Section 16. As part of the Death Hollow Wilderness this area has been withdrawn from additional mineral entry.
- *Fish Creek (Wild upper 4.3 miles)* – There is considerable historical mining development on private land in the adjacent area of the Kimberly area of the Gold Mountain Mining District which was very active in the late 1800s. This activity is outside of the river corridor. The portion of the river segment located in the Research Natural Area and classified as Wild has not been withdrawn from mineral entry. If designated as a wild and scenic river, 4.3 miles (1,376 acres) of Fish Creek classified as Wild would be withdrawn from mineral entry.
- *Stillwater Fork (Wild within Wilderness 6 miles)* – The portion of the segment that is eligible for Wild recommendation is entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness Area, and has been withdrawn from mineral entry.

### **Segments Classified as Scenic and Recreational**

River segments classified as Scenic or Recreational would continue to be open to new mineral exploration and oil and gas development. Existing or new locatable mining activity on a section 5(d)(1) study river is subject to regulations in 36 CFR part 228 and must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment. Leases, licenses, and permits under mineral leasing laws would be subject to conditions necessary to protect the values of the river corridor in the event it is subsequently included in the National System. Saleable mineral material disposal is allowed if the values for which the river may be included in the National System are protected.

The following information is a summary of mining/oil and gas on the Scenic and Recreational portions of the segments:

- *Stillwater Fork (Scenic below Wilderness 8 miles)* – The portion of the river corridor that has a recommended classification of Scenic is in a high oil and gas potential area and there are three

active oil and gas leases on segment. The entire scenic portion of the segment is in an oil and gas exploratory unit.

- *Little Provo Deer Creek (Recreational)* – There are no existing salable, locatable, or leasable mineral and energy resources development occurring in the corridor or adjacent area. This area is considered to have low potential for oil and gas resources. At this time, no lands within the corridor have been identified as available and suitable for leasing. An oil and gas leasing analysis is underway (decision anticipated winter 2008-2009), and this would determine the availability and suitability of the corridor for leasing. Due to the retention visual quality objective, some steep slopes, Cascade Springs Scenic Drive, and developed recreation sites, the proposed action for this leasing analysis would make this segment available for leasing with No Surface Occupancy and Controlled Surface Use stipulations.
- *North Fork Virgin River (Scenic)* – There are no past or existing salable, locatable, or leasable mineral and energy resources development in the eligible segment. The area is considered to have potential for oil and gas resources. An Oil and Gas EIS is underway (anticipated 2008). The northwest corner of section 21 is however in a Utah Coal Land Withdrawal Area and is withdrawn from appropriation.
- *Fish Creek (Recreational lower 10.5 miles)* – There is considerable historical mining development on private land in the adjacent area of the Kimberly area of the Gold Mountain Mining District which was very active in the late 1800s. This activity is outside of the river corridor. The remains of two hydroelectric power plants exist on small tracts of private land along Fish Creek in the Recreational segment. There are no known plans for future mineral and energy resource activities.
- *Green River (Scenic)* – No past or present mineral development activity on National Forest System lands. In the BLMs Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final EIS, the segment from Little Hole to the Utah State line would be closed and no surface occupancy to oil and gas leasing and closed to mineral materials.

**Habitat and/or Watershed Restoration Projects** – All Segments classified and Wild, Scenic, or Recreational - Harvesting practices on federal lands located within WSR corridors must be designed to help achieve land-management objectives consistent with the protection and enhancement of the values which caused the river to be added to the National System. WSR designation is not likely to significantly affect timber harvesting or logging practices beyond existing limitations to protect riparian zones and wetlands which are guided by other legal mandates and planning direction. Once designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the river must be managed to maintain that classification within the established corridor. Wild river segments have no roads or railroads along them or ongoing timber harvest. The degree of protection and enhancement is a management prerogative based on an appropriate level of analysis typically done through the river planning process. Federal and state regulations which protect wildlife, visual values, water quality, etc., may prohibit timber harvesting from streamside areas regardless of whether or not a river is designated. (Marsh 2006).

There are no reasonably foreseeable timber or habitat improvement projects on any of the river segments in the Selected Alternative. FEIS, Appendix A – Suitability Evaluation Reports for the North Fork Virgin River described that although there has been no past harvest, there is a notable die off of Douglas-fir trees below the Virgin River Rim and timber projects may be pursued in the future (e.g., helicopter logging). Because there are no current timber harvest plans in place, this is not a reasonably foreseeable project. If timber harvesting activities are proposed on or adjacent to the eligible river segment, it would be analyzed in a separate NEPA document, outside of this process.

Refer to the FEIS, Chapter 3, Sections 3.7 – Range; 3.9 – Roads/Rights of Way; 3.8 – Recreation; 3.6 – Mineral Resources, for complete documentation of the assumptions and impacts from implementing the Selected Alternative 7. Refer to Issue 1 and Table 3.1.1 for a description of water projects and wildlife and fish projects.

### **Issue 3 – Designation of a Wild and Scenic River could change the economy of a community.**

Many people expressed concern that finding a river segment suitable would have an impact on the local economy and current lifestyle of a community because certain activities may not be allowed and future water resources projects may be prohibited. Some were concerned that designation would affect future water rights and limit the potential for community growth. Others commented that designation would bring additional tourism and provide an economic benefit to communities.

In the FEIS, Section 3.10 – Social and Economic Resources, categorizes potential impacts based on the following descriptions:

- Low = Unlikely to adversely effect social or economic environment because the river segment has few, if any, designation conflicts with water rights, land withdrawals, private land, or land uses that are incompatible with maintaining free flow or preserving ORVs.
- Moderate = Some likely potential adverse effects to the social or economic environment because the river segment has a number of potential designation conflicts with water rights, land withdrawals, private land, or land uses that are incompatible with maintaining free flow or preserving ORVs.
- High = Highly likely potential adverse effects to the social or economic environment because the river segment has known or a high number of potential designation conflicts with water rights, land withdrawals, private land, or land uses that are incompatible with maintaining free flow or preserving ORVs.

The Forest Service concluded that because the recommended wild and scenic river designations would occur on public lands, and a majority (74 miles) is already protected by a Wilderness designation or Research Natural Area, that socioeconomic impacts of designation to social and economic resources would be minimal. The projected social and economic impacts to the Green River, Upper Uinta River, Death Hollow, Mamie Creek, North Fork Virgin River, Pine Creek, Little Provo Deer Creek, and Ostler Fork, Creek in the Selected Alternative 7 are low due to the current access and low potential for new road construction, timber harvesting, mining, and water development projects. The projected social and economic impact to Fish Creek is moderate to low because the Wild section (4.3 miles or 1,376 acres) would be withdrawn from mineral entry upon designation. The projected social and economic impact to Stillwater Fork is moderate due to the Scenic portion of the river corridor's location in a high oil and gas potential area. The oil and gas potential is described previously under Issue 2.

In the Selected Alternative, there are seven segments (74 miles) recommended with a Wild classification located in either a designated Wilderness area or a Research Natural Area. The segments with a recommended classification of Wild that are located in a designated Wilderness area include: Upper Uinta River, Death Hollow Creek, Mamie Creek, Pine Creek, Stillwater Fork, and Ostler Fork. In these areas there are no plans for road building and timber harvest, nor would this activity be allowed. The Wild portion of Fish Creek (4.3 miles) is located in the Fish Creek Research Natural Area. Because of their location in a Wilderness or Research Natural Area and the limited activities allowed in these areas, the overall projected social and economic impacts for these segments are low, with the exception of Fish Creek which is moderate to low and Stillwater Fork where the overall projected impact is moderate.

The segments with a recommended classification of Scenic include the Green River, North Fork Virgin River, and Stillwater Fork (below the Wilderness boundary) for a total of 22 miles. The overall projected social and economic impacts for the Green River and North Fork Virgin River segments are low due to high to moderate recreation use and no reasonably foreseeable alternate uses. The overall projected impact is moderate in Stillwater Fork due to moderate to high recreation use, oil and gas development potential, and location in a drinking water source protection zone, a portion is located in the Wilderness, and Category 1 fish bearing stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Area.

The segments with a recommended classification of Recreational include the lower 10.5 miles of Fish Creek and the Little Provo Deer Creek for a total of 11.5 miles. The overall projected social and economic impact for Little Provo Deer Creek is low due to current development (designated wildlife viewing location and interpretive site) and moderate to high recreational use and Fish Creek is low to moderate due to low recreation use and the location of its headwaters in a Research Natural Area.

The Forest Service found that the impacts on tourism would be slightly beneficial, even though there was some concern expressed about perceived adverse impacts on the social and economic values of communities. For example, publicized designation of an accessible area, close to an urban population, with established access and activities, may result in increased use and associated impacts (both positive and negative). Areas with moderate to high recreation use include the Green River, Upper Uinta River, North Fork Virgin River, Little Provo Deer Creek, Ostler Fork, and Stillwater Fork. Conversely, more remote areas with minimal current use and difficult access are less likely to experience social or economic impacts. Areas with low recreation use include Fish Creek, Pine Creek, Mamie Creek, and Death Hollow Creek. Overall, designation should not change existing social or economic conditions.

The impacts to water development projects and other activities are summarized under Issues 1 and 2. Refer to the FEIS, Chapter 3, Section 3.10 – Social and Economic Resources for complete documentation of the assumptions and impacts from implementing the Selected Alternative.

#### **Issue 4 – Designation offers long-term protection of resource values.**

Many people commented that they would like to see river segments designated into the National System to provide long-term protection of in-stream, shoreline, and upland resources values. Specifically they commented that designation of a river can help protect unique or rare river values and basin integrity and provide ecological benefits. Some commented that long-term protection can be provided by designation where existing local, state, and federal regulations are seen as inadequate to protect in-stream and shoreline resources. Others believe designation would help preserve recreational activities and the ORVs for which the segment was found eligible. Some felt designation would protect segments from future activities including water development projects.

Protection of the following outstandingly remarkable values would occur as follows:

- Green River – Scenic, Recreational, Fish, Wildlife, Historic, Cultural
- Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork, and Painter Draw – Geologic / Hydrologic, Wildlife
- Death Hollow Creek – Scenic, Recreational
- Mamie Creek – Scenic, Recreational
- North Fork Virgin River – Scenic/Geological, Recreational
- Pine Creek – Scenic, Recreational, Geological, Ecological
- Fish Creek – Prehistoric / Historic, Wildlife / Ecology, Fish
- Little Provo Deer Creek – Geological / Hydrological, Ecological
- Ostler Fork: Source to Mouth – Ecology
- Stillwater Fork: Source to Mouth – Scenic, Ecology

There will be no ground disturbing activities in relation to a recommended designation. If designated by Congress there would be a slightly beneficial impact, or an additional layer of protection to fish, plants, or wildlife not already protected by the existing laws such as the Endangered Species Act, regulations, Forest Service Manual and Handbook direction, and Forest Plan Direction.

See the FEIS, Chapter 3, Section 3.3 – Outstandingly Remarkable Values, 3.4 – Botanical Resources, 3.5 – Fish and Other Aquatic Habitat Species, and 3.13 – Wildlife (Terrestrial Resources) for complete documentation of the assumptions and impacts from implementing the Selected Alternative.

#### **Issue 5 – Consistency with wild and scenic river studies conducted by the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service.**

The public and the three federal river study agencies (FS, BLM, and NPS) identified a concern about consistency in the study process. All three agencies have river studies in various stages of completion. There should be consideration that the outcome of this suitability study should be coordinated among the agencies for rivers that flow from the National Forest onto lands administered by these other agencies.

The **Green River** is currently suitable and classified as Scenic by the BLM, Vernal Field Office and the Ashley National Forest. Currently both agencies are moving toward a suitability recommendation and a Scenic classification which would protect 35 miles (13 miles USFS and 22 miles BLM). It would also protect the following ORVs: Scenic, Recreational, Fish, Wildlife, Historic, Cultural (USFS) and Scenic, Recreational, Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Cultural (BLM). This river segment would be located in both Daggett (USFS) and Uintah (BLM) Counties, and essentially stretch from near below Flaming Gorge Dam to the Utah State line.

The Ashley National Forest's recommended portion of the Green River is approximately 12.6 miles long beginning below the Flaming Gorge Dam. At miles 5 to 7 the south side of the river belongs to the State of Utah, Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), and at miles 7 to 12.6 the south side of the river belongs to the BLM. In October 2008, the Vernal Field Office of the BLM published their ROD and Approved Resource Management Plan. In that document, the Upper Green River segment (22 miles) from Little Hole to the Utah State line and the Lower Green River segment (30 miles) from public land boundary south of Ouray to the Carbon County line would continue to be managed as previously recommended as a suitable Scenic segment to protect its outstandingly remarkable values. A Forest Service finding of suitability is consistent and compatible with BLM determinations. Both the BLM and Forest Service are moving toward a suitability determination. The State of Utah, DWR has expressed that a determination of suitability and Scenic classification for miles 5 to 7 as described previously would not conflict with their management of the State's property and wildlife resources.

The Green River is considered eligible across multiple Federal boundaries (i.e., NPS and BLM) throughout the State of Utah which could result in the recommendation of 565 additional miles (outside of the cumulative effects analysis area).

There are no reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects, mineral activities, or rights of ways that would impact the river segment. Both agencies would continue to protect free-flow and water quality which could result in long-term beneficial impacts to plants, wildlife, and aquatic species.

The **North Fork Virgin River** is currently recommended as suitable and classified as Scenic by the Dixie National Forest. Beyond the Dixie National Forest, the river segment flows onto a majority of private land mixed with some BLM administered lands. Approximately 7 miles southwest of the recommended suitable Dixie National Forest segment, the North Fork Virgin River flows onto BLM land administered by the Kanab Field Office. On October 31, 2008, the Kanab Field Office released their ROD and Approved Resource Management Plan which recommended 2.2 miles of the North Fork Virgin River (segment 48-49, located in Section 31-33 - northeast of Zion National Park) as suitable with a Wild classification. If the recommended portions of the segment are designated by Congress, the following ORVs would be protected: Scenic/Geological, Recreational (USFS) and Scenic, Wildlife, Recreational (BLM). The BLM portion of the segment flows onto Zion National Park at the northeast corner of the

Park at approximately T 39 S, R 10 W, Section 1. Zion National Park found the North Fork of the Virgin River above and below the Temple of Sinawava eligible and suitable for inclusion in the National System (10 miles classified as Wild and 8 miles classified as Recreational).

The North Fork Virgin River recommended segment is located in Kane County (USFS and BLM) and Washington County (BLM and NPS) and would stretch from its headwaters on the Dixie NF to the Forest boundary (1 mile), exclude approximately 7 miles of private property and BLM lands, include 2.2 miles located in Section 31-33 on the BLM lands (Kanab Field Office), and include 18 miles located on Zion National Park. If Congress designates the recommended segment, it would protect 21.2 miles (1 mile USFS, 2.2 miles BLM, and 18 miles NPS). A Forest Service finding of suitability is compatible with NPS and BLM determinations; however, recommended classifications differ as previously described.

The East Fork Virgin River, North Fork Virgin River, and Virgin River are being considered across multiple Federal boundaries (i.e., BLM, NPS) and in Arizona and Nevada. The Virgin River (including North and East Forks) has an additional 104 miles outside of the cumulative effects analysis area being considered in Utah. The Virgin River is also being considered in Arizona and 106 miles in Nevada. If Congress decides to add this river to the National Wild and Scenic River System, it could quite possibly result in one of the larger designated river segments in the State of Utah.

There are no reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects, mineral activities, or rights of ways that would impact the river segment. All three agencies would continue to protect free-flow and water quality which could result in long-term beneficial impacts to plants, wildlife, and aquatic species.

**Death Hollow Creek** is currently determined suitable and classified as Wild by both the USFS and the BLM. If Congress designates the recommended portions of the segment, it would protect 19.9 miles (10 miles USFS and 9.9 miles BLM). It would also protect the following ORVs: Recreational and Scenic (USFS) and High scenic quality, part of ONA, southwestern willow flycatcher habitat, prehistoric sites, dinosaur tracks, and riparian areas (BLM). The segment is located in Garfield County and would stretch from its headwaters on the Dixie NF to Mamie Creek (T34S, R3E, S36) on the GSENM.

There are no reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects, mineral activities, or rights of ways that would impact the river segment. Both agencies would continue to protect free-flow and water quality which could result in long-term beneficial impacts to plants, wildlife, and aquatic species.

**Mamie Creek** is currently determined suitable and classified as Wild by the BLM and USFS. If Congress designates the recommended portions of Mamie Creek, it would protect 11.2 miles (2 miles USFS and 9.2 miles BLM). It would also protect the following ORVs: Scenic and Recreational (USFS) and High scenic quality, part of ONA, high recreational use, natural bridge, fish and wildlife habitat, prehistoric and historic sites including an historic mail trail, and riparian area (BLM). It is located in Garfield County and would stretch from its headwaters on the Dixie NF to the Escalante River (T35S, R4E, S10) on the GSENM.

There are no reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects, mineral activities, or rights of ways that would impact the river segment. Both agencies would continue to protect free-flow and water quality which could result in long-term beneficial impacts to plants, wildlife, and aquatic species.

River segments that are located entirely within National Forest System lands or that do not flow from the National Forest onto lands administered by other agencies include the **Upper Uinta River, Pine Creek, Little Provo Deer Creek, Ostler Fork, Fish Creek, and Stillwater Fork**. See the FEIS, Chapter 3, Section 3.14 – Cumulative Effects Analysis for complete documentation of the assumptions and impacts from implementing the Selected Alternative.

## **Issue 6 – Consistency with state, county, and local government laws and plans.**

Some respondents expressed concern about collaborating with state agencies (including Colorado and Wyoming). Some respondents were concerned about the impact to the Colorado River Interstate Compact (WSR Act 13(e) interstate compacts are unaffected by the Act). Some counties expressed that support would be withheld until the process is consistent with Section 63-38d-401 of the Utah Code Annotated, which defines the State of Utah's policies and positions on Wild and Scenic River designations, of which one concern has been that there is a demonstrated presence of water flowing at all times. Some counties expressed that designation of river segments is not compatible with county plans. Other counties expressed support for finding segments suitable for designation in Wilderness or on some segments in their county. Many Counties expressed they would not be involved with future river management, including funding.

Coordination with appropriate Federal, State, county, local, and Tribal governments has occurred. See FEIS, Section 1.10 – Public Involvement.

There will be no impacts on the Colorado River Interstate Compact. Section 13(e) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states: Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to alter, amend, repeal, interpret, modify, or be in conflict with any interstate compact made by any states which contain any portion of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

The Forest Service has considered Utah State Code section 63-38d-401(8) in its decision-making, but is not bound to comply with State law in its river recommendations. The proposed action requires public involvement in the suitability determination process, and coordination with appropriate Federal, State, county, local, and Tribal governments. Some river segments travel through National Forest System land, State land, and other Federal lands, and cooperative planning among affected agencies is essential. The Forest Service and the State of Utah are cooperating agencies as described in the FEIS, Section 1.8 - Cooperating Agencies. As cooperating agencies, the Forest Service does carefully consider comments from the State of Utah; however, Utah State Code does not grant supremacy over the Federal lands and decision-making. The Forest Service looks forward to working with the State of Utah, local and tribal governments, and other federal agencies during the next phase of the Wild and Scenic River process. The Forest Service will work cooperatively with the above entities in the preparation of an interagency recommendation to Congress for the inclusion of rivers into the National Wild and Scenic River system. The Forest Service will also continue to work with affected local, state, federal, and tribal partners to identify critical resource issues and water needs necessary to protect values related to the subject segments, so that they may be identified for Congress.

The State of Utah's has one prerequisite for a suitable river outlined in Section 63-38d-401 of the Utah Code Annotated that requires that water be present and flowing at all times. In the Forest Service Handbook Chapter 80 – Wild and Scenic River Evaluation, Sec. 82.13 – Flows it states, "There are no specific requirements concerning minimum flows for an eligible segment. Flows are considered sufficient for eligibility if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river would be designated." The State of Utah and the Forest Service's direction on evaluating requirements for flow are inconsistent. This difference in direction stems from the fact that the Forest Service is following the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and Forest Service direction for evaluation of rivers, and the State of Utah is following its own direction on flow and evaluation of rivers, not the Federal direction for flow. As previously described, Utah State Code does not grant supremacy over the Federal lands.

In the FEIS, Section 3.12 – Water Resources and Water Developments, Table 3.12.1 illustrates flow regimes of Wild and Scenic River segments (perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral). Two selected streams do not meet the State of Utah’s prerequisite of having water present and flowing at all times: Mamie Creek is ephemeral, and both Mamie Creek and Death Hollow Creek have a combination of flow regimes which are mainly perennial, but do have sections of intermittent or ephemeral flows in the headwater portions of the segments.

Another public concern is consistency with county plans. A local land use plan is not zoning nor does it grant supremacy over the Federal lands. However, to the extent consistent with the laws governing the administration of National Forest System lands, the Forest Service has coordinated with the land use planning and management programs of other Federal departments and agencies, the States, and local governments. The Forest Service considers the planning direction of local government plans in preparation of its own studies. The analysis is consistent with State and local plans to the maximum extent it is also consistent with Federal law and the purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. As described in the FEIS, Section 3.10 – Social and Economic Resources, Table 3.10.44, the majority of counties do not support a wild and scenic river designation. However, two counties expressed support for a recommendation for inclusion of four segments into the National System, including: Summit County who supports designation of Ostler Fork and Stillwater Fork, and Wasatch Council who understands the suitability decision for one mile of the Little Provo Deer Creek.

Refer to the FEIS, Chapter 3, Section 3.10 – Social and Economic Resources and Section 3.12 – Water Resources and Water Development for complete documentation of the assumptions and impacts from implementing the Selected Alternative.

### **Cumulative Impacts of the Selected Alternative**

A cumulative impact is defined as the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions (40 CFR 1508.7). Assessing the cumulative impacts of designation involved the following assumptions:

- Wild and scenic river management actions are restricted to National Forest System lands in Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming managed by the National Forests in Utah.
- Portions of the river corridor under nonfederal ownership or management would be excluded.
- Congressional action to include rivers in the National Wild and Scenic River System would not affect the use of private property.
- Designation does not open nonfederal lands to public access. The right to buy and sell property will not be affected.
- Ongoing management actions currently being implemented would occur on National Forest System lands in which the river corridors are located.

The following conclusions summarize the cumulative impacts from implementing the Selected Alternative:

- Consistency with other Federal agencies is described in previous section of this decision under Issue 5. See FEIS, Section 3.14 – Cumulative Effects Analysis.
- Beneficial cumulative impact on the identified ORVs.
- Minimal impacts on minerals development. If designated, 4.3 miles (approximately 1,376 acres) of Fish Creek classified as Wild and located in a Research Natural Area would be withdrawn from mineral entry.
- Minor potential beneficial impact on tourism.
- There would be no irretrievable loss of future water development options for those rivers recommended for designation in the Selected Alternative. If designated, 4.3 miles (approximately

1,376 acres) of Fish Creek classified as Wild and located in a Research Natural Area would have an irretrievable loss of mineral entry. There would be no impact to river segments with a Wild classification that have been withdrawn from mineral entry previously due to a Wilderness Area designation and subject to existing, valid rights. See FEIS, Section 3.17 – Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources.

- There are no unavoidable adverse effects. See FEIS, Section 3.16 – Unavoidable Adverse Effects.

Refer to the FEIS, Sections 3.14 to 3.17.

## **Alternatives Considered**

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The Forest Service developed one no action alternative and six action alternative groupings of eligible river segments to recommend for wild and scenic river designation. The seven alternatives were developed in response to issues raised by the public during the scoping process and the DEIS comment period. The alternatives range from an alternative in which no segments are determined suitable to an alternative with three river segments (45 miles) to an alternative with 50 river segments (530 miles) that are found suitable. The no action alternative maintains the eligibility of all 86 rivers and continues interim management protections, but does not make a suitability determination at this time.

The key issues analyzed in depth and public comment led the agency to develop seven alternatives to the proposed action including: 1) No action, maintain eligibility of all river segments, 2) No rivers recommended, 3) Recommend rivers that best represent Utah ORVs while having the least affect on existing or reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects and other developmental activities, 4) Recommend rivers that best represent Utah ORVs that could be adversely affected by existing or reasonably foreseeable future water resources projects and other developmental activities, 5) Recommend rivers with low cost for management that are consistent with other Federal wild and scenic studies and which have limited negative impact to community economic development, 6) Recommend river segments recognized by public groups that represent a diversity of river systems in Utah and those that face future threats, and 7) Recommend river segments that reflect the broad range of public comments and emphasize specific suitability factors. The alternatives and effects of designation for each river segment were analyzed in the Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah FEIS. ROD Table 3 compares number of classifications and river segments, and mileage by alternative. These alternatives are described in detail in the FEIS, Section 2.2 – Alternatives Considered in Detail.

In the FEIS, river segments in Alternatives 3 and 4 were modified due to the clarification of the definition of a reasonably foreseeable water project and updates from information submitted during the DEIS comment period. The difference between the two alternatives was that Alternative 3 contained those river segments that did not have existing or reasonably foreseeable water projects or other developmental activities and Alternative 4 contained segments that could have been adversely affected by existing or reasonably foreseeable future water resource projects or other developmental activities. In the DEIS, river segments in Alternatives 3 and 4 included the best representation of outstanding remarkable values and was based on the best available information about potential projects at draft release. Between DEIS and FEIS, new information was found or presented about reasonably foreseeable developments that caused shifting of rivers between Alternatives 3 and 4. In addition, Alternative 7 was developed in response to public comment during the DEIS comment period.

There is a Comparison of Alternatives table located in the FEIS, Chapter 2, Section 2.4 – Comparison of Alternatives which provides a summary of the effects of implementing each alternative.

**ROD Table 3. Comparison of Segments Found Suitable by Alternatives. All mileages are approximate.**

		Alt. 1	Alt. 2	Alt. 3	Alt. 4	Alt. 5	Alt. 6	Alt. 7
Number of Classifications*	Wild	0	0	21	0	36	17	7
	Scenic	0	0	17	2	13	18	3
	Recreational	0	0	12	2	6	10	2
Total Number of River Segments*		0	0	43	3	50	40	10
Miles of River Segment by Classification	Wild	0	0	178.7	0	393.9	216.4	74.3
	Scenic	0	0	97.6	22.05	88.6	112.75	22
	Recreational	0	0	93.9	22.6	47.8	112	11.5
Total Miles of River Segments		0	0	370	45	530	441	108

\* Some river segments have more than one classification (e.g., a portion of the river segment is classified as Scenic and a portion is classified as Recreational, etc.)

## Environmentally Preferred Alternative

Alternative 1 – No action, maintain eligibility of all river segments is the environmentally preferred alternative. In this alternative suitability findings would be deferred and current management practices would continue. All 86 river segments (a total of 840 miles) would continue to be managed as “eligible” for their potential inclusion into the National System, and the Forest Service would continue to use its existing authorities to protect free flow, water quality, ORVs, and recommended tentative classifications (interim management outlined in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80 - Wild and Scenic River Evaluation). Management would continue to be in accordance with existing laws and regulations and land and resource management plans. Use conflicts between eligible river segments and other proposed actions would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Alternative 1, however, was not the alternative that the forest supervisors selected for several reasons. This alternative would not meet the purpose and need which is to complete the process for determining which, if any, eligible rivers on the National Forests in Utah should be recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. There was concern raised about leaving eligible river segments under interim protection for an extended period without completing suitability studies. The State of Utah and many counties desired the Forest Service to complete the suitability step of wild and scenic river analysis. Selecting this alternative would have resulted in the protection of free flow, ORVs, and recommended classifications in perpetuity or until a future decision were made, for all 86 segments.

Further, it is the opinion of the Forest Supervisors that with implementation of the Selected Alternative and because there are no ground disturbing activities associated with this project, this project will not result in harm to the environment. The Selected Alternative is an environmentally acceptable alternative, which is responsive to public demand and appropriate management of the National Forests in Utah.

## Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study

Federal agencies are required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to rigorously explore

and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives and to briefly discuss the reasons for eliminating any alternatives that were not developed in detail (40 CFR 1502.14). Public comments received in response to the Proposed Action provided suggestions for alternative methods for achieving the purpose and need. Some of these alternatives may have been outside the scope of project, duplicative of the alternatives considered in detail, or determined to have components that would cause unnecessary environmental harm. Therefore, a number of alternatives were considered, but dismissed from detailed consideration. These alternatives and the reasons why the Forest Service chose to eliminate them from detailed study are described in detail in the FEIS, Section 2.3 – Alternatives Considered, but Eliminated from Detailed Study.

The alternatives eliminated from detailed study included the following themes: find suitable all river segments that were determined to be eligible; find suitable those segments with existing and potential water resource projects that also have underrepresented outstandingly remarkable values in the National System; find suitable those segments with underrepresented outstandingly remarkable values when compared with the National System of rivers; find suitable those segments within specific geographic areas of the State; find suitable those segments located within designated Wilderness; find suitable those segments located within an inventoried roadless area; find suitable those segments that are not wholly or partially protected by Congressional designation or agency designated Research Natural Areas (RNAs); find suitable those river segments that could receive support from the State of Utah; find suitable all river segments with public support; and find suitable river segments with the highest number of outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs).

## Public Involvement

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The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a DEIS was published in the *Federal Register* on April 30, 2007. Approximately 2,700 postcards and scoping letters were mailed to government officials, organizations, and the public. Since April 2007, a website has been maintained including study newsletters, public meeting notices, maps, list of rivers, and other relevant information (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/rivers/>). In addition, as part of the public involvement process, the Forest Service has listed the project on the Forest Service Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) since April 2007. The SOPA is posted on the Forest Service Web page at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/index.php>.

In May, June, and July 2007, news releases were sent to and appeared in various newspapers in Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. The Forest Service in conjunction with the State of Utah held 17 public open houses, met with counties and regional Association of Governments (AOGs), and held informal meetings upon request. Fliers were posted in local towns to announce open houses. Public open houses were held in Lyman, Wyoming; Paradox, Colorado; and Moab, Castle Dale, Ephraim, Richfield, Cedar City, Escalante, Logan, Park City, Vernal, Heber City, Oakley, Provo, Saint George, Salt Lake City, and Monticello, Utah. Approximately 300 Congressional staff, county officials, landowners, mining claimants, local residents, environmental group members, and others who had interest regarding the river segments attended the workshops.

Over 3,000 scoping comments were received. Scoping comments were summarized and posted on the website on July 23 (see project record Summary of Scoping Comments, Draft Version – July 19, 2007) and updated on January 9, 2008 (see project record Summary of Scoping Comments, Final Version – January 9, 2008). The Forest Service used the insights from the scoping comments to identify issues and concerns that were not identified through internal deliberations, to identify potential alternatives to the proposed action, and to obtain a preliminary assessment of potential environmental, social, and economic effects (See FEIS, Section 1.11 – Issues). The interdisciplinary team evaluated and considered the content of scoping comments during the design and analysis of the DEIS, and included them in the project record.

On December 7, 2007 a Notice of Availability was published in the *Federal Register* announcing the availability of the DEIS. Notices were published in newspapers and approximately 3,000 copies of the DEIS or postcards were sent to the public announcing availability of the DEIS. Ten public meetings were held January and February 2008 in Lyman, Wyoming and Provo, Escalante, St. George, Richfield, Monticello, Huntington, Vernal, Ephraim, Salt Lake City, and Logan, Utah. The comment period for the DEIS ended February 15, 2008. The DEIS comment period elicited approximately 375 original responses and 2,183 organized campaign responses for a total of 2,558 total responses. All comments on the DEIS, oral or written or electronic, that were postmarked, e-mailed, or delivered by February 15, 2008, were included in the public comment content analysis process, recorded in a database, and summarized for use by the NEPA Services Group and sent to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Interdisciplinary Team and the responsible officials for review (see Utah National Forests Wild and Scenic Rivers DEIS – Summary of Public Comment). The Wild and Scenic Rivers Interdisciplinary Team reviewed and responded to the comments in the FEIS, Chapter 6.

## Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations \_\_\_\_\_

Numerous laws, regulations and agency directives require that the decision be consistent with their provisions. The decision is consistent with all laws, regulations and agency policy relevant to this project. The following discussion is intended to provide information on the regulations that apply to areas raised as issues or comments by the public or other agencies.

**National Forest Management Act (NFMA)** – Management activities are to be consistent with the Forest Plan [p16 USC 1604 (i)]. There will not be a Forest Plan amendment for the Manti-La Sal National Forest since no mention of wild and scenic rivers occurs in their 1986 Forest Plan and there are no river segments suitable for recommendation. The Ashley National Forest, Dixie National Forest, Uinta and Wasatch-Cache portions of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) will require amending as part of this decision (see appendices) In all other respects the decision to select Alternative 7 is consistent with the intent of the Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Uinta, and Wasatch-Cache LRMPs forest-wide goals, subgoals, and objectives and the desired conditions.

### Significance of Forest Plan Amendment

The 2008 Planning regulations (FR Vol. 73, No. 77) include specific language at 36 CFR 219.14(b)(2) for Plan Amendments for Plans approved or revised pursuant to the planning regulations in effect before November 9, 2000. A three year transition period begins on April 21, 2008 during which the Responsible Official may continue using the provisions of the planning regulation in effect before November 9, 2000 or may conform to the requirements the 2008 Planning Regulation. Since the four Responsible Officials elected to use the provisions of the prior planning regulation the “significance” of an amendment must be determined. It is important to note that there is a difference between “significance” of the change to a forest plan and “significance” of the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Determination of “significance” for a forest plan amendment is based on the following criteria defined in the Forest Service Manual 1926.5 (Regional Forester letter dated August 9, 2007).

Changes to the land management plan that are not significant can result from:

1. Actions that do not significantly alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.

2. Adjustments of management area boundaries or management prescriptions resulting from further on-site analysis when the adjustments do not cause significant changes in the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.
3. Minor changes in standards and guidelines.
4. Opportunities for additional projects or activities that will contribute to achievement of the management prescription.

### **Goals and Objectives**

This amendment will not alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management established during the planning process (See the Land and Resource Management Plans for the Ashley National Forest 1986, Dixie National Forest 1986, Fishlake National Forest 1986, Uinta National Forest 2003, and Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003).

### **Management Area Boundaries or Management Prescription**

This project does not alter management area boundaries on any of the National Forests in Utah. Recommending river segments as suitable and removing interim protection as potential wild and scenic rivers from segments that have been determined eligible, but are not recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System does not change or affect management prescriptions for the Ashley, Dixie, or Fishlake National Forests.

The Uinta National Forest Plan Amendment #2 removes Management Prescription 2.1 – Wild and Scenic Rivers with a Wild classification and Management Prescription 2.2 – Wild and Scenic Rivers with a Scenic Classification from the Uinta LRMP when it was determined that river segments with a Wild or Scenic classification would not be recommended as suitable. In addition, Management Prescription 2.3 – Wild and Scenic Rivers with a Recreation classification would be removed from river segments not recommended as suitable. Further, interim protection as potential wild and scenic rivers would be removed precluding the use of these two prescriptions at a future time in this planning cycle. The Uinta LRMP also identified an underlying management prescription (other than prescription 2.1, 2.2, or 2.3) for these river corridors and these would remain unchanged.

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan Amendment #5 applies Management Prescription 2.1 – Wild and Scenic Rivers with a Wild classification and Management Prescription 2.2 – Wild and Scenic Rivers with a Scenic Classification to the Stillwater and Ostler Fork segments that are recommended as suitable (see wild and scenic river map in amendment). The underlying management prescriptions the Wasatch-Cache LRMP originally identified for these river corridors would remain unchanged.

This change is not significant because it does not result in any difference in management that causes significant changes in the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.

### **Minor changes in Standards and Guidelines**

This decision does not change any of the standards and guidelines in the Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, or Wasatch-Cache National Forests LRMPs. The amendment and subsequent removal of Management Prescription 2.1 – Wild and Scenic Rivers with a Wild classification and Management Prescription 2.2 – Wild and Scenic Rivers with a Scenic Classification from the Uinta National Forest LRMP does

modify standards and guidelines associated with these two prescriptions. Removing these two prescriptions and the standards and guidelines that only apply to them, results in a minor and nonsignificant change.

### **Opportunities for additional projects or activities that contribute to the achievement of the management prescription**

There are no ground-disturbing activities associated with this project, nor will this change preclude or necessitate additional projects. Any additional projects proposed within the river corridors would be analyzed in a separate site-specific NEPA document. The change does not alter the ability to achieve management prescriptions and the areas recommended as suitable wild and scenic river corridors will continue to be managed with their intended emphasis areas.

After reviewing the Forest Service manual direction, the proposed amendments for the Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Uinta, and Wasatch-Cache LRMPs were found to be not significant in accordance with the requirements of sections 1926.51 and 1926.52.

**Clean Water Act** – The Clean Water Act requires each state to implement its own water quality standards. As noted in the DEIS, Section 3.12 – Water Resources and Development environmental consequences section, implementation of the Selected Alternative would not negatively impact water quality or Drinking Water Source Protection Zones (DWSPZs) because there would be no change to current management in accordance with the Clean Water Act; Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards; Utah Water Quality Act and Utah Code R309-605-7/8; Colorado law, Title 25-8 and The Colorado Water Quality Act; Wyoming law, Title 35-11, The Wyoming Environmental Quality Act and Wyoming Water Quality Rules and Regulations. The FEIS analysis identified streams that have water quality impairments and stream segment corridors that are within DWSPZs to track areas that need to be managed for water quality in the long-term comprehensive river management plan for the segment if found suitable. The river segments in the Selected Alternative with DWSPZs are: Upper Uinta River, North Fork Virgin River, and Little Provo Deer Creek.

Pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act as amended, each State is required to identify those assessment units for which existing pollution controls are not stringent enough to implement state water quality standards. Thus, those waters or assessment units (i.e., lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and streams) that are not currently achieving or are not expected to achieve those standards are identified as water quality limited. An assessment unit is considered water quality limited when it is known that its water quality does not meet applicable water quality standards or is not expected to meet applicable water quality standards. Assessment units can be water quality limited due to point sources of pollutants, non point sources of pollutants or both. (Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Water Quality, 2006).

Each State prepares a 303(d) list, and is required to prioritize its assessment units for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development and to identify those assessment units that will be targeted for TMDL development within the next two years. None of the Wild and Scenic study streams were listed on the 2006 lists for Utah, Colorado, or Wyoming. Selected Alternative river segments that were impaired in the past and have had TMDL studies approved in the past include: the Virgin River, which includes the North Fork Virgin River segment and the Upper Uinta River (<http://www.waterquality.utah.gov/TMDL/index.htm#addinfo>).

The Forest Service's obligation to protect water quality in Wild and Scenic Rivers requires compliance with the Clean Water Act or nondegradation of existing quality, whichever is more protective. The obligation is to develop and implement management actions that protect and enhance water quality. Such

actions may include partnerships with local and state agencies and water conservation districts. Further, the river administering agencies should develop an appropriate level of water quality monitoring. There would be no adverse impacts to water quality because there are no ground-disturbing activities associated with the decision. This decision is in compliance with the Clean Water Act.

**Executive Order 11990 of May 1977** – This order requires the Forest Service to take action to minimize destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands. In compliance with this order, Forest Service direction requires that analysis be completed to determine whether adverse impacts would result. There would be no adverse impacts to wetlands because there are no ground-disturbing activities associated with the decision. This decision is in compliance with EO 11990.

**Executive Order 11988 of May 1977** – This order required the Forest Service to provide leadership and take action to (1) minimize adverse impacts associated with occupancy and modification of floodplains and reduce risk of flood loss, (2) minimize impacts of floods on human safety, health and welfare, and (3) restore and preserve natural and beneficial values served by floodplains. There would be no adverse impacts to floodplains because there are no ground-disturbing activities associated with the decision. This decision is in compliance with EO 11988.

**Endangered Species Act** – This Act directs that all Federal departments and agencies shall seek to conserve endangered, and threatened (and proposed) species of fish, wildlife and plants. This obligation is further clarified in a National Interagency Memorandum of Agreement (dated August 30, 2000), which states our shared mission to “...enhance conservation of imperiled species while delivering appropriate goods and services provided by the lands and resources.” Based on the disclosure in Chapter 3, concerning threatened and endangered or proposed wildlife, plant, or fish species, and the Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation (USDA Forest Service 2008), it has been determined there are no effects to populations of endangered, and threatened (and proposed) species of fish, wildlife and plants relative to this decision and no impacts to Forest Service sensitive species, because there are no ground disturbing activities and future site-specific activities would be documented in a separate NEPA analysis. This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

**Executive Order 13186 of January 10, 2001** – Based on the discussion in Chapter 3, Section 3.13 – Wildlife (Terrestrial) of the FEIS and information in the project file concerning migratory birds, this decision is in compliance with this Executive Order for the Conservation of Migratory Birds.

**Executive Order 13112 – Invasive Species** – This Executive Order directs that Federal Agencies should not authorize any activities that would increase the spread of invasive species. There are no ground-disturbing activities associated with the decision; therefore, the approved activity will not increase the spread of invasive species. This decision is in compliance with EO 13112.

**American Antiquities Act of 1906 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966** – There are no ground-disturbing activities associated with the decision; therefore, the approved activity will not impact cultural resources. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with the determination of “no historic properties affected” for this project in a letter dated October 23, 2008. This decision is in compliance with the American Antiquities Act of 1906 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

**Clean Air Act, As Amended In 1977** – There are no ground-disturbing activities associated with the decision; therefore, the approved activity will not impact on air quality. This decision is in compliance with the Clean Air Act.

**Roadless Area Conservation Rule of January 12, 2001** - The intent of the rule is to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System in the context of multiple use management. It prohibits road construction and reconstruction and timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands. This Rule is currently enjoined by the District Court in Wyoming. There are no ground-disturbing activities associated with the decision; therefore, the approved activity will not impact roadless areas. The decision is consistent with this Rule should it come back into effect.

**Travel Management Rule of November 9, 2005 – (36 CFR Parts 212 and 261)** – The rule requires designation of roads, trails, and areas open to motor vehicle use. It prohibits the use of motor vehicles off the designated system. There are no ground-disturbing activities associated with the decision nor does it make changes to roads or trails open to motor vehicle use. This decision is consistent with this Rule.

**Prime Farmland, Rangeland and Forest Land (Secretary of Agriculture Memorandum 1827)** – There are no ground-disturbing activities associated with the decision; therefore, the approved activity will not impact prime farmland, rangeland, or forest land. The decision is consistent with this Memorandum.

**Civil rights** – Based on comments received during scoping and the DEIS comment periods, no conflicts have been identified with other Federal, State or local agencies or with Native Americans, other minorities, women, or civil rights of any United States citizen. See FEIS, Section 3.18 – Environmental Justice and Section 1.9 – Interrelationships for a description of Tribal Consultation.

**Executive Order 12898 of February 16, 1994 “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice on Minority Populations and Low-income Populations”** – This order requires Federal Agencies to the extent practicable and permitted by law to make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing as appropriate disproportionately high and adverse human health effects, of its programs and policies and activities on minorities and low income populations in the United States and territorial possessions. In compliance with this Executive Order the Forest Supervisors of the National Forests in Utah through intensive scoping and public involvement attempted to identify interested and affected parties, including minorities and low-income populations for this project. A comment period was held for approximately 65 days following the publication of the Notice of Availability of the DEIS in the *Federal Register*. No minorities and low-income populations were identified during public involvement activities. See FEIS, Section 3.18 – Environmental Justice.

## **Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Non-significant Forest Plan Amendments**

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217.3. Appeals must meet the content requirements of 36 CFR 217.9. A written appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeal Reviewing Officer within 45 days of the date of publication of the legal notice. The legal notice will be published in the following newspapers: Vernal Express, Daily Spectrum, Richfield Reaper, Sun Advocate, The Daily Herald, and the Salt Lake Tribune. The appeal period will begin following publication of the legal notice in whichever newspaper publishes it last. Appeals must be sent to: Regional Forester, Intermountain Region USFS, 324 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Ogden, Utah 84401; by fax to 801-625-5277; or by email to: [appeals-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us](mailto:appeals-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us). Emailed appeals must be submitted in rich text (rtf) or Word (doc) and must include the project name in the subject line. Appeals may also be hand delivered to the above address, during regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Suitability determinations document in this decision are a preliminary administrative recommendation to Congress and not final agency action. Thus, they are not appealable. Forest Plan amendments documented in this decision are appealable.

## Implementation

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If the appeal is affirmed, this preliminary administrative recommendation will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States before a final recommendation is made to Congress. The Forest Service will work cooperatively with the State of Utah and other agencies in the preparation of an interagency recommendation to Congress for the inclusion of rivers into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on designation of rivers as part of the National System. Management direction, such as the forest plan amendments may be implemented 30 days after publication of this decision.

If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile) and, if not established in the river-specific legislation, the classification of various segments within one year of designation. Section 3(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the CRMP “shall be prepared, after consultation with state and local governments and interested publics within three full fiscal years after the date of designation.”

## Contact Person

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For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact Cathy Kahlow, Wild and Scenic River Team Leader, by phone at: 801-733-2675 or at 8236 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84138.