

Scenery Outstandingly remarkable value (ORV)

In developing the **region of comparison** for the scenery ORV we set the region of comparison as the Forest boundary plus the South side of Salmon River to the south. Distinctive scenery is tied to the deep river canyons mountain peaks (See scenery region of comparison map)

The **Scenery ORV definition** in the FS directive for Wild and Scenic Rivers is: “Landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions. Additional factors, such as seasonal variation in vegetation scale of cultural modifications and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over different part of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a part of a river corridor. (FSH 1909.12, chapter 80)

In considering the types of scenery that are unique or exemplary in the region of comparison and not all rivers with the attributes listed. We began by defining specific attributes within the broader definition of scenery that may contribute to outstandingly remarkable values. Although some people think that “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” there are some basic premises of scenery. (Scenery Management System, 1995). We did not consider specific stands of vegetation such as cedar groves since vegetation changes over time, but considered the variety of vegetation.

| Attribute | Description | Information sources |
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| 1.) Distinctive scenic features such as Waterfalls or rapids | Waterfalls and rapids are important scenic feature because of the interplay of fast-moving and still water. | Comment letters, Forest Plan assessment, local knowledge, google earth Waterfall Lover’s Guide- Pacific Northwest (Plumb, 2012) USGS GNIS- waterfalls The Idaho Roadless Rule FEIS (2008) www.waterfallsnorthwest.com www.summitpost.org |
| 2.) Distinctive river canyons | Those landscapes that include a harmonious diversity of rock, water and a variety of vegetation (Scenery Management System, 1995) | Forest website, forest plan assessment, comment letters on the proposed action, google earth, local knowledge, field notes Backpacking Idaho (Lorain, 2012) Pot Mountain (Rabe and Boyd, 2009) North Fork Glimpses (Rabe, undated) Hiking Idaho (Maughan 2001) Hiking the Selway –Bitterroot Wilderness (Steinberg, 2012) Idaho, the Whitewater State (Amaral, 1990) Moon, Idaho Handbook (Kelly) www.americanwhitewater.org www.idahoconservation.org/events/plan-your-own-adventure |

The two major distinctive river canyons that are not already designated Wild and Scenic Rivers are the lower South Fork upstream from Blackerby to 10 mile creek and North Fork Clearwater Rivers which each have cliffs, large boulders forming rapids, the juxtaposition of white water and smooth, reflective water, and a variety of vegetation, tree, shrubs and grasslands along their length. In addition, Johns Creek stands out with a deeply incised canyon. Several tributaries of Johns Creek, Gospel Creek and West Fork Gospel Creek have high cirque lakes and dramatic cliffs. We found several of the North Fork tributaries highly scenic waterfalls, Cave and Chateau creek which include multiple drops over pink granite. This areas is a research natural area, largely due to the waterfalls and noted by Rabe, in Pot Mountain and North Fork Glimpses booklets. Kelly Creek in addition to its fame for fly fishing, is a beautiful clear-flowing stream. Several of its forks extend to the State line divide and include a diversity of scenery along with another Kelly Creek tributary, Cayuse Creek is also described as very scenic along with its recreational value for fishing. Elk Creek Falls is noted as having multiple types of waterfalls in black basalt rock, in a short stretch of river, downstream of the town or Elk River, this falls is noted in numerous guide books and tourism into as a scenic place to visit.

We re-affirmed the scenic quality of the Salmon River below Long Tom Creek, which has been found scenic in numerous WSR reviews. The combination of the waterfalls in Mallard and Noble Creek, drop in a spectacular manner to the Salmon River, one of the longest drops. The boundary for the Frank Church Wilderness appears to have been drawn specifically to include these.

Since the Forest includes 1.2 million acres of some of the most spectacular wilderness areas in the country, it is not surprising that many of the river with high scenic quality are found in a wilderness area. The Hiking the Selway Bitterroot Guide describes that the most only a few places feature truly dramatic scenery- the Selway Crags and the Bitterroot Divide. (Lorain 2012) The designated Selway River flows through the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and we found many of its tributaries to have high scenic quality particularly the high cirque lakes and craggy peaks in their headwaters. The photos in tabs 8 and 9 show upper Three Links Creek, a Selway River Tributary with Headwater in the Crags. The 400 foot waterfall drop in Three Links is highlighted by climbers in summit post.org which states the 400'+ series of drops and slides falls. Other notable scenic Selway Crags rivers are Old Man Creek and Rhoda Creek. With stunning lakes and cliffs in their headwaters. Both Bear Creek and Moose Creek along with the headwaters of some of their tributaries such as Cub and Brushy Fork also have high visual variety.

Warm Springs Creek, tributary to the Wild and Scenic Lochsa River, also in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness has a spectacular waterfall drop of the entire stream into a punchbowl formation, one that is noted in the Waterfall Lovers Guide. Other scenic Lochsa tributaries include Storm Creek and its Forks on the Bitterroot Divide and Big Sand Creek which is noted in Amaral and the American whitewater, org website as truly stunning, with talus fields and vertical granite walls.