

Appendix D. Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Evaluation, Shoshone National Forest

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Rocky Mountain Region

2012



Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Evaluation

Shoshone National Forest

April 2012



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

Table of contents

Table of contents.....	i
Introduction	2
Forest Service Policy	2
Background	2
Identification of potentially eligible rivers	3
Free flowing.....	5
Outstandingly remarkable values	6
Outstandingly remarkable values significance	8
Eligible river documentation	8
Classification	9
Descriptions of the eligible segments	12
Clarks Fork River.....	12
Dinwoody Creek.....	12
Greybull River	13
Middle Popo Agie River	13
North Fork of the Shoshone River	14
South Fork of the Shoshone River.....	14
Sunlight Creek.....	15
Warm Spring Creek.....	16
West Fork Dunoir Creek.....	17
Wiggins Fork	17
Wood River	18

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

Introduction

This report documents the wild and scenic river eligibility evaluation for the Shoshone's forest plan revision. The direction to conduct an eligibility evaluation comes from the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (Act).¹

The Act directs federal agencies to identify potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (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.

Forest Service policy

The Forest Service developed guidance for Wild and Scenic River evaluation in the directive system in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, chapter 80. This handbook requires the land management planning process to include a comprehensive evaluation of the potential for rivers in an administrative unit to be eligible for inclusion in the National System. It lists sources for identifying the significance of river-related values, including the Nationwide Rivers Inventory; state river assessments; identification by tribal governments, other federal, state, or local agencies; and the public (81.2).

The land management planning team is to develop and conduct a process to determine which rivers meet the eligibility criteria specified in sections 1(b) and 2(b) of the Act. Upon completion of a systematic inventory of eligible rivers, the timing of conducting the suitability process may vary. The preferred process is to proceed with determining suitability in the land management planning process. An alternative is to delay the suitability determination of eligible rivers until a subsequent separate study is completed. If such delay is warranted, the land management plan shall provide for protection of the eligible river corridor until a decision is made on the future use of the river and adjacent lands (83.1).

Background

Congress enacted the Act to preserve select rivers' free-flowing conditions, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values. The most important provision of the Act is protecting rivers from the harmful effects of water resources projects. To protect free-flowing character, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (which licenses nonfederal hydropower projects) is not allowed to license construction of dams, water conduits, reservoirs, powerhouses, transmission lines, or other project works on or directly affecting wild and scenic rivers. Other federal agencies may not assist by loan, grant, license, or otherwise any water resources project that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which a river was designated.

The Act also directs that each river in the National System be administered in a manner to protect and enhance a river's outstanding natural and cultural values. It allows existing uses of a river to continue and future uses to be considered, so long as existing or

¹ Public Law 90-542.

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

proposed use does not conflict with protecting river values. The Act also directs building partnerships among landowners, river users, tribal nations, and all levels of government. Rivers may be identified for study by an act of Congress under Section 5(a), or through federal agency-initiated study under Section 5(d)(1). By the end of 2002, Congress had authorized 138 rivers for study. Section 5(d)(1) directs federal agencies to consider the potential of wild and scenic rivers in their planning processes.

Both Sections 5(a) and 5(d)(1) studies require determinations to be made regarding a river's eligibility, classification, and suitability. Eligibility and classification represent an inventory of existing conditions. Eligibility is an evaluation of whether a river is free-flowing and possesses one or more outstandingly remarkable values. If found eligible, a river is analyzed as to its current level of development (water resources projects, shoreline development, and accessibility) and a recommendation is made that it be placed into one or more of three classes—wild, scenic, or recreational.

In this evaluation, only eligibility of rivers on the Shoshone National Forest is completed. All rivers found eligible have also been classified and appropriate protections applied. Suitability is deferred, pending:

1. Public interest or support in wild and scenic river study, and
2. Congress expresses interest in a specific river for wild and scenic river designation, or
3. A proposed project would alter the free-flowing character of a stream, such as by impoundment, or adversely affect outstandingly remarkable values, or the river's inventoried classification (82.5)

Identification of potentially eligible rivers

Section 5(d)(1) requires consideration of potential wild and scenic rivers in all federal agency planning for water and land resources. There is no single approach to developing and documenting a forest-wide assessment of potential additions to the National System. Given the objective of determining which river-related values are unique, rare, or exemplary at a comparative regional or national scale, there are a number of sources of information to consider when designing an evaluation approach.

- Forest Service information about river-related values based on special areas and designations in the initial forest plan. That is, consider the significance of river-related values in areas identified as having special natural, cultural, or recreational values.
- Other agency information about river-related values based on agency-specific or area plans (e.g., significance of aquatic species/habitat provided by a federal or state fish agency).
- Nonprofit information based on comparative analysis (e.g., The Nature Conservancy plant and plant-community database and the American Whitewater National Whitewater Inventory²).
- Public and nongovernmental organization information provided on the relative significance of river-related values.

The Shoshone National Forest planning team reviewed the Nationwide Rivers³ Inventory, the American Rivers⁴ list, input from the public, nongovernmental organizations, and employees to determine a list of potential eligible rivers. Twenty-six rivers were identified as potentially eligible rivers on the Shoshone National Forest.

² <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/view>

³ <http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rtca/nri/>

⁴ <http://www.americanrivers.org>

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

Table 1—Identification of potential eligible river segments

River	Segment
Bear Creek	Headwaters to trailhead
Bull Lake Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary
Clarks Fork	Forest boundary to Crandall Creek
Crandall Creek	Headwaters to ~ 1 mile past wilderness boundary
Dinwoody Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary
East Fork Dunoir Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary
East Fork Wind River	Headwaters to wilderness boundary
	Wilderness boundary to Forest boundary
Frontier Creek	Headwaters to trailhead
Greybull River	Headwaters to ~ 0.5 mile past wilderness boundary
Horse Creek	Headwaters to ~ 1 mile outside wilderness boundary
	~ 1 mile outside wilderness boundary to Forest boundary
Jakeys Fork	Headwaters to Forest boundary
Little Popo Agie River	Headwaters to Forest boundary
Middle Fork Wood River	District boundary to private boundary
Middle Popo Agie River	Headwaters to wilderness boundary
	Wilderness boundary to trailhead
North Crandall Creek	Headwaters to wilderness boundary
North Fork Shoshone River	Wilderness boundary to Forest boundary
North Popo Agie River	Headwaters to Forest boundary
South Fork Shoshone River	Headwaters to wilderness boundary
South Fork Wood River	Headwaters to start of road
	Start of road (ski cabin) to Forest boundary
Sunlight Creek	Park boundary to wilderness boundary
	Wilderness boundary to Spring Creek gate
	Below Spring Creek gate to Sunlight Bridge
	Sunlight Bridge to Clarks Fork River
Warm Spring Creek	Headwaters to Warm Springs canyon
	Warm Spring canyon
West Fork Dunoir Creek	Headwaters to ~ 1.5 miles from Forest boundary
West Torrey Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary
Wiggins Fork	Headwaters to trailhead
	Trailhead to Forest boundary
Wind River	Portion of the river on the Forest
Wood River	Headwaters to Kirwin
	Kirwin to Forest boundary

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

Free flowing

The next step of the process was to determine if the 26 potential eligible river segments were free flowing. Forest Service specialists identified impoundments or other structures that would disqualify these rivers as free flowing. Table 2 lists the rivers and identifies their current level of development. A “no” response indicates the river was found to have an impoundment or other structure that disqualified it from meeting the free-flow criteria.

The Act defines free flow as

. . . existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, riprapping, or other modifications of the waterways. The existence of low dams, diversions, works, and other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the National System shall not automatically bar its consideration for such inclusion: Provided, that this shall not be construed to authorize, intend, or encourage future construction of such structures within components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

Table 2–Evaluation of the potential eligible rivers for free-flowing determination

River	Impoundments or other structures	Free-flowing determination
Bear Creek	No impoundments	Free flowing
Bull Lake Creek	No impoundments	Free flowing
Clarks Fork	2 irrigation diversions	Free flowing
Crandall Creek	No impoundments	Free flowing
Dinwoody Creek	No impoundments	Free flowing
East Fork Dunoir Creek	No impoundments	Free flowing
East Fork Wind River	No impoundments	Free flowing
Frontier Creek	No impoundments	Free flowing
Greybull River	No impoundments	Free flowing
Horse Creek	No impoundments	Free flowing
Jakeys Fork	No impoundments	Free flowing
Little Popo Agie River	Dam and ditch	No
Middle Fork Wood River	No impoundments	Free flowing
Middle Popo Agie River	No impoundments	Free flowing
North Crandall Creek	No impoundments	Free flowing
North Fork Shoshone River	1 irrigation diversion	Free flowing
North Popo Agie River	No impoundments	Free flowing
South Fork Shoshone River	No impoundments	Free flowing
South Fork Wood River	No impoundments	Free flowing
Sunlight Creek	2 irrigation diversions	Free flowing
Warm Spring Creek	1 diversion ditch	Free flowing
West Fork Dunoir Creek	No impoundments	Free flowing
West Torrey Creek	No impoundments	Free flowing
Wiggins Fork	No impoundments	Free flowing
Wind River	1 irrigation diversion	Free flowing
Wood River	No impoundments	Free flowing

It was determined that 25 river segments had no significant impoundments or other structures and were free flowing. The remaining river segment, Little Popo Agie River, was found to have a significant impoundment and was disqualified.

Outstandingly remarkable values

The next step was to decide on eligibility criteria and consider whether each potentially eligible river had an outstandingly remarkable value (or values). To help in identifying an outstandingly remarkable value (or values) the planning team used the criteria in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, 82.14a and identified additional factors to make it meaningful for application on the Shoshone National Forest, which served as the area of consideration for the comparative analysis.

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

Outstandingly remarkable values are unique, rare, or exemplary features that are significant at a comparative regional or national scale. Outstandingly remarkable values must be related to the river or its immediate environment. The seven outstandingly remarkable values and their attributes are:

1. **Scenery**– The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attraction within the nation or region. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors such as seasonal variations 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 the majority of the river or river segment.

Attributes for scenery outstandingly remarkable values– Consider the presence of high relief landforms with unusual or outstanding topographic features and still or cascading water that is dominant in the landscape. River corridors with the greatest diversity and variety of views both foreground and background are of higher value. River corridors with high relief and focal points that are visually striking, particularly memorable, or rare in the region are of higher value. River corridors with the greatest seasonal variation and diversity are of higher value. Viewsheds that are free from aesthetically undesirable sights and influences are generally of higher values.

2. **Recreation**–Recreation opportunities are or have the potential to be unique enough to attract visitors from outside the geographic region. Visitors would be willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, tubing, floating, boating, paddling, fishing, and hunting. Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract or have the potential to attract visitors from outside the geographic region. The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional competitive events.

Attributes for recreation outstandingly remarkable values–Consider the amount of time the river corridor is used or available for recreation purposes, the number and variety of recreation uses, the number of similar experiences available in the region, availability of private and public access points, and the ability to attract visitors from outside the region. Rivers with the longest season of use are of higher value. Rivers that provide for the largest number and diversity of recreation uses are of higher value. Rivers that provide the most unique opportunities are of higher value. Rivers or corridors highly used by anglers, hunters, and wildlife viewers are usually of higher value.

3. **Geology**– The river or corridor contains an example of a geologic or hydrologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is rare or unique to the region, or an outstanding example of a commonly occurring feature. The feature may represent a textbook example.

Attributes for geology outstandingly remarkable values–Consider landforms and geologic setting with unusual or outstanding geologic features, the number and variety of special geologic features, and the value of these features to the region. River corridors with an abundance of unusual, unique, and distinctive geologic features to the region are of higher value. River corridors with the greatest diversity of geologic features are of higher value.

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

4. **Fish**— Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these factors. Consideration should be given to potential as well as existing values.
Attributes for fish outstandingly remarkable values— Consider the presence, extent, and carrying capacity of spawning areas, rearing areas, and adult habitat. Consider the number and variety of species present and the value of these species. Areas with the greatest amount and best habitat are of higher value. Rivers with more fish and/or have sizeable runs are of higher value. Rivers highly used by anglers or that offer unusual recreation experiences for the region are of higher value.
5. **Wildlife**— Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of wildlife populations, habitat, or a combination of these factors. Consideration should be given to potential as well as existing values. River corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of resident or indigenous wildlife species dependent on the river environment.
Attributes for wildlife outstandingly remarkable values— Consider the presence, extent, and carrying capacity of a variety of wildlife habitats, including winter range, summer range, transition zones, travel corridors, and calving areas. Consider the number and variety of species present and the value of these species. River corridors with the greatest and best habitat and habitat for rare species are of higher values. River corridors with the greatest diversity of species or the greatest number of wildlife are of higher value.
6. **Prehistory**—the river, or area within the corridor, contains a site or sites where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans.
7. **History**—the river, or area within the corridor, contains a site or feature associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was a rare or one-of-a-kind in the region.

Forest Service specialists reviewed the 25 potential eligible rivers to assess whether the segments had one or more of these seven outstandingly remarkable values.

Outstandingly remarkable values significance

The planning team then evaluated each of the potentially eligible rivers with an identified outstandingly remarkable value (or values) to determine whether one or more value was regionally or nationally significant:

- Regional importance—the value is important in the Greater Yellowstone Area
- National importance—the value is important nationally

As a result of this process, 13 rivers were found to possess one or more outstandingly remarkable values of regional or national importance and are therefore eligible for the National System.

Eligible river documentation

The planning team developed descriptions documenting the outstandingly remarkable values and classification for each of the 13 river segments. That information follows Table 3, which summarizes the values for the 13 river segments.

The 13 river segments, their outstandingly remarkable values, and classifications were presented to the public during forest plan revision meetings. Because of public comment, the classification of one river segment was changed.

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

The 13 river segments are shown in attachment A–Maps.

Classification

Each of the 13 eligible river segments were then classified into a category. Section 2(b) of the Act specifies and defines three classification categories for eligible rivers: wild rivers, scenic rivers, and recreational rivers.

The potential classification of a river found to be eligible is based on the condition of the river and the adjacent lands.

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

Table 3—River segments having ORVs and regional or national importance

River	Segment	Outstandingly remarkable value(s) Outstandingly remarkable value(s) rating			Classification
		wildlife high regional	scenery high national	recreation high regional	
Clarks Fork	Forest boundary to Crandall Creek	wildlife high regional	scenery high national	recreation high regional	recreational
Dinwoody Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary	scenery high regional			wild
Greybull River	Headwaters to ~0.5 mile past wilderness boundary	recreation high regional	fish high regional		wild
Middle Popo Agie River	Wilderness boundary to trailhead	scenery high regional	recreation high regional		recreational
North Fork Shoshone River	Wilderness boundary to Forest boundary	recreation high national	wildlife high national	history high national	recreational
South Fork Shoshone River	Headwaters to wilderness boundary	recreation high regional	fish high regional	wildlife high national	wild
Sunlight Creek	Wilderness boundary to Spring Creek gate	wildlife high regional			scenic
Warm Spring Creek	Headwaters to Warm Spring canyon	history high regional			recreational
Warm Spring Creek	Warm Spring canyon	scenery high national	history high national		scenic

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

River	Segment	Outstandingly remarkable value(s)			Classification
		rating	Outstandingly remarkable value(s)		
West Fork DuNoir Creek	Headwaters to ~1.5 miles from Forest boundary	wildlife high national	history high national		wild
Wiggins Fork	Trailhead to Forest boundary	scenery high regional	geology high regional		scenic
Wood River	Kirwin to Forest boundary	recreation high regional	history high regional	fish high regional	recreational

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

Descriptions of the eligible segments

Clarks Fork River

Location

The length of river studied flows southeast from the Montana border along U S Highways 212 and State Highway 296 to the beginning point of the designated wild segment of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River in T58N, R107W, T57N, R107W, T57N, R106W and T56N, R106W.

See the map on page 3 of attachment A.

Mileage

Studied: 17 miles (15 National Forest System, 2 private)

The complete length studied was determined to be eligible.

Flow

There are two irrigation diversions with headgates along this segment of the river; they do not affect the natural and riverine appearance of the river.

Outstandingly remarkable values

This river segment's scenery is important nationally due to its proximity next to the Beartooth All American Road (U S Highway 212) and the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway (State Highway 296). These roads follow the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River with high mountain peaks in the background and very little development along the river's shores. Many national and international visitors follow this recreational corridor as they make their way into Yellowstone National Park. Recreation is important regionally in this corridor. Easy access to the river along a significant portion of the upper section and large numbers of developed recreation facilities draw visitors and variety of recreational use. Recreational use ranges from anglers, to campers, to some recreation paddlers, to snowmobiles in the winter season. This segment of the river is also important regionally for the wildlife habitat it provides for grizzly bears and moose. These wildlife species can be seen using the river corridor for travel and foraging among the willow habitat type along the river bottom.

Classification

Recreational: The shoreline of the river segment has some development. There is some evidence of past timber harvest. The river is accessible by the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway (State Highway 296) and the Beartooth Scenic Byway (U S Highway 212), including a bridge crossing.

Dinwoody Creek

Location

The length studied flows northeast from the headwaters to the forest boundary in T37N, R107W, T37N, R106W, T38N, R106W, T39N, R106W and T39N, R105W.

See the map on page 13 of attachment A.

Mileage

Studied: 20 miles

The entire length studied was determined to be eligible.

Flow

The segment is free flowing and free of impoundments.

Outstandingly remarkable values

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

Dinwoody Creek is important regionally for its significant uncommon scenery as a glacial creek originating from glaciers on the continental divide. The creek is surrounded by the unique landform of steep-faced mountains carved out of granite and limestone by glaciers and glacial streams and numerous active glaciers.

Classification

Wild: The shoreline is primitive and undeveloped. The creek is accessible by the Glacier Trail (801) and inaccessible by roads.

Greybull River

Location

The portion of the river studied flows north from the headwaters below Greybull Pass to one mile before the Jack Creek trailhead in T45N,R104W, T46N,R104W, T46N, R105W, T47N, R105W and T48N, R104W.

See the map on page 6 of attachment A.

Mileage

Studied: 21 miles

The complete length studied was determined to be eligible.

Flow

The river segment is free flowing and free of impoundments.

Outstandingly remarkable values

The Greybull River is important regionally because it contains the most pure strain of the sensitive species Yellowstone cutthroat trout on the Shoshone National Forest. The river is accessed and followed by the popular Greybull River Trail (655) making it important regionally for horseback riding and outfitting, especially during the fall hunting season. This river segment also provides unique paddling opportunities including access to paddling high alpine meadows and access to one of the highest stretches of navigable whitewater in the Northern Rockies from Yellow Creek downstream. There is no development along this segment of the river.

Classification

Wild: The shoreline of the river segment is primitive and has no development. The river is only accessible by the Greybull River Trail (655). There is no evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest.

Middle Popo Agie River

Location

The length of river studied flows north and east from the headwaters to the Middle Fork trailhead in T31N, R102W, T32N, R102W, T32N, R101W. The eligible segment flows east from the Popo Agie Wilderness boundary to the Middle Fork trailhead in T32N, R101W.

See the map on page 8 of attachment A.

Mileage

Studied: 18 miles

The complete length studied was determined to be eligible.

Flow

The river segment is free flowing and free of impoundments.

Outstandingly remarkable values

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

The Middle Popo Agie River has a high scenic value regionally due to the canyon landscape and the Popo Agie falls that are present in this stretch of river. The Middle Fork Trail (700) runs along the river, making the river important regionally for the recreation opportunities of hiking, camping, and fishing along its shores. Additionally, this segment of river also provides paddlers' access to two excellent class V whitewater sections named the Falls and the Sinks. The Falls section offers a challenging adventure with many portages, while the Sinks section offers a high quality maze of steep and highly technical whitewater.

Classification

Recreational: There are some developments along the shoreline such as campgrounds and trailheads. The stretch of river is easily accessible by forest road 200.3, which fords the river in two locations.

North Fork of the Shoshone River**Location**

The length of river studied flows east along U S Highway 14/16/20 (Buffalo Bill Scenic Byway) from the North Absaroka Wilderness boundary to the eastern Forest boundary in T52N, R105W, R106W, R107W and R108W.

See the map on page 4 of attachment A.

Mileage

Studied: 30 miles

The complete length studied was determined to be eligible.

Flow

The river segment is free flowing and free of impoundments.

Outstandingly remarkable values

This segment runs along the Buffalo Bill Scenic Byway, a portal to Yellowstone National Park. The river is important nationally for its unusual Absaroka volcanic geologic formations along the river and the recreational opportunities of picnicking and camping along its shores, fly-fishing, river rafting and paddling, and wildlife viewing. There are many developments along the shore such as campgrounds, picnic areas, and lodges. The river is also very important regionally and nationally as important habitat for the grizzly bear, winter range for bighorn sheep, and the recreational value the habitat provides in allowing visitors to view grizzly bears and sheep along the river. In spring and summer, the vegetation along the river corridor is an important food source for grizzlies. The Shoshone has the largest population of bighorn sheep of any national forest and the area along the lower portion of the river drainage is important winter sheep habitat because it remains open and free of snow. The river corridor is also important nationally for the historic lodges on the Shoshone, including the Buffalo Bill hunting camp at Pahaska Tepee.

Classification

Recreational: There are developments along the shoreline of the river. There is evidence of ongoing timber harvest. The river is accessible by the Buffalo Bill Scenic Byway (U S Highway 14/16/20).

South Fork of the Shoshone River**Location**

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

The portion of river studied flows north from Shoshone Pass approximately 20 miles to the Washakie Wilderness boundary in T45N, R108W, T46N, R108W, T46N, R107W, T47N, R107W and T48N, R106W.

See the map on page 5 of attachment A.

Mileage

Studied: 29 miles

The complete length studied was determined to be eligible.

Flow

The river segment is free flowing and free of impoundments.

Outstandingly remarkable values

The South Fork of the Shoshone River is important regionally because it contains one of just a few Yellowstone cutthroat trout fisheries in Wyoming. This segment of river can be reached by the popular South Fork trail (809.2), which makes it important regionally for recreational activities such as horseback riding, packing, outfitting, and paddling in a remote area. Hiking upstream from the trailhead provides paddlers access to the opportunity to paddle remote box canyons of low to moderate difficulty, which is rare on the Shoshone and regionally. There are no developments along this segment of the river. The river is also very important regionally and nationally for wildlife. Species present in large numbers include the nationally significant grizzly bear, bighorn sheep, and elk. In addition, this river corridor provides critical habitat including winter range, summer range, transition zones, travel corridors, and calving areas.

Classification

Wild: The shoreline of the river segment has no development. The river is accessible only by the South Fork trail (809.2). There is no evidence of timber harvest.

Sunlight Creek

Location

The length studied begins at the Yellowstone National Park boundary and ends at the confluence with the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River in T54N, R107W and T56 N, R103W.

Two segments were determined to be eligible.

Segment A of Sunlight Creek flows southwest of State Highway 296 from the North Absaroka Wilderness boundary to the confluence of Spring Creek in T54N, R107W.

Segment B of Sunlight Creek flows northeast of State Highway 296 at Sunlight Bridge in T 55N, R104W, to the confluence of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River in T56 N, R104W.

See maps on pages 1 and 2 of attachment A.

Mileage

Studied: 32.0 miles

Eligible segment A: 8 miles Eligible segment B: 2 miles

Flow

Segment A is free flowing and free of impoundments. There are two to three irrigation diversions on Sunlight Creek below this segment, but they do not affect the natural and riverine appearance of the creek.

Segment B is free flowing and free of impoundments.

Outstandingly remarkable values for Segment A

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

This segment of the drainage is important regionally as habitat for grizzly bears. High concentrations of grizzly bears use the secure habitat of this upper drainage in the spring when they are moving out of dens and seeking forage along the creek bottom.

Classification for Segment A

Scenic: The shoreline of the river segment is primitive and undeveloped. The creek is accessible by the Forest Road 101 (Sunlight Road) which fords the creek in two locations.

Outstandingly remarkable values for Segment B

This portion of Sunlight Creek is important nationally for its dramatic scenery and Precambrian granitic geology characterized by rugged topography with steep canyon walls approximately 150 feet high. Many visitors enjoy viewing the deep canyon of Sunlight Creek from the Sunlight Bridge, which crosses the creek on the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway (State Highway 296). There is no development along the creek, which is accessible only by foot or horseback. The deep canyon of Sunlight Creek runs into the deep canyon of the nationally designated wild Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River.

Classification for Segment B

Wild: The shoreline of the river segment is primitive and undeveloped with no evidence of human activity. The creek is accessible only by foot. State Highway 296 runs by the west boundary of the segment.

Warm Spring Creek**Location**

The length studied flows north and east from the headwaters to the Forest boundary in T42N, R110W, T42N, R109W, T 42N, R108W, T 41N, R108W and T41N, R107W.

Two segments were determined to be eligible. Segment A flows east from the headwaters to the beginning of Warm Spring Canyon in T42N, R110W, T42N, R109W, T42N, R108W. Segment B runs east from segment A, through the Warm Spring Canyon in T41N, R108W, T42N, R108W, T41N, R107W.

See the maps on pages 9 and 10 of attachment A.

Mileage

Studied: 23 miles

Eligible segment A: 21 miles Eligible segment B: 2 miles

Flow

Both segments are free flowing and free of impoundments.

Outstandingly remarkable values for Segment A

Warm Spring Creek is of regional historic importance due to its use as a travelway for the tie hacking industry that took place in the Warm Spring area from 1927 through 1942, supplying ties to the railroads. Old flumes, splash dams, and tie booms from the tie hacking period can still be viewed along Warm Spring Creek.

Classification for Segment A

Recreational: There is some evidence of past timber harvest. The stretch of the creek is easily accessible by Forest Roads 1B, 544, 532, and 2D. These roads ford the creek in several places.

Outstandingly remarkable values for Segment B

This segment of Warm Spring Creek is important historically for the tie hacking industry that took place in Warm Spring Canyon from 1927 through 1942 to supply the railroads with ties. Old flumes, splash dams, and tie booms from the tie hacking period can still be

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

viewed in Warm Spring Canyon. This segment of Warm Spring Creek is important regionally for its dramatic scenery as the creek flows abruptly into a narrow canyon with steep granite walls and a natural bridge at its lower end.

Classification for Segment B

Scenic: The shoreline is primitive with no development. The creek is accessible by Forest Road 529 in one location.

West Fork Dunoir Creek**Location**

The length studied and eligible segment flow southeast from the headwaters to 1.5 miles before the Forest boundary in T44N, R109W, and T44N, R108W.

See the map on page 11 of attachment A.

Mileage

Studied: 8 miles

The entire length studied was determined to be eligible.

Flow

The segment is free flowing and free of impoundments.

Outstandingly remarkable values

Like Warm Spring Creek, West Dunoir Creek is important historically for the tie hacking industry that took place in the creek from 1921 through 1932 to supply the railroads with ties. A splash dam from the tie hacking era still exists on the West Fork of Dunoir Creek. The creek drainage is important regionally for the secure habitat it provides to grizzly bears and wolves on the southern end of the Greater Yellowstone Area.

Classification

Wild: The shoreline is primitive with no development other than the splash dam. The creek is accessible by the Dunoir Trail (808) and inaccessible by roads.

Wiggins Fork**Location**

The length of river studied flows southwest from the headwaters to the national forest boundary in T44N, R106W, and T43N, R106W, T45N, R105W and T45N, R106W.

The eligible segment flows south from the Double Cabin trailhead to the national forest boundary in T44N, R106W, and T43N, R106W.

See the map on page 12 of attachment A.

Mileage

Studied: 24 miles

Only a portion, 11 miles, was determined to be eligible.

Flow

The river segment is free flowing and free of impoundments.

Outstandingly remarkable values

Wiggins Fork is important regionally for its impressive canyon scenery of rolling hills leading down to the Wiggins Fork canyon and the Absaroka volcanic geology of the canyon walls.

Classification

Scenic: The shoreline is primitive and undeveloped. The creek is accessible in just a few places by roads.

Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

Wood River

Location

The length of river studied flows northeast 11 miles from the historic mining remains of Kirwin to the national forest boundary in T45N, R104W, T46N, R103W.

See the map on page 7 of attachment A.

Mileage

Studied: 13 miles

The complete length studied was determined to be eligible.

Flow

The river segment is free flowing and free of impoundments.

Outstandingly remarkable values

This segment of the Wood River drainage is known regionally for its high mountain scenery and is important recreationally and historically due to its flow through the historic early 1900s mining town of Kirwin. Many visitors conduct scenic drives along this stretch of river and visit the remains of Kirwin and the 1931 Double D ranch. This segment of the Wood River is important regionally because it contains one of the pure strains of Yellowstone cutthroat trout in Wyoming.

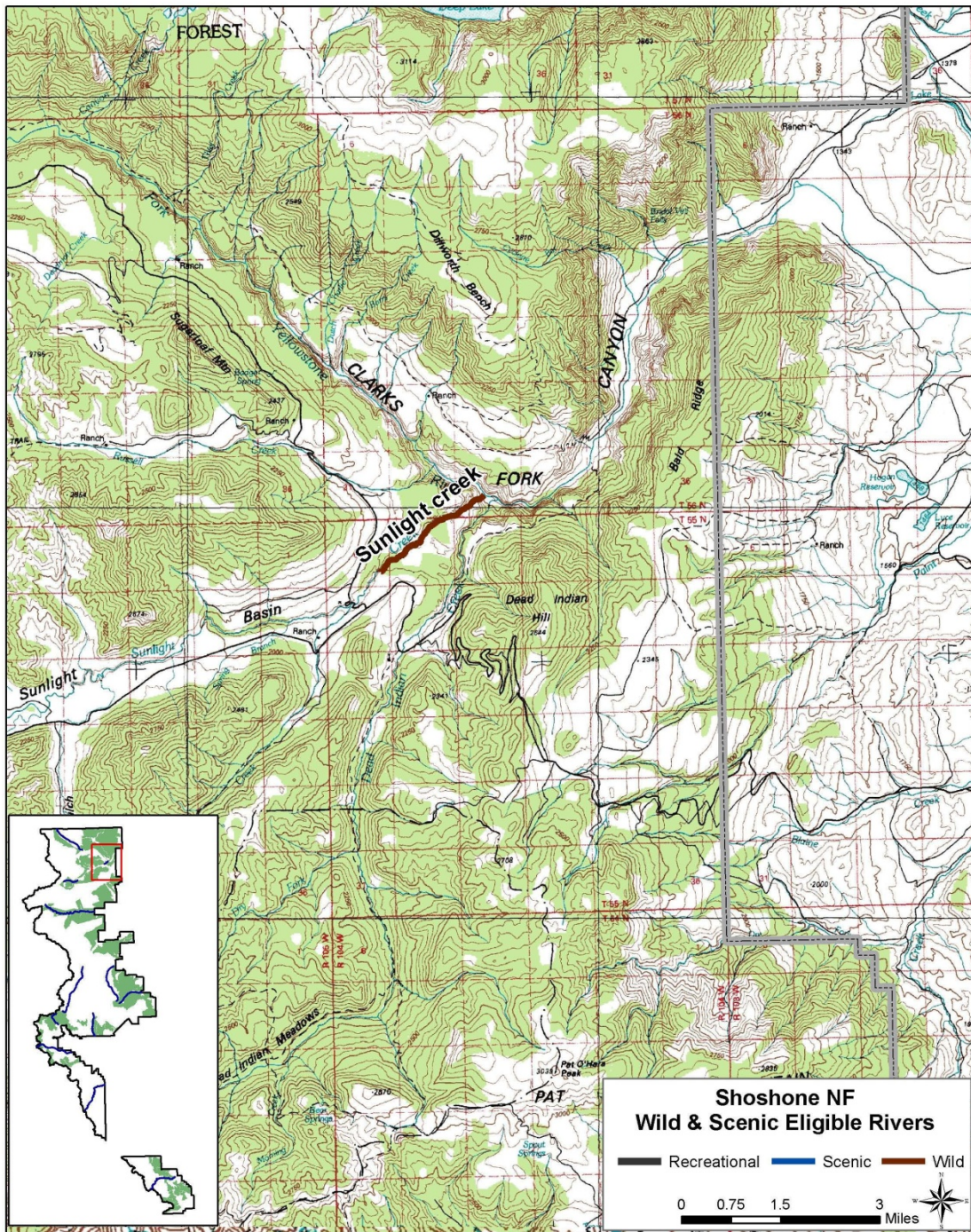
Classification

Recreational: There are some developments along the shoreline such as campgrounds and trailheads. The stretch of river is easily accessible by Forest Road 200.3, which fords the river in two locations.

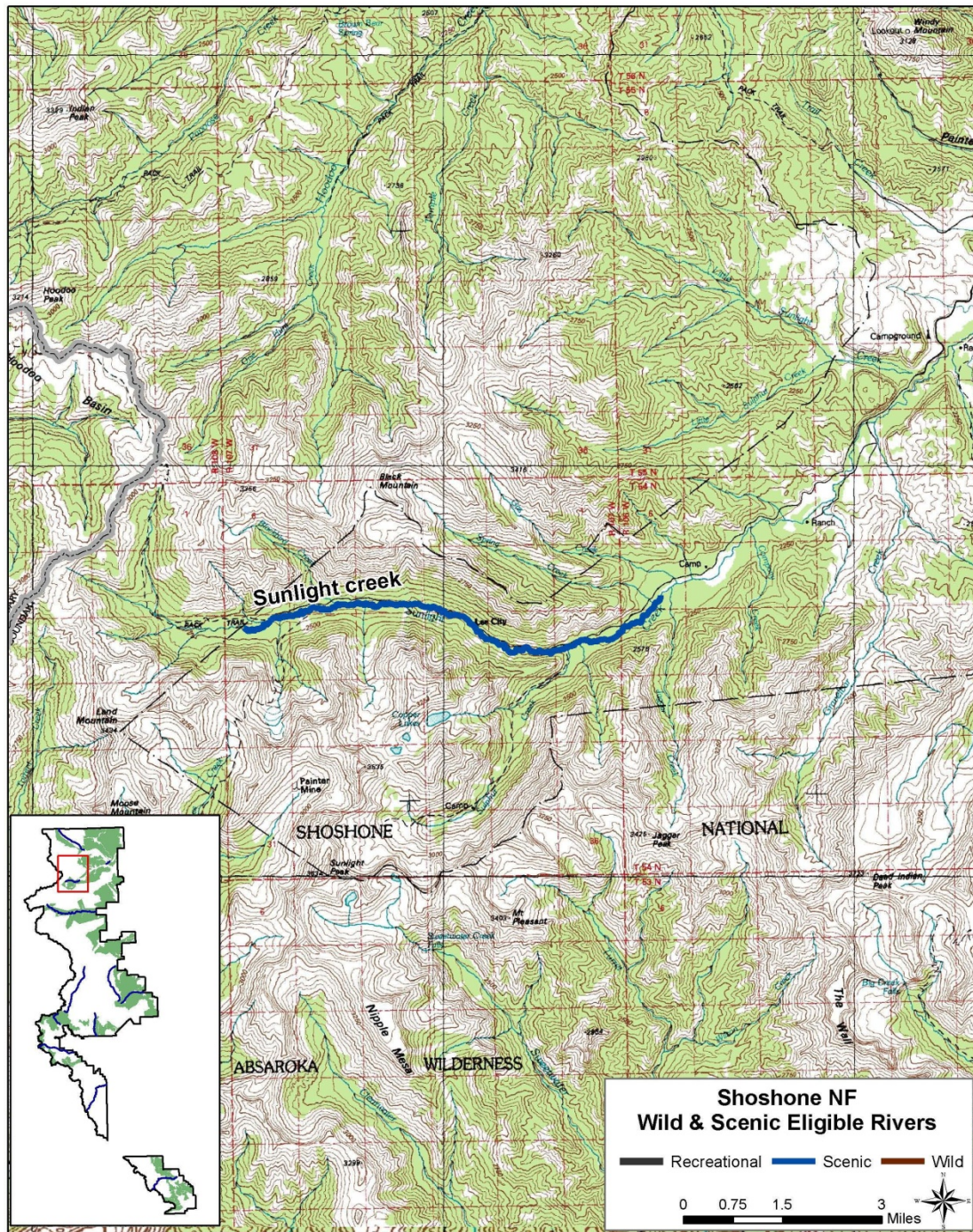
Shoshone National Forest Wild and Scenic Eligible River maps follow.



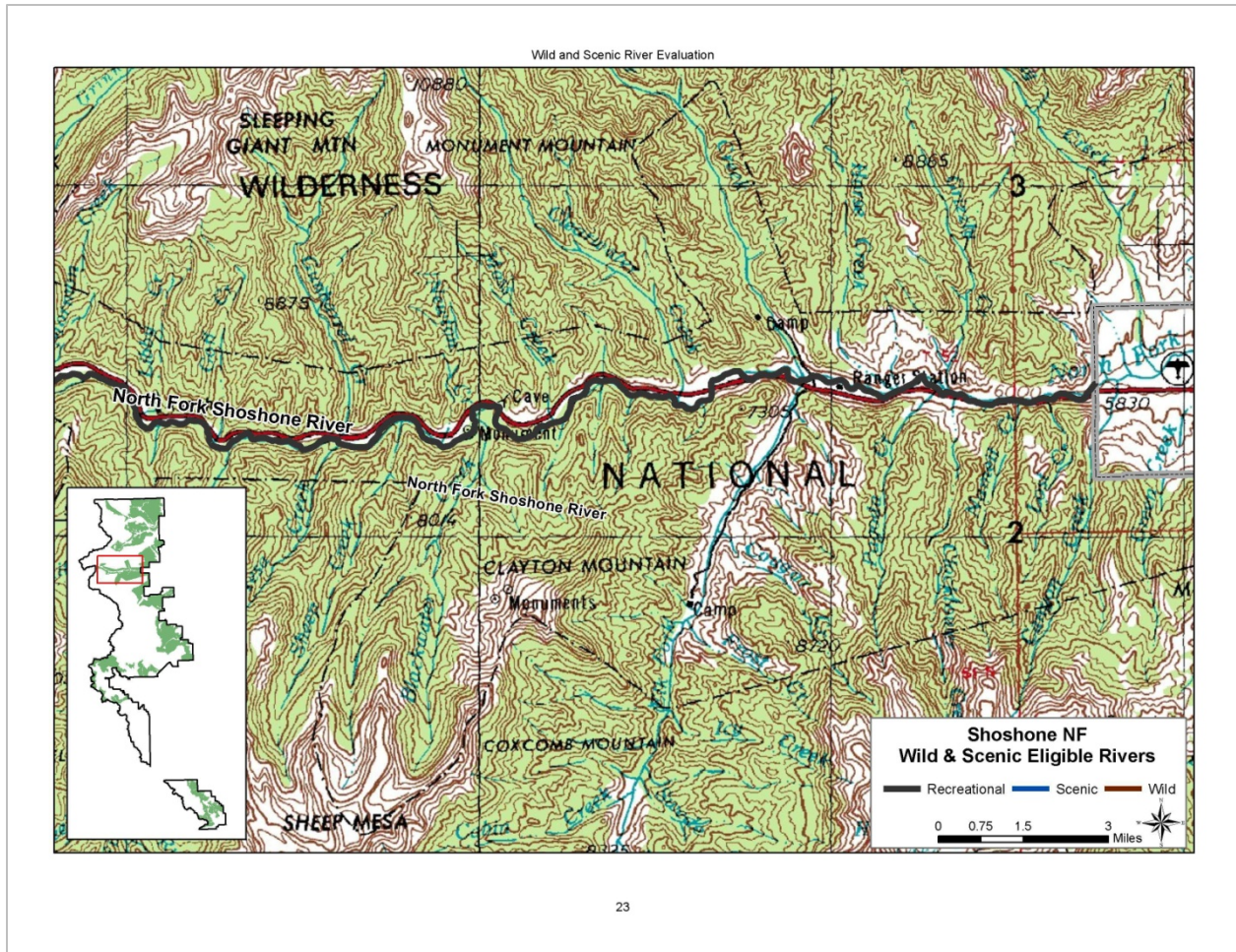
Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

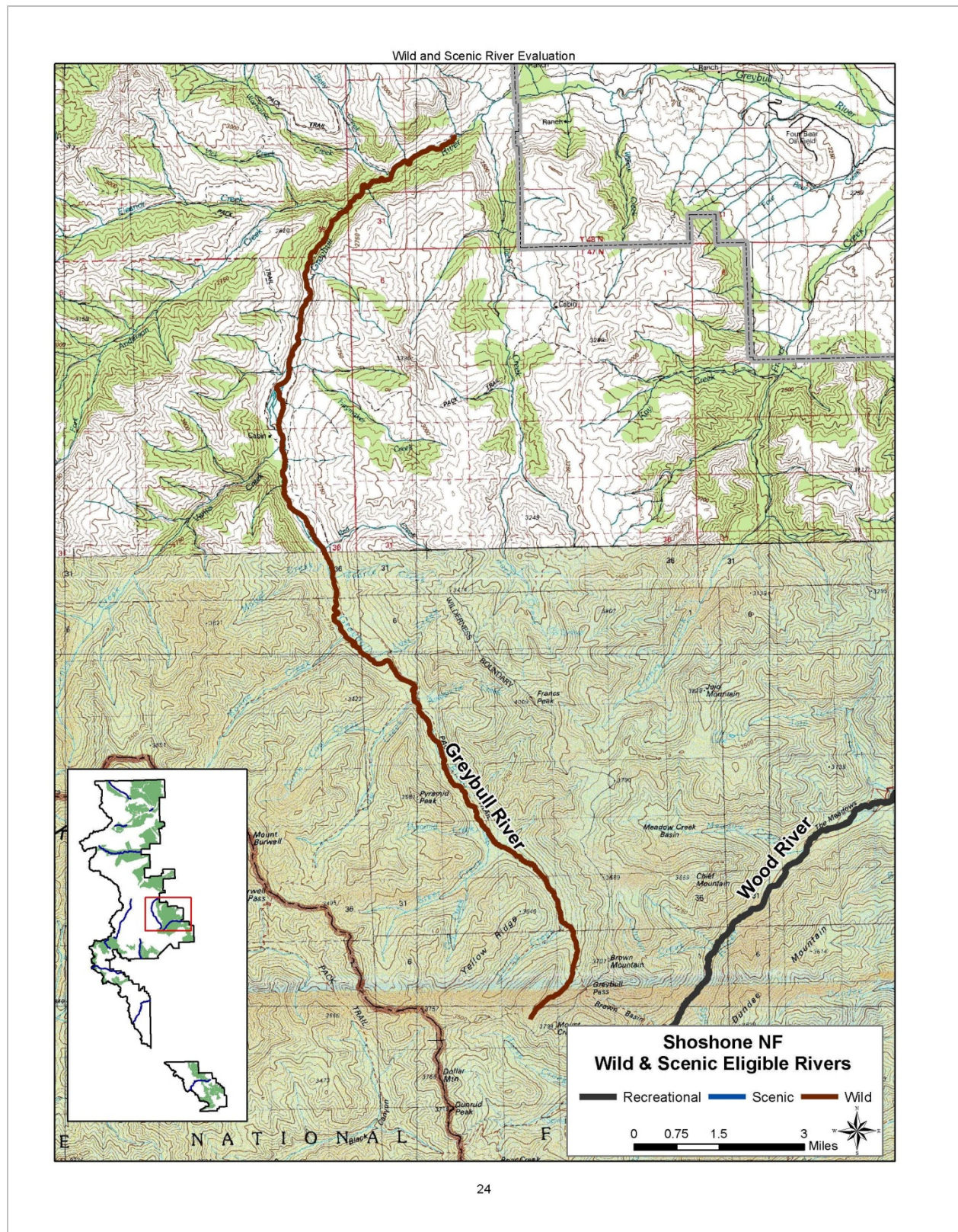


Wild and Scenic River Evaluation







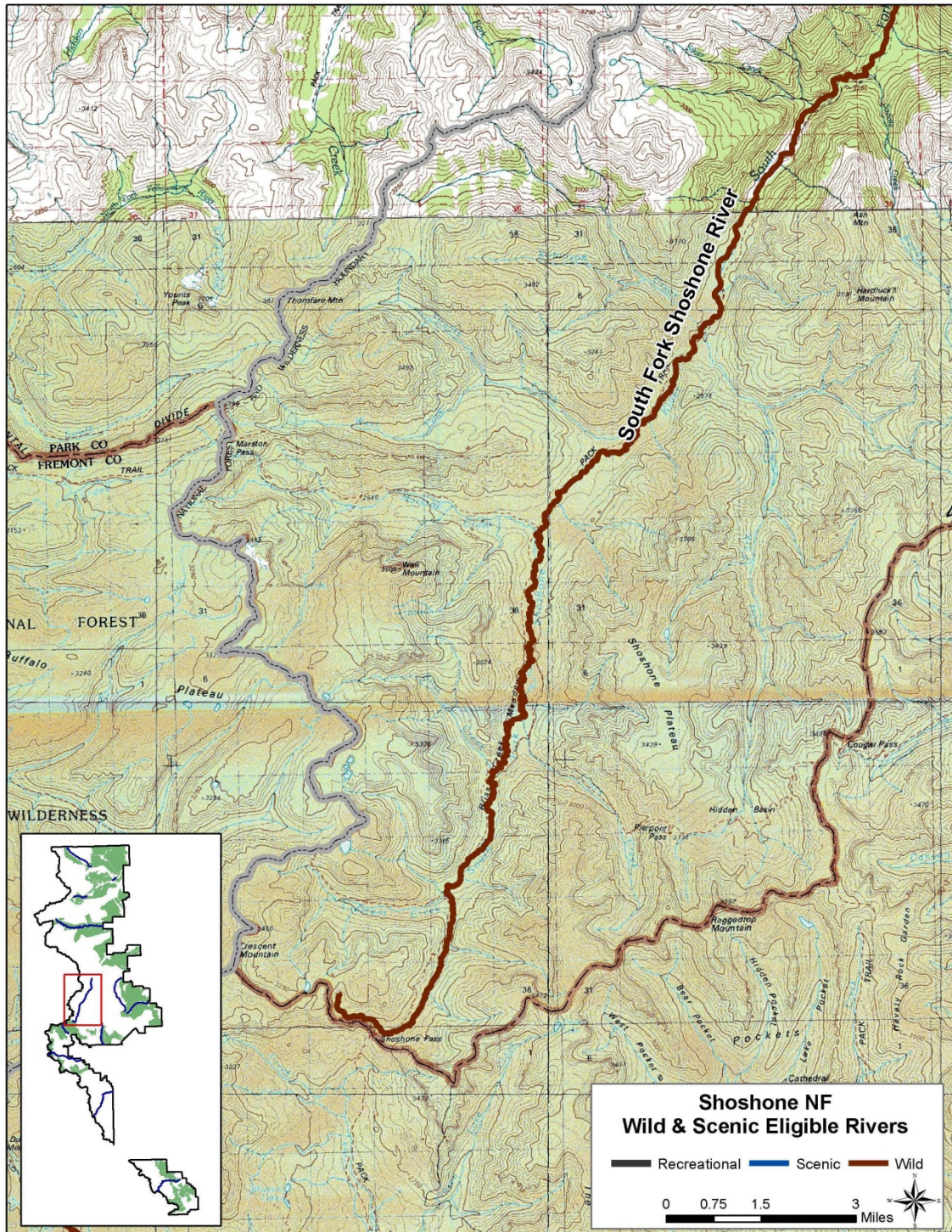


Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

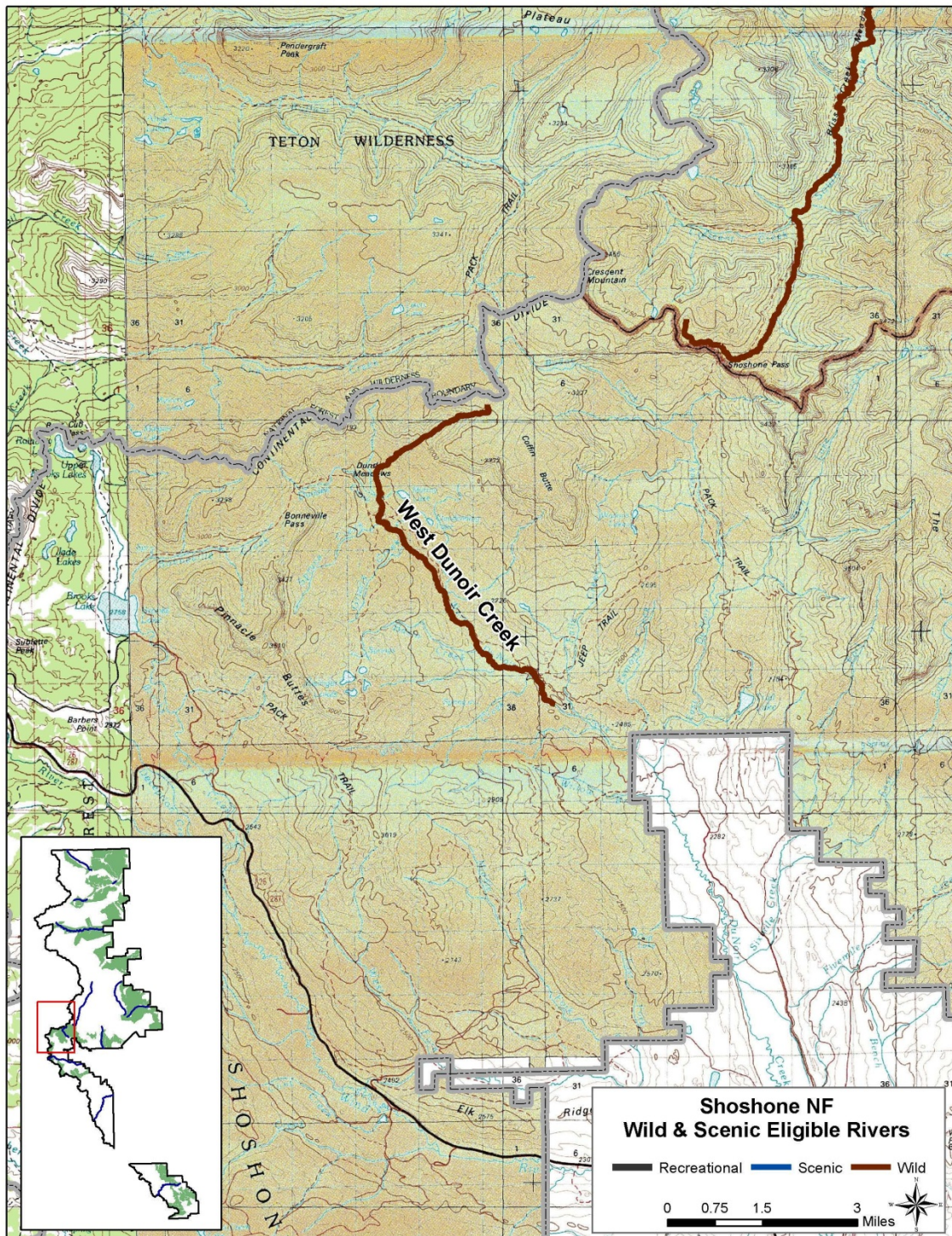


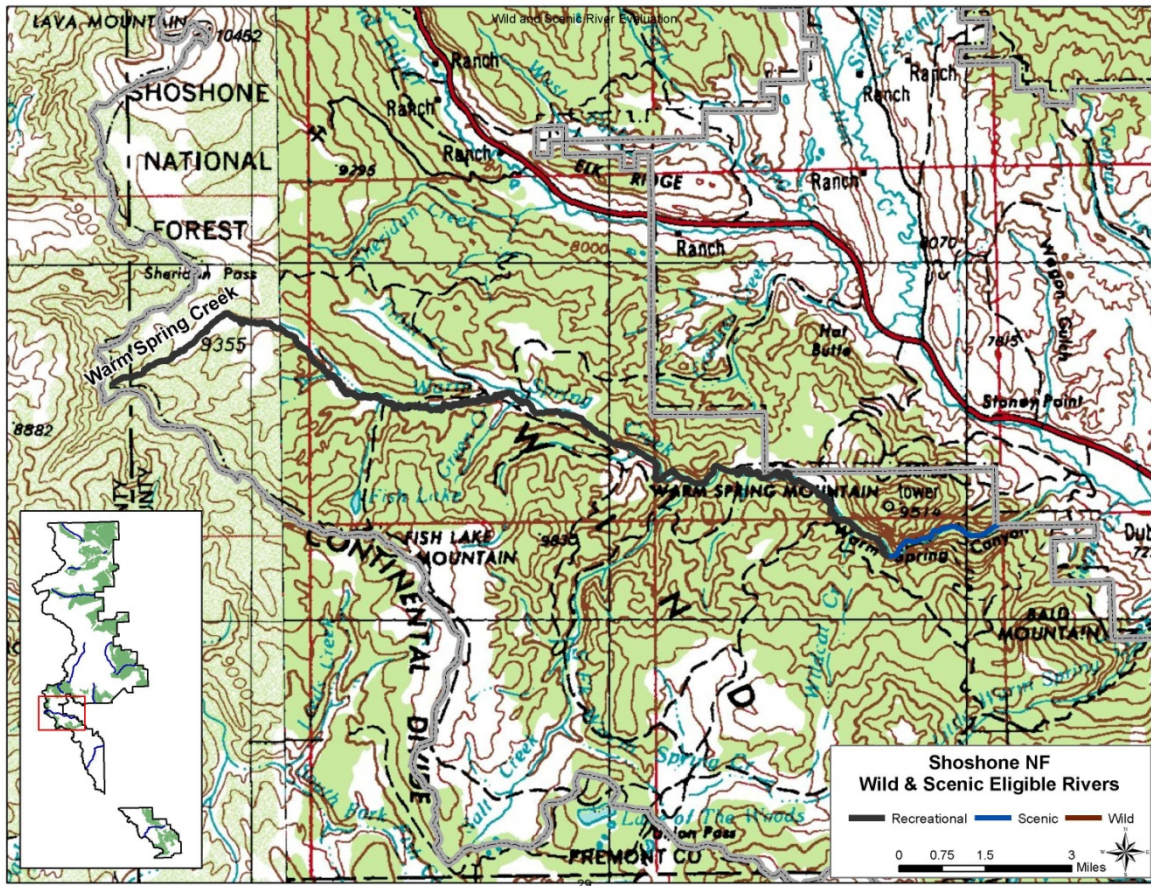


Wild and Scenic River Evaluation

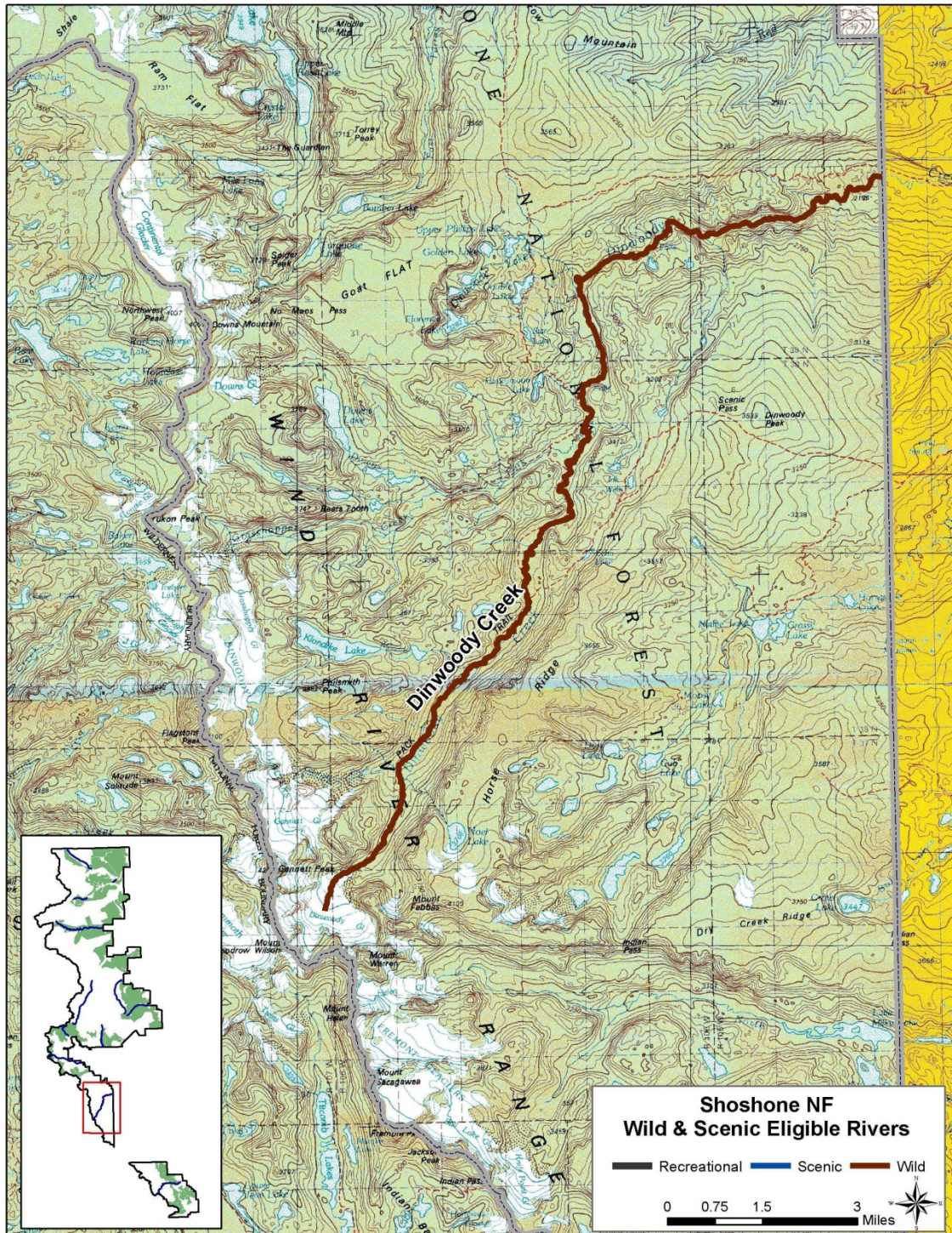


Wild and Scenic River Evaluation





Wild and Scenic River Evaluation



Wild and Scenic River Evaluation



