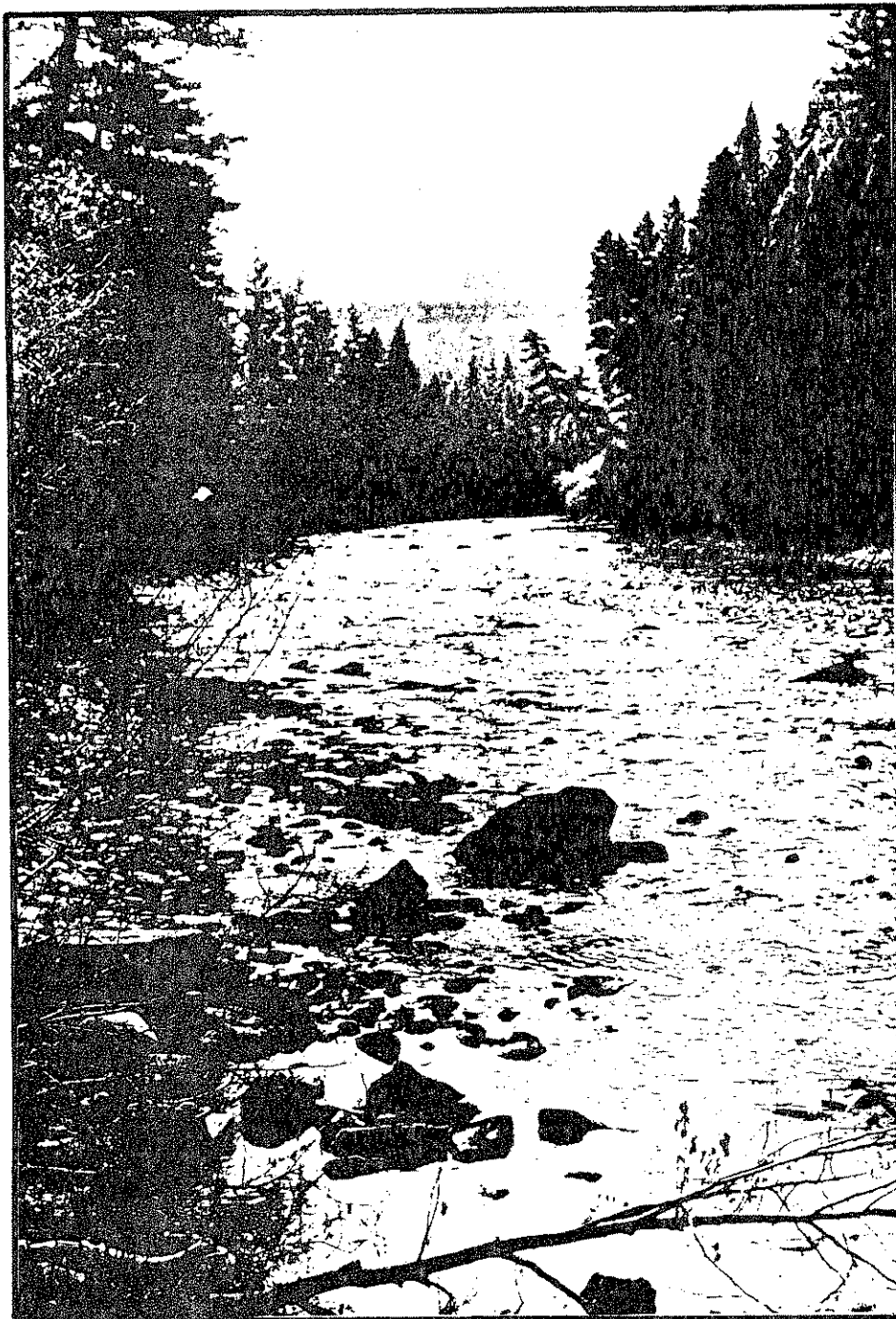


LOLO NATIONAL FOREST PLAN



Lolo National Forest
Building 24, Fort Missoula
Missoula, MT 59801

AMENDMENT 12 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY STUDY



Rock Creek



Reply to: 1920

Date: August 21, 1991

Dear Friend:

I've identified nine rivers on the Lolo National Forest eligible for further study to see if they should be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. A notice of my decision is enclosed.

The following rivers are eligible for protection as wild:

- Cache Creek, from its confluence with Montana Creek to its headwaters;
- North Fork Blackfoot, from the main trailhead to its headwaters;
- South Fork Lolo Creek, from Section 12 to its headwaters;
- West Fork Fish Creek, from Clearwater Crossing to its headwaters.

The rivers eligible for classification as either scenic or recreational are:

- Cache Creek, from its confluence with Montana Creek to its mouth;
- Rock Creek, from its mouth to the forest boundary;
- Morrell Creek, from its mouth to its headwaters;
- Rattlesnake Creek, from its headwaters to the forest boundary;
- Clark Fork (Slowey Cutoff), from its junction with the Flathead and Clark Fork rivers to its confluence with Tamarack Creek, and from one mile south of St. Regis, Montana, to half-mile east of Slowey Campground;
- Clearwater River, from Seeley Lake inlet to its headwaters.

Generally, wild rivers are essentially unpolluted and primitive, free of impoundments and can be accessed only by trail. Scenic rivers are similar, but can be accessed by roads. Recreational rivers can be reached by roads and have some shoreline development.

My decision amends the Lolo Forest Plan, by including the nine potential wild and scenic rivers, and adding management standards to protect them while they are being reviewed. A formal "river suitability study" will be the next step to determine whether the nine rivers should be included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

We began the wild and scenic river process more than three years ago; the public involvement also began then. Individuals and organizations who were not involved then,



DECISION NOTICE
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY STUDY

USDA Forest Service
Lolo National Forest

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY STUDY

INTRODUCTION

Section 5(d) of the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA), as amended, requires that all federal agencies consider potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas in "all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources." Therefore, as part of the continuing development and implementation of the 1986 Lolo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (forest plan), this decision addresses the following three sequential steps:

- (1) identifies which rivers on the Lolo National Forest are eligible for protection under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended;
- (2) assigns each eligible river a potential classification of wild, scenic, recreational or combination thereof, based on its existing condition; and,
- (3) develops wild, scenic and recreational river management standards to protect eligible river segments until a river suitability study is completed and/or they are added to the national wild and scenic rivers system.

A river suitability study will be conducted in the future. This study and additional public involvement will provide the basis for the final decision on which eligible rivers should be added to the national wild and scenic rivers system. The final decision will be incorporated into the forest plan through an amendment or during the next forest plan revision.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared that analyzes the effects of the decision. The EA tiers to the 1986 Lolo National Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement. The EA doesn't analyze the site-specific effects of the eligible river designations. If projects are proposed within or adjacent to eligible river corridors, they will be subject to further analysis and documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

ISSUES

The public involvement and analysis completed by a forest interdisciplinary team identified the following issues:

WHAT RIVERS ON THE LOLO NATIONAL FOREST ARE ELIGIBLE AND WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE CLASSIFICATION?

WHETHER THE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES IN THE 1986 LOLO NATIONAL FOREST PLAN ADEQUATELY PROTECT ELIGIBLE RIVERS AND THEIR POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION.

WILL THE WILD, SCENIC, AND RECREATIONAL RIVER MANAGEMENT STANDARDS THAT ARE DEVELOPED TO PROTECT ELIGIBLE RIVERS PRECLUDE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES PLANNED UNDER THE 1986 LOLO FOREST PLAN?

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives were formulated as follows: (1) evaluate, verify, and document the finding of eligibility as specified in Sections 1(b) and 2(b) of the WSRA; (2) assign a potential classification of wild, scenic, or recreational to each eligible river based on Section 2(b) of the WSRA, (3) develop wild, scenic, and recreational river

management standards that will protect eligible rivers until the river suitability study is completed and/or they are added to the national wild and scenic rivers system.

The three steps that determined eligible rivers, potential classification, and the wild, scenic, and recreational river management standards were performed by a forest interdisciplinary team.

Step 1: Eligibility Assessment

Based on Section 1(b) and 2(b) of the WSRA, a river is eligible if it's free-flowing and, with its adjacent land, possesses at least one "outstandingly remarkable" resource value. A free-flowing river or section of river is defined by the WSRA in Section 16(a) and (b). The "outstandingly remarkable" resource values noted in Section 1(a) of the WSRA are scenic, recreation, geologic, fish and wildlife, historical, and cultural. The interdisciplinary team developed criteria for each resource value. The criteria are displayed in Appendix A of the EA.

The interdisciplinary team evaluated every river within the proclaimed Lolo National Forest boundary by applying the two eligibility qualifications (free-flowing and containing at least one "outstandingly remarkable" resource value).

Step 2: Potential Classification

Once eligible rivers were identified, they were assigned a potential classification of wild, scenic, or recreational, as defined by Section 2(b) of the WSRA. The assignment was based on the river's condition and the adjacent corridor.

Wild rivers -- Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These rivers represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic rivers -- Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational rivers -- Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Potential classification covers, as a minimum, the area that spans the length of the eligible river segment and extends one-quarter mile from each bank of the river (USDA-USDI Interagency Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas, September 7, 1982). The river corridor can extend beyond one-quarter mile if it facilitates management of the river's resources.

Potential classification only applies to river segment lengths and widths on Lolo National Forest land. State and private land inside and outside the Lolo National Forest boundary contain river segments that are free-flowing and potentially contain "outstandingly remarkable" resource values. The forest will cooperate with the State of Montana as it identifies eligible river segments adjacent to National Forest land.

Step 3: Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards

Section 10(a) of the WSRA requires that eligible rivers be administered to protect and enhance their "outstandingly remarkable" resource values while providing for public recreation and resource uses which do not adversely impact or degrade those values. Section 10(a) further states that primary emphasis shall be given to protecting the river's esthetics, scenic, archeological, cultural, and scientific features. Section 12(b)

of the Act states that this management and protection shall not abrogate any existing rights, privileges, or contracts affecting Federal lands held by any private party. The applicability of United States mining and mineral leasing laws is further clarified in Section 9 of the WSRA. The interdisciplinary team, with guidance from the USDA-USDI Interagency Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of Rivers Area (September 7, 1982) and the Forest Service Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8), developed management standards for the wild, scenic, and recreational river classifications. These standards describe developments and activities that are permitted, restricted, or prohibited within the designated river corridors. The EA lists the standards on pages 5 through 8.

Based on the three-step process, the interdisciplinary team developed two alternatives for analysis:

Alternative A (NO ACTION): This alternative would defer the verification of eligible rivers, potential classification, and interim management direction until the 1996 forest plan revision.

Alternative B: This alternative would amend the 1986 forest plan by identifying the rivers that meet the two eligibility qualifications (free-flowing and containing at least one "outstandingly remarkable" resource value) in the Section 1(b) and 2(b) of the WSRA; assigning a potential classification to each eligible river as described in Section 2(b) of the WSRA; and applying the appropriate wild, scenic, and recreation river management standard to manage and protect eligible rivers.

DECISION

It is my decision to adopt and implement Alternative B for the Lolo National Forest. Under Alternative B, the following nine rivers are eligible for further study: Cache Creek, Clearwater River, Clark Fork River Slowey Cut-off excepting St. Regis, Montana reach, Morrell Creek, North Fork Blackfoot River, Rattlesnake Creek, Rock Creek, South Fork Lolo Creek and West Fork Fish Creek.

Table 1 summarizes steps one and two by listing the nine eligible rivers and their potential classification, "outstandingly remarkable" resource values and river length.

TABLE I
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY STUDY
SUMMARY

RIVER	REACH	POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION	OUTSTANDING VALUES	LENGTH (MILES)
CACHE CREEK	Montana Cr. to headwater	Wild	Recreation	9
	Montana Cr. to mouth	Scenic	Recreation	2
NORTH FORK BLACKFOOT	Trailhead to headwaters	Wild	Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Natural	24
SOUTH FORK LOLO CREEK	NE 1/4 Sec 12 to headwaters	Wild	Recreation, Scenery	12
WEST FORK FISH CREEK	Clearwater Crossing to headwaters	Wild	Natural	9
MORRELL CREEK	Trailhead to headwaters	Scenic	Scenic, Recreation	7
ROCK CREEK	Mouth to Forest boundary	Scenic	Fishery, Recreation, Cultural, Scenery	28
RATTLESNAKE CREEK	Forest boundary to headwaters	Scenic	Recreation, Fishery	18
CLARK FORK (Slowey Cut-off)	Junction w/Flathead to mouth of Tamarack Creek, 1 mile south of St. Regis to 1/2 mile east of Slowey Campground.	Recreation	Recreation, Scenery	23
CLEARWATER RIVER	Seeley Lake inlet to headwaters	Recreation	Recreation, Wildlife, Scenery	13

The interdisciplinary team also identified the following river segments, which only touch a small part of the Lolo National Forest, as having "outstandingly remarkable" resources: the Clearwater River below Seeley Lake and the Clark Fork River from Saint Regis to the confluence with the Bitterroot, and from the confluence with the Flathead to slack water above the Thompson Falls. A recommendation to study these rivers will be forwarded to the State of Montana.

The Lolo Forest Plan will be amended to include the nine eligible rivers and their potential classification, and the wild, scenic and recreational management standards developed to manage and protect the rivers.

During the eligibility assessment, the interdisciplinary team documented the rivers determined ineligible. The environmental assessment documents the resource values of rivers rated "1" or "2" in the Pacific Northwest Rivers Study and the resource values of rivers identified during the public scoping process.

As new resource information (i.e. natural, wildlife, fisheries, cultural, geological, recreational, and scenic) is collected, it will be reviewed within the scope of the WSRA, potentially resulting in additional eligible rivers that will be addressed in future forest plan amendments and revisions.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

My decision is based on the requirements of 1(b) and 2(b) of the WSRA that state a river is eligible if it is free-flowing and, with its adjacent land area, possess at least one "outstandingly remarkable" resource value. Nine selected rivers met the eligibility requirements and they were assigned a potential classification according to Section 2(b) of the WSRA.

The forest plan did not have adequate standards to protect the eligible rivers. Therefore the wild, scenic, and recreational rivers management standards were developed to manage and protect the eligible rivers until a suitability study is completed and/or they are added to the national wild and scenic rivers system.

The interdisciplinary team evaluated rivers on or crossing the proclaimed Lolo National Forest boundary to determine whether they met the WSRA eligibility requirements. This evaluation included a review of the 1986 Pacific Northwest Rivers Study which incorporated the Montana Rivers Study. The Montana Rivers Study provided baseline data on the characteristics and qualities of rivers on the forest. Upon review of this study, the interdisciplinary team developed "outstandingly remarkable" resource criteria. This criteria assured a uniform and consistent approach when evaluating rivers on the forest. The interdisciplinary team then developed a list of eligible rivers based on the Montana Rivers Study review, the application of the "outstandingly remarkable" resource criteria, and public comment.

The potential classification of wild, scenic, and/or recreational was assigned to each eligible river based on its condition during the eligibility assessment. Wild, scenic, and recreational rivers are defined in Section 2(b) of the WSRA. The wild, scenic, and recreational river management standards were based on the USDA-USDI Interagency Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas (September 7, 1982) and the Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 8.

FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT

My decision will amend the 1986 Lolo National Forest Plan. Forest Plan Amendment 12 identifies which rivers meet the WSRA eligibility qualifications; assigns each eligible river a potential classification; and identifies the wild, scenic, and recreational river management standards developed to manage and protect each eligible river while they received further study under the WSRA.

The wild, scenic, and recreational river management standards describe the developments and activities that are permitted, restricted, or prohibited within the river corridor for each potential classifications. In some cases, a river will be managed under stricter standards based on management area prescriptions or resource-related legislation (i.e. Wilderness Act of 1964, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, etc). These standards don't affect other public or private lands and remain in effect until a river suitability study is completed under Section 4 of the WSRA and/or they are added to the National Rivers System.

This amendment does not result in a significant change in the Lolo National Forest Plan. Actions under this amendment alter the long-term management goals for segments of the following three eligible rivers: Cache Creek, North Fork Blackfoot, and South Fork Lolo Creek. The forest plan allows timber management activities within a portion of these river corridors that is not compatible with the wild and scenic management standards. However, no management activities are scheduled this planning period; consequently, the resource outputs will not change.

The determination that this is a nonsignificant amendment is made in accordance with the requirements of 16 U.S.C. 1604(f), 36 CFR 219.10(e) and (f), 36 CFR 219.12(k), and sections 1922.33(a) and (b) of Interim Directive No. 15 to the Forest Service Handbook 1920-Land and Resource Management Planning.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

I have determined that this is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not needed. This determination is based on the following factors found in 40 CFR 1508.27:

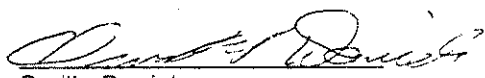
1. Adverse and beneficial effects are not significant (EA, pages 19-25).
2. There are no effects on public health and safety (EA, pages 19-25).
3. The eligibility determination, potential classification, and Wild/ Scenic/Recreation River Management Standards does not significantly effect the characteristics of adjacent geographic areas (EA, pages 10-24)
4. There are no known effects that are highly controversial (EA, pages 2-3, 19-26).
5. There are no effects which are highly uncertain, or involve unique or unknown risks (EA, pages 19-26)
6. There are no irreversible resource commitments in the eligibility determination and protection of the rivers identified (EA, pages 19-26).
7. There are no significant cumulative effects (EA, page 25).
8. There are no effects to cultural resources (EA, pages 10-26).
9. There are no significant effects to threatened or endangered wildlife species and sensitive plant species (EA, pages 10-26).
10. This action will amend the management direction and standards prescribed by the Forest Plan for the Lolo National Forest (April, 1986). This action complies with all Federal, State, and local laws and requirements for the protection of the environment (EA, page 1).

RIGHT TO ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

This decision is subject to administrative review under Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 217. Two copies of the Notice of Appeal must be filed with the Regional Forester, Northern Region, 200 East Broadway, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, Montana 59807, within 45 days from the date of publication of this notice in the Missoulian newspaper. Notice of Appeal must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 217.9.

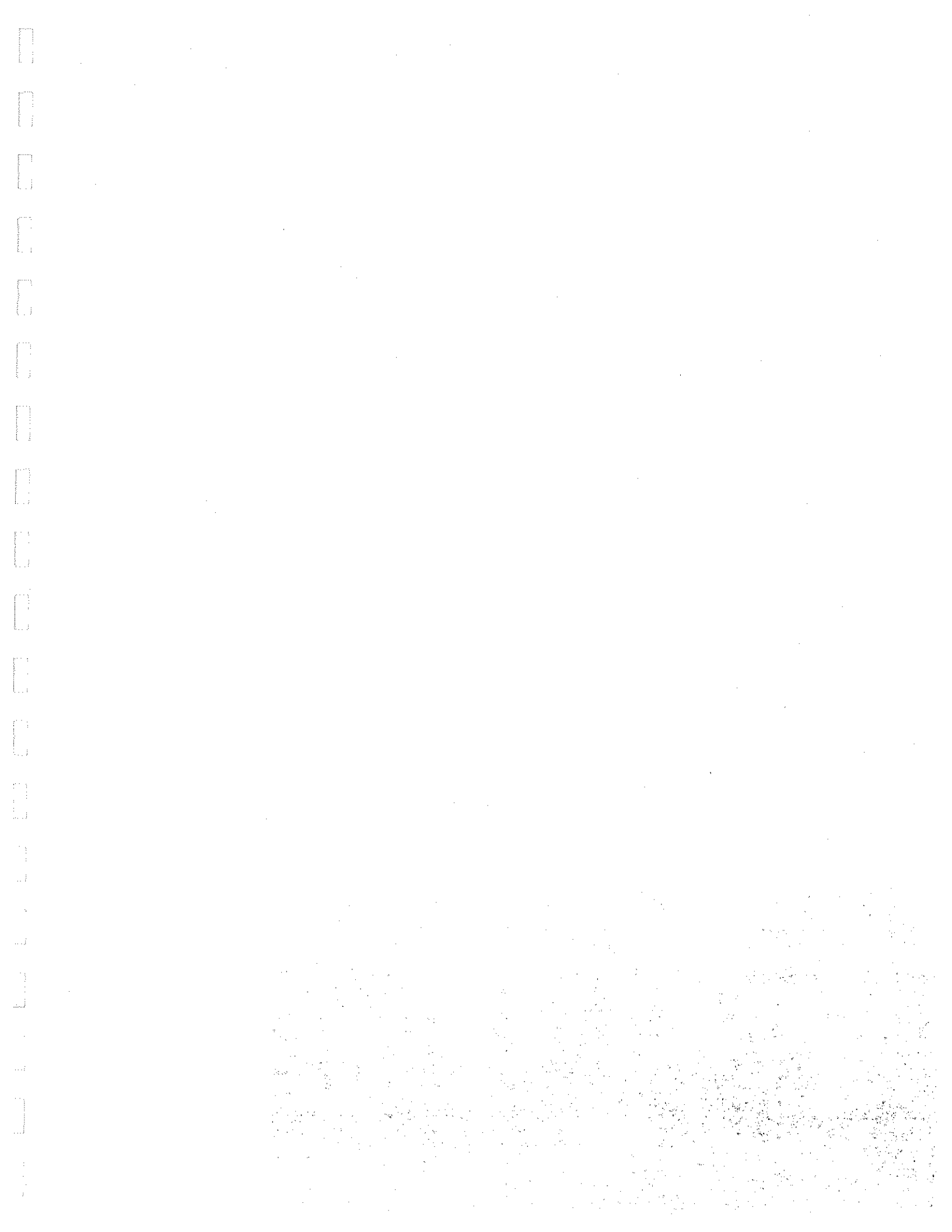
For additional information concerning this decision or the Forest Service appeal process, contact:

Orville Daniels, Forest Supervisor
Lolo National Forest
Bldg 24, Fort Missoula
Missoula, Montana 59846



Orville Daniels
Forest Supervisor

8/15/91
Date



WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY STUDY

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION	1
A.	Proposed Action	1
B.	Decision Needed	1
C.	Relationship to the Forest Plan	1
D.	Relationship to State and Private Landowners	2
E.	Scoping Summary	2
F.	Issues and Concerns	3
II.	ALTERNATIVES	3
A.	Introduction	3
1.	Process Used to Formulate Alternatives	3
2.	Alternatives Considered	8
3.	Results of Alternative B	9
4.	Identification of the Preferred Alternative	10
III.	AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT	10
A.	Introduction	10
B.	Cache Creek	10
C.	Clearwater River	11
D.	Clark Fork River	12
E.	Morrell Creek	13
F.	North Fork Blackfoot	14
G.	Rattlesnake Creek	15
H.	Rock Creek	16

I.	South Fork Lolo Creek	17
J.	West Fork Fish Creek	18
IV.	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	19
A.	Introduction	19
1.	Overview of Environmental Consequences	19
a.	Compliance with Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	19
b.	Existing river management	20
c.	Adverse environmental effects	20
2.	Environmental Effects Under Alternative A	21
3.	Environmental Effects Under Alternative B	22
4.	Cumulative Impacts	25
V.	LIST OF PREPARERS	26
A.	Interdisciplinary Team	26
B.	Specialists and Others	26
VI.	REFERENCES	26

APPENDIX A, EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY SUMMARY

APPENDIX B, MAPS OF ELIGIBLE RIVERS

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY STUDY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

A. *Proposed Action*

As part of the continuing development and implementation of the 1986 Lolo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), the Forest proposes to study rivers within the proclaimed Forest boundary as directed under Section 5(d) of the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA), as amended. This study documents three sequential steps:

1. Evaluate each river within or crossing the proclaimed Lolo National Forest boundary to verify whether it meets the eligibility criteria specified in Sections 1(b) and 2(b) of the WSRA;
2. Assign each eligible river a potential classification of wild, scenic, or recreational as defined by Section 2(b) of the WSRA which best fit the river or its various segments in their existing condition; and
3. Develop Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards providing for the management and protection of eligible river segments according to their assigned potential classification until a future decision is made on their designation into the National Rivers System.

Steps one and two are required under the WSRA while the third step provides management direction and protection to eligible rivers until a river suitability study is completed and/or a future decision is made by Congress on their designation into the National Rivers System. The river suitability study is the final step required under Section 4 of the WSRA and will be conducted in the future as a separate study report or incorporated into the Forest Plan/Environmental Impact Statement revision.

This Environmental Assessment analyzes the effects of the above three steps. This Environmental Assessment fulfills the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended. This Environmental Assessment is consistent with the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

B. *Decision Needed*

The Responsible Official is the Forest Supervisor. The decision needed incorporates three sequential steps:

1. To determine which rivers or segments on the Forest meet eligibility criteria specified in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act;
2. What potential classification each eligible river should have based on their existing condition; and
3. To determine what specific interim management direction would be appropriate in the Forest Plan to provide protection to eligible river segment areas until the river suitability study is completed and/or a future decision is made on their designation into the National Rivers System.

C. *Relationship to the Forest Plan*

The decision needed in this Environmental Analysis would amend the 1986 Lolo National Forest Plan. This amendment would identify which rivers meet the WSRA eligibility qualifications, assign a potential classification to each river, and develop Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards that manage and protect rivers eligible for further study under the WSRA.

This Environmental Assessment tiers to 1986 Lolo National Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement by analyzing the effects between the Plan's existing management area prescriptions and the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards that manage and protect each eligible river and its potential classification. This comparison between management area prescriptions and the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards complies with Section 6 of the 1976 National Forest Management Act.

This analysis does not provide project level site-specific documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, (NEPA). Management practices or projects proposed within and/or immediately adjacent to eligible river corridors would be further analyzed under NEPA. The site-specific analyses would analyze the proposed project (actions) as it relates to the eligible river's potential classification and the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards.

D. *Relationship to State and Private Landowners*

State and private land within and adjacent to the Lolo National Forest boundary contain river segments that are free-flowing and potentially contain "outstandingly remarkable" resource values. The Forest will continue to seek cooperative involvement as the State identifies eligible river segments adjacent to the Lolo National Forest boundary.

E. *Scoping Summary*

Public involvement occurred during the eligibility assessment. The Forest requested comments on the initial identification of rivers and streams that potentially qualified for further study under the WSRA. A press release listing candidate streams and inviting public comment was published in the *Missoulian* on March 3, 1988.

Thirteen comments were received responding to the press release with 9 identifying potentially eligible streams and/or raising issues to be considered during the analysis. Four letters asked only for a copy of the assessment when it was complete.

All of the rivers and streams suggested by people were included in the eligibility determination. Issues identified in the letters related to considerations to be given when the rivers/streams are evaluated for suitability for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Comments extending beyond the eligibility/potential classification will be addressed and analyzed during a future river suitability study, the next step in analyzing eligible rivers for possible inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Although a river is found eligible for inclusion in the national rivers system, there may be other preferable ways to protect its resources. The suitability study will address these alternatives with extensive public involvement.

Appendix A describes the process used to evaluate rivers for eligibility. Documentation of ineligible rivers is included in this appendix.

As new resource information (i.e. natural, wildlife, fisheries, cultural, geological, recreational, scenic) is collected, it will be reviewed within the scope of the WSRA potentially resulting in additional eligible rivers that will be addressed in future Forest Plan revisions and amendments.

F. *Issues/Concerns*

Issues and concerns are summarized below:

WHAT RIVERS AND RIVER SEGMENTS ARE ELIGIBLE AND WHAT IS THE APPROPRIATE CLASSIFICATION?

WHETHER THE EXISTING STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES IN THE 1986 LOLO FOREST PLAN PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION FOR THE ELIGIBLE RIVERS AND THEIR POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION.

HOW WILL THE PROTECTION OF ELIGIBLE RIVERS AND THEIR POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION AFFECT PLANNED MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES?

II. ALTERNATIVES

A. *Introduction*

This chapter summarizes the alternatives related to the decisions described in Chapter I-B. This chapter is divided into four sections: (1) process used to formulate the alternatives; (2) alternatives considered; (3) summary of alternatives; and, (4) identification of the preferred alternative.

1. Process Used to Formulate the Alternatives

Alternatives were formulated following the WSRA (step 1 and 2): (1) evaluate, verify, and document the finding of eligibility as specified in Sections 1(b) and 2(b) of the WSRA; (2) assign each eligible river a potential classification as defined by Section 2(b) of the WSRA which best fits the river; and develop Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards (step 3) that will protect eligible rivers until the river suitability study is completed and/or a final decision is made on their designation into the National Rivers System. The process used to complete these three steps is further defined in the revised USDA-USDI Interagency Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas (September 7, 1982), and the Forest Service Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook: Wild and Scenic River Evaluation (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8).

These three sequential steps (eligibility, potential classification, and Wild/Scenic/Recreational Management Standards) were conducted and analyzed by a Forest Interdisciplinary Team (IDT). The results of this analysis are summarized in Appendix A.

STEP 1: Eligibility

A "river" is defined by the WSRA as a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes. Based on Section 1(b) and 2(b) of the WSRA, a river is eligible if it is free-flowing and, with its immediate land area, possess at least one "outstandingly remarkable" resource value. A free-flowing river or section of a river is defined by the WSRA as existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modifications of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the System shall not automatically bar its consideration for inclusion. "Outstandingly remarkable" resource values emphasized in the WSRA are scenic, recreation, geologic, fisheries, wildlife, cultural, and natural.

Utilizing these two eligibility criteria, the IDT evaluated rivers and streams on or crossing the proclaimed Lolo National Forest boundary. This evaluation included the IDT's review of the 1986 Pacific Northwest Rivers

Study (Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, December 1986 and March/June 1986). The Pacific Northwest Rivers Study, begun in 1985, was designed to identify river related natural resource values through a consistent and verifiable data base. The Pacific Northwest Rivers Study included the Montana Rivers Study which was coordinated by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks with participation from the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The Montana Rivers Study assessed Montana's rivers and streams for their fish and wildlife values and their recreational, natural, and cultural features. Since the WSRA does not define "outstandingly remarkable" resource values, the team developed criteria to be utilized in defining resource values for the eligibility assessment. This criteria were developed after an examination of the standards and criteria established in the Montana Rivers Study. This criteria is displayed in Appendix A.

Applying the "outstandingly remarkable" resource criteria to free-flowing rivers, the IDT verified nine rivers eligible for further study under the WSRA: Rock Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, South Fork Lolo Creek, North Fork Blackfoot River, Morrell Creek, Clearwater River, Cache Creek, West Fork Fish Creek, and the Clark Fork River. The IDT believes that portions of the Clark Fork and Clearwater Rivers outside the proclaimed Forest boundary possess outstandingly remarkable resources. This finding will be forwarded to the State of Montana for their consideration as they assess potential Wild and Scenic Rivers for which they have management jurisdiction.

The specific stream reaches and proposed classification are summarized in Table 1. Maps of each river are in Appendix B.

STEP 2: Potential Classification

Once eligible rivers or segments were selected, they were assigned a potential classification of wild, scenic or recreational, as defined by the WSRA, Section 2(b), based on the condition of the river and adjacent lands as they existed during the eligibility assessment. These classifications are defined as:

Wild river areas -- Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic river areas -- Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational river areas -- Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Supplementing the WSRA, the revised USDA-USDI Interagency Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas (September 7, 1982) state potential classification will cover, as a minimum, an area extending the length of the eligible river segment and extending in width .25 mile from each bank of the river. This river corridor can extend beyond the .25 mile width if it facilitates management of the river's resources.

Potential classification only applies to river segment lengths and widths on the Lolo National Forest.

Table 1 summarizes eligibility (step 1) and potential classification (step 2). The environmental effects related to the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Management Standards (step 3) are discussed in Chapter IV-Environmental Consequences.

Potential classification includes a minimum width of a one-quarter mile corridor extending outward from each river bank. This could vary depending upon the resource to be protected.

STEP 3: Wild, Scenic, And Recreational Management Standards

The WSRA Section 10(a) states that rivers shall be administered to protect and enhance their "outstandingly remarkable" resource values while providing for public recreation and resource uses which do not adversely impact or degrade those values. Primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its esthetic, scenic, cultural, and scientific features. Section 12(b) of the Act clarifies that management and protection shall not abrogate any existing rights, privileges, or contracts affecting Lolo National Forest lands held by any private party. Section 9 of the WSRA further discusses the applicability of the United States mining and mineral leasing laws.

The interpretation of Section 10(a) is further defined in the revised USDA-USDI Interagency Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas (September 7, 1982), and the Forest Service Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8) which prescribes Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards.

Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards provide a description of developments and activities that are permitted, restricted, or prohibited within the designated river corridor for each of the three potential classifications. In some cases, a river would be managed more strictly than the standards applied to its assigned potential classification based on existing Forest-Wide goals, objectives, standards, management area prescriptions, and other resource-related legislation (i.e. Wilderness Act of 1964, National Historic Preservation Act of 1966).

Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards remain in effect until a river suitability study further evaluates and analyzes each river as required in Sections 4(a) and 5(c) of the WSRA and/or a final decision is made on their designation into the National Rivers System. The Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1909, Chapter 8.12) states that these standards may be modified or discontinued in the following cases:

1. For the entire river or segment(s) of the river that are determined to be ineligible for the Wild and Scenic Rivers System;
2. For the entire river, if determined to be unsuitable for the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, following the appropriate review process;
3. For unsuitable segment(s) of a river recommended for Wild and Scenic River designation after the Record of Decision is signed by the Secretary of Agriculture; and,
4. Following Congressional action for suitable segments of the river that are not included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The following Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Forest-wide Management Standards were adopted from the Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 - Chapter 8 and further developed for the eligible rivers on the Lolo National Forest. These standards do not affect other public or private lands and will not abrogate any existing rights, privileges, or contracts affecting Lolo National Forest lands held by any private party.

Hydroelectric Power:

Wild, Scenic, and Recreational: No development of hydroelectric power facilities will be permitted. Where the licensing authority is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Forest will recommend that no license be issued for hydroelectric power facilities.

Water Supply:

Wild, and Scenic: All water supply dams and major diversions are prohibited. If necessary, water monitoring stations are permitted but must be unobtrusive.

Recreational: Existing low dams, diversion works, rip rap and other minor structures are allowed provided the waterway remains generally natural in appearance. New structures are prohibited. If necessary, water monitoring stations are permitted but must be unobtrusive.

Flood Control:

Wild: No flood control dams, levees, or other works are allowed in the channel or river corridor. The natural appearance and essentially primitive character of the river area must be maintained.

Scenic: Flood control dams and levees will be prohibited.

Recreational: Existing flood control works may be maintained. New structures are prohibited.

Range:

Wild: Agricultural use is restricted to the amount of domestic livestock grazing currently practiced.

Scenic: A wider range of agricultural uses is permitted to the extent currently practiced. Row crops are not considered as an intrusion of the "largely primitive" nature of scenic corridors as long as there is not a substantial adverse effect on the natural-like appearance of the river area.

Recreational: Lands may be managed for a full range of agricultural uses, to the extent currently practiced.

Timber Production:

Wild: Cutting of trees will not be permitted except when needed in association with a primitive recreation experience (such as clearing for trails and protection of users) or to protect the environment (such as control of fire). Timber outside the boundary but within the visual corridors, will be managed and harvested with special emphasis on visual quality.

Scenic: A wide range of silvicultural practices may be allowed provided that such practices are carried on in such a way that there is no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment. The river area will be maintained in its near natural environment. Timber outside the boundary but within the visual scene area will be managed and harvested with special emphasis on visual quality.

Recreational: Timber harvesting will be allowed under standard restrictions to protect the immediate river environment, water quality, scenic, fish and wildlife, and other values.

Mining:

Wild: Surface occupancy related to oil and gas leasing is prohibited within .25 mile of the river. Valid claims and leases will not be abrogated. Subject to regulations (36 CFR 228) that the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior may prescribe to protect the rivers included in the National System, other existing mining activity will be allowed to continue. Existing mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, and sedimentation. Reasonable access will be permitted. Mining activities outside the boundary but within the visual corridors, will be managed with special emphasis on visual quality through mitigating measures and reclamation.

Scenic: Subject to regulations (36 CFR 228) that the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior may prescribe to protect the values of rivers included in the National System, new mining claims and mineral leases will be allowed and existing operations allowed to continue. However, mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution. Mining activities outside the boundary but within the visual corridors, will be managed with special emphasis on visual quality through mitigating measures and reclamation.

Recreational: Subject to regulations (36 CFR 228) that the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior may prescribe to protect values of rivers included in the National System, new mining claims and mineral leases are allowed and existing operations are allowed to continue. Mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution. Mining activities outside the boundary but within the visual corridors, will be managed with special emphasis on visual quality through mitigating measures and reclamation.

Road Construction:

Wild: Subject to valid existing rights, no roads or other provisions for overland motorized travel will be permitted within a narrow incised river valley or, if the river valley is broad, within .25 mile of the river bank. Also, unobtrusive trail bridges may be allowed.

Scenic: Roads may occasionally bridge the river area and short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous and well-screened roads or screened railroads could be allowed. Consideration will be given to the type of use for which roads are constructed and the type of use that will occur in the river area.

Recreational: Paralleling roads or railroads may be constructed on one or both river banks. There can be several bridge crossings and numerous river access points.

Motorized Travel:

Wild: Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, but is generally not compatible with this classification.

Scenic: Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited or restricted to protect the river values.

Recreational: Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited or restricted. Controls will usually be similar to surrounding lands and waters.

Utilities:

Wild, Scenic, and Recreational: New transmission lines, gas lines, water lines, etc. are discouraged. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way are indicated, the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values must be evaluated in the selection of the site. Each proposal will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Recreation Development:

Wild: Major public-use areas, such as large campgrounds, interpretive centers, or administrative headquarters, are located outside the wild river area. Simple comfort and convenience facilities, such as fireplaces or shelters, may be provided as necessary within the river area. These should harmonize with the surroundings.

Scenic: Larger scale public use facilities, such as moderate size campgrounds, public information centers, and administrative headquarters are allowed if such structures are screened from the river. Modest and unobtrusive marinas also can be allowed.

Recreational: Campgrounds and picnic areas may be established in close proximity to the river. However, recreational classification does not require extensive recreation development.

Structures:

Wild: A few minor existing structures may be allowed assuming such structures are not incompatible with the essentially primitive and natural values of the viewshed. New structures will not be allowed except in rare instances to achieve management objectives (i.e. structures and activities associated with fisheries enhancement programs may be allowed).

Scenic: Any concentrations of habitations are limited to relatively short reaches of the river corridor. New structures that will have a direct and adverse effect on river values will not be allowed.

Recreational: Small Communities as well as dispersed or cluster residential developments are allowed. New structures are allowed for both habitation and for intensive recreation use.

Fisheries:

Wild, Scenic, and Recreational: To protect "outstandingly remarkable" fishery values in the nine eligible rivers, cumulative sediment analyses will be conducted for all projects/activities requiring road construction or significant land disturbance within the specific drainage. If significant effects are predicted, mitigating measures will be employed to maintain the outstandingly remarkable fishery value.

Based on the three step process, two alternatives were developed for analysis. These alternatives are described below.

2. Alternatives Considered

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as well as Forest Service manual direction require protection of identified eligible stream segments until suitability studies are completed. Only two alternatives, a no action, and an action alternative are appropriate for analysis. The no action alternative provides the baseline data of current management to be compared against the protection alternative.

Alternative A (NO ACTION): This alternative would defer the verification of eligible rivers, potential classification, and interim management direction to the 1996 Forest Plan revision. Alternative A would not comply with the WSRA, Sections 5(d). By deferring the identification of eligible rivers, this alternative would not comply with Sections 1(b) and 2(b) of the WSRA. Potentially eligible rivers would not be managed under the WSRA which could possibly result in actions which may irretrievably degrade or destroy a river's "outstandingly remarkable" resource values and existing potential classification. This alternative would not affect any management activities or direction under the 1986 Lolo Forest Plan.

Alternative B: Alternative B would amend the 1986 Forest Plan to identify Forest rivers meeting the two eligibility qualifications under Sections 1(b) and 2(b) of the WSRA. Under Alternative B, eligible river segments would be assigned a potential classification of wild, scenic, recreational, as defined by Section 2(b) of the WSRA. Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards would be developed to provide specific management direction and protection to eligible rivers and their assigned potential classification.

WSR Summary Report (by Contact)

RIVER NAME STATUTE TOTAL LENGTH STATUS DECISION DATE CONTACT LAST NAME

CACHE CREEK 5(d)(1) 21.9 Suitable Casselli

STUDY TRANSMITTED TRANSMITTAL DATE:

SEQ. BP NARRATIVE EP NARRATIVE LENGTH CLASSIFICATION

1 Mainstem headwaters, Sec. 21, T11N, R25W Montana Creek, Sec. 18, T12N, R24W 10.2 Wild

ORV Category	Remarks
Geologic	
Fish	
Natural	

2 Montana Creek, Sec. 18, T11N, R24W Fish Creek, Sec. 8, T12N, R24W 1.4 Scenic

ORV Category	Remarks
Natural	
Geologic	
Fish	

3 Irish Creek headwaters, Sec. 20, T12N, R25W Mainstem, Sec. 22, T12N, R25W 2.4 Wild

ORV Category	Remarks
Fish	

RIVER NAME	STATUTE	TOTAL LENGTH	STATUS	DECISION DATE	CONTACT LAST NAME
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4	Natural Geologic				
	Pebble Creek headwaters, Sec. 10, T11N, R25W		Mainstem, Sec. 28, T12N, R25W	3.3	Wild

ORV Category **Remarks**

Geologic	
Fish	
Natural	

5	White Creek headwaters, Sec. 33, T12N, R24W		Mainstem, Sec. 18, T12N, R24W	4.6	Wild
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ORV Category **Remarks**

Geologic	
Fish	
Natural	



RIVER NAME STATUTE TOTAL LENGTH STATUS DECISION DATE CONTACT LAST NAME

Creek Fork 5(d)(1)

27.9 Suitable

Casselli

STUDY TRANSMITTED TRANSMITTAL DATE:

SEQ. BP NARRATIVE EP NARRATIVE LENGTH CLASSIFICATION

1 Slowery, Sec. 15, T17N, R27W Sec. 31, T18N, R28W 7.0 Recreational

QRV Category Remarks

Recreational

Scenic

2 Cutoff, Sec. 9, T18N, R27W Sec. 34, T19N, R25W 20.9 Recreational

QRV Category Remarks

Recreational

Scenic



RIVER NAME STATUTE STATUS TOTAL LENGTH DECISION DATE CONTACT LAST NAME



Casselli

19.9 Suitable

5(d)(1)

STUDY TRANSMITTED TRANSMITTAL DATE:

SEQ. BP NARRATIVE EP NARRATIVE LENGTH CLASSIFICATION

1 Headwaters, Sec. 17, T19N, R15W Seeley Lake, Sec. 20, T19N, R15W 19.9 Recreational

ORV Category Remarks

Recreational	
Wildlife	
Scenic	



RIVER NAME STATUTE TOTAL LENGTH STATUS DECISION DATE CONTACT LAST NAME

MORRELL CK 5(0)(1) 5.8 Suitable

Cassell

STUDY TRANSMITTED TRANSMITTAL DATE:

SEQ. BP NARRATIVE EP NARRATIVE LENGTH CLASSIFICATION

1 Headwaters, Sec. 7, T18N, R14W Morrell Falls, Sec. 24, T18N, R15W 2.8 Wild

ORV Category Remarks
 Scenic
 Recreational

2 Morrell Falls, Sec. 24, T18N, R15W Morrell Falls Trailhead, Sec. 24, T18N, R15W 3.0 Scenic

ORV Category Remarks
 Recreational
 Scenic



RIVER NAME STATUTE TOTAL LENGTH STATUS DECISION DATE CONTACT LAST NAME

5(d)(1) 63.9 Suitable Casselli

STUDY TRANSMITTED TRANSMITTAL DATE:

SEQ. BP NARRATIVE EP NARRATIVE LENGTH CLASSIFICATION

1 NF Blackfoot headwaters, Sec. 34, T18N, R9W Main North Fork Trailhead, Sec. 27, T16N, R11W 20.0 Wild

QRY Category

- Fish
- Recreational
- Scenic
- Other similar values

Remarks

-
-
-
- Natural

2 Dry Fork headwaters, Sec. 30, T17N, R10W Mainstem, Sec. 30, T17N, R10W 16.8 Wild

QRY Category

- Fish
- Recreational
- Scenic
- Other similar values

Remarks

-
-
-
- Natural

3 Cabin Creek headwaters, Sec. 13, T17N, R10W Dry Fork, Sec. 13, T17N, R11W 8.4 Wild

QRY Category

- Fish

Remarks

-

RIVER NAME	STATUTE	TOTAL LENGTH	STATUS	DECISION DATE	CONTACT LAST NAME
4	Other similar values	Cooney Cr headwaters, Sec. 17, T19N, R9W	Mainstem, Sec. 1, T17N, R10W		5.0
	Recreational				
	Scenic				
	Wild				
ORV Category					
Remarks					
5	Other similar values	Dobrota headwaters, Sec. 23, T18N, R10W	Mainstem, Sec. 31, T18N, R9W		3.3
	Fish				
	Recreational				
	Scenic				
ORV Category					
Remarks					
6	Cultural	Dwight Creek, Sec. 12, T17N, R12W	Dry Creek, Sec. 3, T17N, R11W		5.1
	Scenic				
	Recreational				
	Fish				
ORV Category					
Remarks					
	Other similar values				
	Recreational				
	Scenic				
	Fish				



RIVER NAME	STATUTE	TOTAL LENGTH	STATUS	DECISION DATE	CONTACT LAST NAME
7	Canyon Creek headwaters, Sec. 28, T17N, R11W		Dry Creek, Sec. 11, T17N, R11W		Wild
				5.3	

QRV Category	Remarks
Fish	
Recreational	
Scenic	
Other similar values	Natural



RIVER NAME	STATUTE	TOTAL LENGTH	STATUS	DECISION DATE	CONTACT LAST NAME
	5(d)(1)	37.9	Suitable		Casselli

STUDY TRANSMITTED TRANSMITTAL DATE:

SEQ. BP NARRATIVE EP NARRATIVE LENGTH CLASSIFICATION

1	Mainstem headwaters, Sec. 4, T15N, R18W	Boundary, Sec. 2, T13N, R18W	19.2	Scenic
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ORV Category Remarks

Recreational	
Fish	

2	Wrangle Creek headwaters, Sec. 18, T15N, R18W	Mainstem, Sec. 21, T15N, R18W	3.7	Wild
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ORV Category Remarks

Recreational	
Fish	

3	Lake Creek headwaters, Sec. 30, T15N, R18W	Mainstem, Sec. 21, T15N, R18W	2.3	Scenic
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ORV Category Remarks

Recreational	
Fish	

4	Spring Gulch headwaters, Sec. 12, T14N, R19W	Mainstem, Sec. 35, T14N, R19W	4.5	Scenic
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ORV Category Remarks



RIVER NAME	STATUTE	TOTAL LENGTH	STATUS	DECISION DATE	CONTACT LAST NAME
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5	Fish Recreational	High Falls Creek headwaters, Sec. 5, T14N, R18W	Mainstem, Sec. 2, T14N, R18W	4.0	Wild
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QRY Category Remarks

Recreational	
Fish	

QRY Category Remarks

6	Recreational Fish	East Fork headwaters, Sec. 8, T14N, R17W	Mainstem, Sec. 14, T14N, R18W	4.2	Wild
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RIVER NAME STATUTE TOTAL LENGTH STATUS DECISION DATE CONTACT LAST NAME

Rock Creek 5(d)(1) 35.6 Eligible [redacted] [redacted] Casselli

STUDY TRANSMITTED TRANSMITTAL DATE:

SEQ. BP NARRATIVE EP NARRATIVE LENGTH CLASSIFICATION

1 Lolo/Deerlodge NF's Boundary Clark Fork River 35.6 Scenic

ORV Category	Remarks
Scenic	
Cultural	
Recreational	
Fish	

Rock Creek



RIVER NAME STATUTE STATUS TOTAL LENGTH DECISION DATE CONTACT LAST NAME

5(d)(1) 12.5 Suitable Casselli

STUDY TRANSMITTED TRANSMITTAL DATE:

SEQ. BP NARRATIVE EP NARRATIVE LENGTH CLASSIFICATION

1 Mainstem headwaters, Sec. 35, T10N, R22W South Fork Lolo Creek Trailhead, Sec. 12, T11N, R22W 11.4 Wild

ORY Category Remarks

Recreational

Scenic

2 No Name Creek headwaters, Sec. 30, T10N, R22W

ORY Category Remarks

Recreational

Scenic

Mainstem, Sec. 24, T10N, R22W

1.1

Wild

RIVER NAME STATUTE TOTAL LENGTH STATUS DECISION DATE CONTACT LAST NAME

5(d)(1) 20.5 Suitable Casselli

STUDY TRANSMITTED TRANSMITTAL DATE:

SEQ. BP NARRATIVE EP NARRATIVE LENGTH CLASSIFICATION

1 West Fork Fish Creek headwaters, Sec. 6, T13N, R26W Clearwater Crossing Trailhead, Sec. 6, T13N, R25W 9.4 Wild

QRY Category Natural Remarks

2 Cedar Log Creek headwaters, Sec. 14, T12N, R26W Mainstem, Sec. 19, T13N, R25W 7.6 Wild

QRY Category Natural Remarks

3 Middle Fork Indian Creek headwaters, Sec. 14, T12N, R26W Mainstem, Sec. 25, T12N, R26W 3.5 Wild

QRY Category Natural Remarks

As a result of applying the two criteria in Sections 1 (b) and 2 (b) of the WSRA, sections of nine rivers on the Forest were determined eligible and are summarized in Table 1 below:

TABLE I

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY STUDY
SUMMARY**

RIVER	REACH	POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION	OUTSTANDING VALUES	LENGTH (MILES)
CACHE CREEK	Montana Cr. to headwater	Wild	Recreation	9
	Montana Cr. to mouth	Scenic	Recreation	2
NORTH FORK BLACKFOOT	Trailhead to headwaters	Wild	Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Natural	24
SOUTH FORK LOLO CREEK	NE 1/4 Sec 12 to headwaters	Wild	Recreation, Scenery	12
WEST FORK FISH CREEK	Clearwater Crossing to headwaters	Wild	Natural	9
MORRELL CREEK	Trailhead to headwaters	Scenic	Scenic, Recreation	7
ROCK CREEK	Mouth to Forest boundary	Scenic	Fishery, Recreation, Cultural, Scenery	28
RATTLESNAKE CREEK	Forest boundary to headwaters	Scenic	Recreation, Fishery	18
CLARK FORK (Slowey Cut-off)	Junction w/Flathead to mouth of Tamarack Creek, 1 mile south of St. Regis to 1/2 mile east of Slowey Campground.	Recreation	Recreation, Scenery	23
CLEARWATER RIVER	Seeley Lake inlet to headwaters	Recreation	Recreation, Wildlife, Scenery	13

D. Identification of the Preferred Alternative

Alternative B is the preferred alternative.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Introduction

This chapter describes each eligible river and its immediate environment (river corridor) that would be affected by the alternatives presented in this analysis. This chapter focuses on each river's existing resource management activities and developments as it relates to the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards developed in Chapter II-1-Step 3. This chapter provides the existing condition of the eligible rivers that will be the basis for analyzing and comparing the issue identified in Chapter I-F to the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards in Chapter IV-Environmental Consequences.

B. CACHE CREEK

Cache Creek is located in the upper Fish Creek drainage about 30 air miles west of Missoula. This stream drains the proposed Great Burn wilderness with all but the lower two miles within the proposed wilderness. The stream is entirely on National Forest land except for a 1/4 mile reach on private land at the mouth.

Cache Creek is eligible for wild river classification due to outstanding recreation opportunities.

Recreation: The geologic ruggedness of the upper reaches of this drainage make this an unusual and remarkable area for recreation. This is a challenging area for off-trail hiking and exploring with an opportunity to see mountain goats. Following this stream from its mouth to the headwaters is a relatively short trip but takes the visitor into very rugged and remote mountains. The high quality recreation experience provided and opportunities for solitude can be considered outstandingly remarkable.

Fishery & Wildlife Cache Creek provides spawning habitat for bull trout, a sensitive species. However, the overall fisheries is not outstandingly remarkable.

The endangered gray wolf is thought to occupy the Cache Creek drainage. Moose are plentiful and there are mountain goats in the upper reaches of the drainage.

Cultural: Cache Creek may have been an important travel route for Native Americans. A rock quarry and lithic procurement sites have been documented.

Natural: No unique natural or ecological values are known to exist. 1910 fire burned over most of the drainage. The upper reaches of the drainage remain relatively open due to slow regeneration after the fire, and because of avalanches.

Water Resource Development: There are no water resource developments within the corridor.

Shoreline Development: Above the junction with Montana Creek, the shoreline remains in an essentially primitive condition with little or no evidence of human activity. The Cache Creek trailhead, road 17442, and old mining activity are evident within the lower 2 miles of the corridor. An old cabin recently deeded to the Forest Service lies within the river corridor about 1/2 mile above the mouth.

Accessibility: Road 17442 provides access to the Cache Creek trailhead. From the trailhead, the road is used as a trail. From Montana Creek to the headwaters, access is via Trail # 317.

Water Quality: The river is generally considered to be of high quality and free from manmade pollutants. During periods of heavy rainfall, sedimentation causes short-term discoloration.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activity: Placer mining claims are located along the lower reach of Cache Creek, primarily below the trailhead. Intermittent activity has occurred on the claims. There are numerous claims in Irish Basin, a tributary to Cache Creek. The only activity on these claims is occasional exploration.

There are no oil and gas lease within the corridor; the potential for exploration and development is low.

Timber: The lower 2 miles of Cache Creek cross lands that are suitable for timber production under the Lolo Forest Plan. The Ninemile Ranger District is preparing an assessment of timber opportunities in the Montana/Surveyor drainages including lower Cache Creek.

Livestock grazing: No livestock grazing other than occasional grazing by recreational stock occurs along Cache Creek.

C. CLEARWATER RIVER:

The reach under consideration is the 13 miles of National Forest land from the Seeley Lake inlet to the headwaters of the river. Land ownership adjacent to the river is mixed. Downstream from Seeley Lake ownership is State and private; upstream from Seeley Lake approximately 50 percent of the ownership is National Forest. This assessment will evaluate only those lands within the National Forest but will cooperate with other agencies in studying eligibility of reaches of river through out the entire river length.

The Clearwater River possesses outstandingly remarkable wildlife and recreation resources. Due to impoundments (fish barriers) and development along the river, classification as a potential recreation river is appropriate.

Recreation: The river connects the regionally significant (recreation) "chain of lakes", providing excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing and water-related recreation. The lower three miles of the river serves as a popular canoe trail. There are two developed and numerous undeveloped camping and picnicking sites along the river. The scenery is outstanding as you travel down an enormous U-shaped glacier valley with views of the nearby Swan and Mission mountain ranges. The riparian and wetland scenery is relatively unusual for Western Montana.

Fisheries & Wildlife: Supports westslope cutthroat and bull trout. Overall, fisheries is average to below average. One of the few places in western Montana to view loons. The threatened bald eagle nests within the drainage. The Canoe Trail provides a unique river-based opportunity for bird watching.

Cultural: The Clearwater River played an important role in the early logging history of western Montana. Logs were floated down the river to the Blackfoot and on to Bonner. Evidence of splash dams exists at the outlets of Seeley, Salmon, and Placid lakes. There are several prehistoric sites along the river.

Natural: Wetlands associated with this river are unique to western Montana.

Water Resource Development: The Inez fish barrier creates an impoundment; the Rainy Lake barrier creates a lesser impoundment. Otherwise the river is free-flowing.

Shoreline Development: A number of structures are scattered along the river. Timber harvest areas are visible from the river.

Accessibility: State Highway 83 is a paved two lane road which parallels the river most of its length, providing easy access to the river. The road is generally not visible from the river. Three major bridges cross the river.

Water Quality: The river is generally considered to be of high quality and free from manmade pollutants. During periods of heavy rainfall, sedimentation causes short-term discoloration. Streamflows are adequate to maintain a resident fishery and river floating experience year round.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities:

There are no oil and gas lease within the corridor; the potential for exploration and development is low. There are no mining claims within the river corridor.

Timber: The upper 4.5 miles is located within management area 20 with a goal of optimizing grizzly bear habitat and timber growing potential consistent with goals for grizzly bear recovery. The lower reach is located on management areas that emphasize dispersed recreation and are not suitable for timber production.

Livestock grazing: No livestock grazing is authorized in the river corridor.

D. CLARK FORK RIVER

This segment under consideration is from the confluence of the Clark Fork and Flathead River upstream to the mouth of Tamarack Creek, which is about 2 miles northeast of Saint Regis, and from the north line of Section 31, Township 18 North, Range 27 West to the east line of Section 15, Township 17 North, Range 27 West, just east of the Slowey Campground. The majority of this 23 mile segment is on National Forest land; however, state and private land is intermingled .

This segment of the Clark Fork possesses outstandingly remarkable recreation and scenic resources. Because of the shoreline development and ready access due to the parallel road and railroad, the river qualifies for designation as a recreation river.

Recreation: This stretch is popular for floating, fishing, hiking, camping and hunting with people travelling long distances to enjoy the river's amenities. The large river combined with the rugged geology create remarkably outstanding scenery. State Highway 135 is under consideration for designation as a scenic by-way. Larch fall colors add to interest and create distinctive vistas from the river. The sheer size of the river with an essentially unmodified natural landscape is remarkable for Montana.

Fishery & Wildlife: The river provides high quality fishing but the overall fisheries is not outstanding as sportfish populations are limited in some reaches. A large herd of bighorn sheep is often visible along the lower reach of this river. Wintering elk and deer are often visible as well. Bald eagles winter along this stretch of river and osprey nests are common.

Cultural: Cultural resources in the Cutoff are very diverse including prehistoric campsites associated with fishing and hunting along the river. Historic resources include Flathead House, built by David Thompson at the confluence of the Flathead and Clark Fork rivers, mining activities, homesteads, logging, and Prehistoric sites exist along the river.

Natural: The Clark Fork is the major river system of the Forest. The Squaw Creek Research Natural Area preserves examples of forested scree habitat and river terrace meadows. The sensitive Coure d'Alene salamander is found along the river.

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundments. Portions of the lower reach have been rip-rapped along the highway.

Shoreline Development: Some timber harvest on the ridge lines is apparent from the river. A major 500kv powerline crosses the river in Section 15, T. 18 N., R. 27 W.. The Montana Rail Link railroad parallels the river crossing it in 6 locations. Residences are scattered along the river but are not very visible from the river. Much of the shoreline remains in a natural state..

Accessibility: The river is readily accessible by parallel road or railroad, Slowey Campground, and several bridge crossings and access points. The road is quite conspicuous from the river along the lower reaches.

Water Quality: Streamflows are adequate to maintain a resident fishery and river floating resource. Streamflows are adequate to maintain a resident fishery and river floating resource.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities: There are several mining claims within the corridor of the river; at least two are being actively developed. Building and decorative rock is quarried along the river. There are no oil and gas leases within the corridor.

Timber: Approximately 9 miles of this segment flows through timber suitable management areas 22 and 24. These areas carry visual quality objectives of retention. One mile of the river is adjacent to management area 21 where the emphasis is providing old growth timber stands to maintain viable populations of old growth dependent species.

Livestock grazing: The Keystone allotment, located along the south shore of the river, is grazed from June 1 through October 15 by 20 cow/calf pairs.

E. MORRELL CREEK

Morrell Creek drops off the Swan Face east of Seeley Lake and joins the Clearwater River south of Seeley Lake. Approximately 10 miles of the 17 mile stream reach is located on National Forest land. The segment under consideration is the 6 mile reach from the Morrell Falls trailhead to the headwaters. The segment below the trailhead is more influenced by logging and possesses no outstandingly remarkable values.

Morrell Creek possesses outstandingly remarkable recreation and scenic values. Due to past timber harvest and occasional road access, the stream is eligible for consideration as a scenic river.

Recreation: The Morrell Falls trail, a very popular hiking trail, is designated as a National Recreation trail. A spectacular waterfall and a hanging glacier valley above the falls provide outstandingly remarkable scenery. Waterfalls of this nature are somewhat unique in western Montana. The area above the Falls is within the proposed Bob Marshall Wilderness addition. The trail is not maintained above the falls.

Fishery & Wildlife: Fishery in Morrell Creek is average for this area. No fish live in the stream above the falls. The lower reaches of the stream go underground during the summer. Morrell Creek provides habitat for grizzly bears and mountain goats. The valley above the falls is known as "Grizzly Basin" and provides an important travel corridor between the Swan and Mission ranges. Beaver and moose are associated with the lakes and wetlands. Wildlife values are high but not outstandingly remarkable.

Cultural: No significant cultural resources are inventoried.

Natural: Morrell Lake and associated wetlands are ecologically important.

Water Resource Development: Free of impoundment and diversion..

Shoreline Development: Logging has occurred along the corridor in the lower reaches of this stretch. Several roads are within or adjacent to the corridor for short distances. Some evidence of past timber harvest on the adjacent ridges.

Accessibility: The upper reaches are generally inaccessible except by trail. The lower reaches are occasionally accessible by road. Motorized use does occur on this trail.

Water Quality: The river is generally considered to be of high quality and free from manmade pollutants. During periods of heavy rainfall, sedimentation causes short-term discoloration. Water quality exceeds standards for aesthetics, propagation for fish and wildlife, and for primary contact recreation.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities: There are no known mining claims within the corridor of the river. No interest has been expressed in locatable mineral exploration or development, and the lands within the corridor have low mineral potential, making entry unlikely. There are no oil and gas lease within the corridor; the potential for exploration and development is low.

Timber: Three miles of this segment traverses management areas 13 and 20, both suitable for timber harvest. The goal of MA 13 is to manage riparian areas to maintain and enhance their value for wildlife, recreation, fishery and aquatic habitat, and water quality. The goal of MA 20 is to optimize habitat for the threatened grizzly bear.

Livestock grazing: There are no livestock allotments along this river segment.

F. NORTH FORK BLACKFOOT RIVER

This river drains the Lolo National Forest's portion of the Scapegoat Wilderness northeast of Ovando, Montana. The segment from the North Fork Blackfoot trailhead up to the headwaters is under consideration. This segment is almost entirely within existing or proposed wilderness.

The fisheries, scenic, recreation, and ecologic/natural values are considered outstandingly remarkable for this river. Due to the primitive character of this watershed, the river is eligible for classification as a wild river.

Recreation: Access to nationally renowned wilderness area adds to the recreation experience of trail adjacent to the stream. The Hob Nob Tom trail, named after a local outfitter, serves as a hiking trail up the waterfalls. Hunting, fishing, and primitive recreation opportunities can be considered remarkably outstanding. Views up to ridges and down into river canyon combined with views of rapids and falls from above are regionally unique. The Canyon Creek fire of 1988 created interesting vegetative patterns and numerous vistas. The upper portions of the drainage are framed by spectacular peaks. Scenery is outstandingly remarkable.

Fishery & Wildlife: Outstanding example of regional Bull trout spawning stream that is the last big stronghold for bull trout in the Blackfoot drainage. Outstandingly remarkable due to high quality habitat for a sensitive species. Grizzlies tend to congregate in the upper drainage in the fall. The drainage provides high value habitat for a wide range of species but overall is not outstandingly remarkable.

Cultural: The North Fork Cabin and the Carmichael cabin are eligible for the National Register of Historic places. The prehistoric sites in the higher elevations date back to 6000 BP and coincide with the partial abandonment of the plains during a prolonged drought.

Natural: The 1988 Canyon Creek fire created excellent opportunities for scientific study of fire effects, and plant and animal response.

Water Resource Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: From the trailhead to the headwaters, the shoreline is essentially primitive with little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Accessible only by trail.

Water Quality: High quality free from man made pollutants. Meets or exceeds federal standards for aesthetics, fish and wildlife and swimming. Streamflows are adequate to maintain a resident fishery. During spring and periods of heavy rainfall, sedimentation causes short-term discoloration.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities: There are no known mining claims within the corridor of the river. No interest has been expressed in locatable mineral exploration or development, and the lands within the corridor have low mineral potential, making entry unlikely. There are no oil and gas lease within the corridor; the potential for exploration and development is low.

Timber: A 1/2 mile segment of the river between the trailhead and proposed wilderness boundary crosses management area 20 where the management goal is to optimize grizzly bear habitat. This management area is suitable for timber management.

Livestock grazing: There are no livestock grazing allotments along this river segment.

G. RATTLESNAKE CREEK

Rattlesnake Creek is just north of Missoula and serves as the city's municipal watershed. The segment under consideration is that portion of the stream within the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area and Wilderness.

Rattlesnake Creek is eligible for designation as a scenic river as it possesses outstandingly remarkable recreation and fisheries resource. Past timber harvest and the access road preclude designation as a wild river.

Recreation: The stream and water related recreation values are outstanding and were a key reason for establishing the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area and Wilderness. The stream is very popular with Missoula residents as well as visitors. Good visual variety with lots of vistas. Upper cirque basins and lakes are quite scenic. The trail parallels the pristine stream.

Fisheries & Wildlife: Pristine habitat for westslope cutthroat trout as well as the sensitive bull trout. The catch and release cutthroat fishing for trout up to 20" in size is remarkable given the proximity to Missoula. The wintering elk and deer herd from the Rattlesnake is often visible from Missoula. The Rattlesnake provides habitat for the endangered grizzly bear though densities are low. Mountain goats live near Franklin Bridge and in the upper basins. The wildlife resource is above average.

Cultural: Several historic and prehistoric sites are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Of special interest is a limestone kiln, unusual for western Montana. Rattlesnake Creek has a long history of recreation use with some unique management due to the domestic water supply.

Natural: Shoo Fly Meadows, in the East Fork of Rattlesnake Creek, represents the southernmost sphagnum bog recorded.

Water Resources Development: Many of the lakes within the Rattlesnake watershed have been dammed. However, the main stream and tributaries are free flowing.

Shoreline Development: The upper reaches are largely primitive and undeveloped with no substantial evidence of human activity. Some evidence of past timber harvest.

Accessibility: Motorized access is retained by Mountain Water Company for maintenance of water supply reservoirs. The stream is crossed by two bridges capable of supporting vehicles.

Water Quality: Water quality meets or exceeds state and federal standards. Streamflows are adequate to maintain a resident fishery and municipal watershed resource year round. The river is generally considered to be of high quality and free from manmade pollutants.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities: There are no known mining claims within the corridor of the river. No interest has been expressed in locatable mineral exploration or development, and the lands within the corridor have low mineral potential, making entry unlikely. There are no oil and gas lease within the corridor; the potential for exploration and development is low.

Timber: All the lands along this segment are removed from the suitable timber base.

Livestock grazing: No livestock grazing allotments are within the corridor.

H. ROCK CREEK

Rock Creek is a tributary to the Clark Fork River approximately 25 miles east of Missoula. The eligible segment is from the mouth upstream to the Forest boundary with the Deerlodge National Forest.

Rock Creek possesses outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreation, fisheries, wildlife, cultural and natural resources and is eligible for potential classification as a scenic river. Viewed from the creek, the shoreline remains largely in a natural state. The short stretches of road that parallel the stream are acceptable for scenic rivers.

Recreation: A "Blue Ribbon" trout stream of national significance, fisherman from across the country come to fish Rock Creek. The Blue Ribbon designation reflects good access, high aesthetics of the area, and high quality fisheries. Recreation can be considered outstandingly remarkable. Landforms, vegetation patterns, and the pristine stream combine to create a diverse and harmonious visual setting, and can be considered remarkably outstanding. Other features include the groves of old growth ponderosa pines, the open bunchgrass slopes, and the Dalles section of the river.

Fishery & Wildlife: A "blue ribbon" trout stream of National significance, provides both high quality habitat and fisheries. Two distinct herds of bighorn sheep are often visible from Rock Creek. Wintering bald eagles and nesting prairie falcons and golden eagles can be seen. Rock Creek is one of the best places on the Lolo National Forest for wildlife viewing, where wildlife is visible most of the year. The wildlife resource can be considered outstandingly remarkable.

Cultural: Puyear Ranch, Hogback Homestead, the town of Quigley with its associated mining, the Bitterroot Divide trail, and several prehistoric sites along the creek are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Rock Creek cabin is listed on the Register. Evidence of at least 10,000 years of human occupation

exists along Rock Creek. Historic recreation use from Butte and Missoula residents is important. Cultural resources are outstandingly remarkable.

Natural: Prime example of old growth ponderosa pine stands along creek which are relatively intact. These remnant pine groves grow scarcer each year. The microburst, an extremely rare weather phenomenon, created a large timber blowdown adjacent to the creek, providing an excellent example of the forces of nature upon our forests. Outstandingly remarkable.

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundments. Occasional diversions for irrigation ditches. Occasional stretches of rip-rap where the road directly parallels the creek.

Shoreline Development: The shoreline as viewed from the river is largely undeveloped. Dwellings are dispersed along the lower 10 miles of the stream and Pats and Miller Gulch. For the most part, dwellings are not readily visible from the stream as the stream corridor is intact. The forest appears natural from the river bank.

Accessibility: Forest Route 102, a single land unpaved road, parallels the river for its length on the Lolo. While large segments of the stream are visually screened from the nearby road, 25% of the road is visible from the stream. Approximately 2 miles of the road directly encroach on the stream.

Water Quality: Water quality exceeds standards for aesthetics, propagation for fish and wildlife, and for primary contact recreation. Streamflows are adequate to maintain a "Blue-Ribbon" fishery year round and a part year river floating experience.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities: The Rock Creek stream corridor is withdrawn from mineral entry, consequently, there is no mining activity within this segment. There are no oil and gas lease within the corridor; however, the potential for exploration and development is low.

Timber: The lands within the corridor are located within management areas not suitable for timber management.

Livestock grazing: The Big Hogback grazing allotment permits 60 cow calf pairs from June 15 through September 30. The allotment incorporates portions of the Puyear Ranch located along Rock Creek south of its junction with Big Hogback Creek.

J. SOUTH FORK LOLO CREEK

This tributary to Lolo Creek is located approximately 9 miles west of the town of Lolo. The lower 3 miles of this stream are on intermingled private and National Forest lands. The candidate segment begins in the NE 1/4 of Section 12, T, 11 N., R. 22 W., about 1 mile above the South Fork Lolo Creek trailhead. This avoids corporate land and is the start of a 12 mile segment entirely on the National Forest.

Due to the outstanding recreation and scenic resources and lack of any development along the river, the river is eligible for classification as a wild river.

Recreation: Recreation opportunity for hiking is remarkably outstanding because of the streamside scenery, avalanche paths, and the impressive rugged, steep terrain. Located partially within the Selway Bitterroot wilderness, the river is within a one hour drive from Missoula. Distinctive high mountain meadows adjacent to stream with the Bitterroot Divide as a backdrop provide outstanding scenery, compared by some to Glacier National Park. Huge boulders within the stream are distinctive.

Fishery & Wildlife: The stream provides good fishing for pan-sized cutthroat trout; bull trout and brook trout are residents. The fishery is not considered remarkable. The South Fork provides rich habitat for elk and moose, and mountain goats dwell in the upper reaches.

Cultural: One trappers cabin is recorded in the lower reaches.

Natural: Huge old growth larch, cedar and spruce line the middle reaches of this stream.

Water Resource Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.

Accessibility: Inaccessible except by trail # 311. The trail connects with Bass Creek trail on the Bitterroot front providing a loop opportunity.

Water Quality: Streamflows are adequate to maintain a resident fishery. The river is generally considered to be of high quality and free from manmade pollutants. During spring runoff and periods of heavy rainfall, natural sedimentation from the decomposed granitic watershed causes short-term discoloration.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities: There are no known mining claims within the corridor of the river. There are no oil and gas lease within the corridor; however, the potential for exploration and development is low.

Timber: The lower 2 miles of this segment crosses lands suitable for timber management including MA's 17 and 21.

Livestock grazing: No livestock grazing occurs along this segment of the river.

J. WEST FORK FISH CREEK

The West Fork of Fish Creek is the primary tributary to Fish Creek. Located about 35 air miles west of Missoula, this is one of the major drainages within the proposed Great Burn Wilderness. The nine mile segment from Clearwater Crossing trailhead to the headwaters includes Cedar Log Creek.

This drainage possesses outstandingly remarkable natural and geologic features. Due to its pristine condition, the river is eligible for designation as a wild river.

Recreation: Primitive recreation opportunities such as fishing, hunting, hiking and camping are popular. The trail paralleling the stream provides a constantly changing panorama. Recreation opportunities are above average. Glaciated valleys are attractive but typical of what would be expected along east front of mountain ranges such as the Bitterroot. Groves of cedar and the proximity of the trail to the ever-changing stream provides distinctive scenery.

Geologic: Rare crystals, eligible for designation as a National Landmark, occur at the head of Cedar Log Creek. Otherwise, geology is typical for the Bitterroot range.

Fishery & Wildlife: Fishery values while high are not better than other streams. The West Fork is an important bull trout spawning stream. The endangered gray wolf occasionally occupies the West Fork drainage. Wildlife values are high but not significantly better than other areas within the Great burn.

Cultural: No cultural resources are recorded in this drainage.

Natural: Ancient groves of cedar that survived the 1910 fire exist on the upper reaches of the West Fork. The extensive groves are regionally significant by virtue of their scarcity and can be considered remarkably outstanding.

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive with little or no sign of human development.

Accessibility: Accessible only by trail # 101 and several secondary trails up major tributaries such as Indian Creek and Cedar Log Creek.

Water Quality: Streamflows are adequate to maintain a resident fishery. The river is generally considered to be of high quality and free from manmade pollutants. During spring runoff and periods of heavy rainfall, natural sedimentation may occur.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities: There are no known mining claims within the corridor of the river. There are no oil and gas lease within the corridor; the potential for exploration and development is low.

Timber: The entire corridor is within the proposed Great Burn wilderness and is not suitable for timber management according to management area 12 standards in the Forest Plan.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. *Introduction*

This chapter discloses the potential consequences or effects of each alternative described in Chapter II-2. This chapter provides the scientific and analytical basis for comparing each alternative and focuses on the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Management Standards (Chapter II-1-Step 3) as they relate to the issues identified in Chapter I-F. This comparison between management area prescriptions and the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Management Standards meets Section 6 of the 1976 National Forest Management Act. This chapter is divided into four sections: (1) overview of environmental consequences; (2) environmental effects under alternative A; (3) environmental effects under alternative B; and, (4) cumulative impacts.

1. Overview of Environmental Consequences

Neither Alternative A nor B would have any effect on public health or safety, water resources, threatened or endangered wildlife species, sensitive plant species, or cultural resources. Neither Alternative A nor B would significantly affect the characteristics of adjacent geographic areas as described in 40 CFR 1508.27(b)-3.

a. Compliance with the WSRA

The 1986 Forest Plan inadequately addressed wild and scenic river considerations according to Section 5(d) of the WSRA which requires all federal agencies to consider potential national wild, scenic, and recreation river areas in "all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources."

Alternative A: This alternative would not comply with Section 5(d) of the WSRA, as it would defer the identification, classification, and protection of potentially eligible rivers on the Lolo National Forest.

Alternative B: This alternative would adhere to Section 5(d) of the WSRA by amending the 1986 Forest Plan to display the findings of eligibility and potential classification (steps 1 and 2). Alternative B would provide

management direction and protection to eligible rivers through the development of the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Management Standards until the river suitability study is completed and/or a final decision is made on their designation into the Rivers System.

b. Existing River Management

Riparian areas are given special consideration in the 1986 Forest Plan under Management Areas 13 and 14 (Forest Plan, pp. III-56 through III-67). Management areas 13 and 14 consists of lakes, lakeside lands, major second-order and larger streams and the adjoining lands that are dominated by riparian vegetation. The goal of these areas is to manage riparian areas to maintain and enhance their value for wildlife, recreation, fishery and aquatic habitat, and water quality. An additional goal for Management Area 14 is to provide livestock grazing that is compatible with the above resources. Riparian areas are defined in the Forest Plan (Glossary, pp. VII-32):

"Areas with distinctive resource values and characteristics that are comprised of an aquatic ecosystem and adjacent upland areas that have a direct relationships with the aquatic system. This includes floodplains, wetlands, and all areas within a horizontal distance of approximately 100 feet from the normal high water line of a stream channel, or from the shoreline of a standing body of water."

Alternative A: By deferring the eligibility, potential classification, and development of Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Management Standards, Alternative A with the Forest-wide standards and the Management Area prescriptions would not comply with the WSRA. Alternative A with Forest-wide and Management Area prescriptions would not necessarily maintain the free-flowing characteristics of potentially eligible rivers. Alternative A with the Forest-wide standards and Management Area prescriptions would allow activities (e.g. programmed and unprogrammed timber harvest, structures, oil and gas entry) which would not necessarily maintain the existing condition of potentially eligible rivers assigned a wild potential classification. While the definition of riparian areas is dependent on site-specific analysis, Alternative A with Forest-wide standards and Management Area standards along with the general definition of 100 feet from the edge of perennial streams or other water bodies would not extend to the minimum river width of .25 mile from each bank required under (USDA-USDI Interagency Guidelines, September 7, 1982).

Alternative B: By completing the eligibility assessment (step 1) assigning a potential classification to each eligible river (step 2), and developing Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Management Standards (step 3), Alternative B would provide the management direction to protect eligible rivers as required under the WSRA. The three steps completed in Alternative B would provide additional management direction which would protect the free-flowing and "outstandingly remarkable" values of eligible rivers and their assigned potential classification. In addition, potential classification (step 2) would include a minimum river corridor width of .25 mile from each bank.

c. Adverse Environmental Effects

Alternative A: There would not be any irreversible impacts associated with Alternative A. The possible adverse environmental effects and irretrievable impacts associated with Alternative A relate to existing Forest Plan direction (Forest-wide management standards and management area prescriptions) and possible resource activities (oil, gas and water resource developments, unprogrammed timber harvest) which could possibly change the present condition of a few eligible rivers to a lower potential classification (wild to scenic, scenic to recreational) and/or modify their free-flowing condition. This is possible on three streams where it appears that current Forest Plan management direction is not adequate to protect the potential classification. Specifically, this involves short reaches of the North Fork Blackfoot River, Cache Creek and South Fork of Lolo Creek. Timber harvest that could occur given existing management direction may lead to a lower potential classification.

These resource activities would be highly unlikely in this planning period (present to 1996) for the nine eligible rivers identified under Alternative B, the present Forest Plan direction would not prohibit (in all cases) or restrict these activities as directed under the WSRA.

Alternative B: There are no adverse environmental effects or irreversible resource commitments associated with Alternative B. The policy of the WSRA is "... that certain selected rivers of the Nation ... shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." By completing the three steps identified in Chapter I-A, Alternative B would recognize nine rivers on the Lolo Forest warranting further study under the WSRA. These nine rivers would be protected under the WSRA through their eligibility, potential classification and the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Management Standards that maintain and protect the natural integrity of each river and its immediate environment (corridor). Under Alternative B, there would be no known effects on the quality of the human environment that are highly controversial.

2. Environmental Effects Under Alternative A

Direct effects would include management activities within and adjacent to river corridors that would possibly irretrievably degrade or destroy the free-flowing nature of rivers and their "outstandingly remarkable" resource values. Short-term (four to eight years) effects include the implementation of the 1986 Forest Plan that could degrade existing river environments to a lower potential classification (i.e. existing mining claim development, mineral lease activity, off-site Forest management activities that could produce sediment, or development of private land immediately adjacent to National Forest land) before rivers would be evaluated in the 1996 Forest Plan revision.

3. Environmental Effects Under Alternative B

Alternative B would be consistent with the WSRA as rivers on the Forest would be evaluated and documented under Section 1(b) and 2(b). The environmental effects associated with the implementation of Alternative B would be analyzed by comparing the 1986 Forest Plan management area prescriptions with the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Management Standards (Chapter II-1-Step 3). Refer to Forest Plan Chapter III, Management Area Direction, for detailed descriptions of management area goals, standards and prescriptions.

The Management Standards for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational rivers would provide the protection for the eligible rivers that could not be achieved under Alternative A.

Several of the eligible rivers including Cache Creek, West Fork Fish Creek, North Fork Blackfoot, Rattlesnake Creek, Morrell Creek, and the South Fork Lolo Creek are either partially or totally within existing or proposed wilderness. WSRA section 10(b) states that a river located within the National Wilderness Preservation System is subject to the provisions of both the Wilderness Act and the WSRA, and in case of conflict between the provisions of these acts, the most restrictive provisions apply. Management Area 12 prescriptions are compatible with the Wild River management standards.

a. Cache Creek

River segment 1: 9 miles

River segment 2: 2 miles

Potential Classification Segment 1: Wild (Corridor is .5 miles wide)

Segment 2: Scenic (Corridor is .5 miles wide).

Segment 1, the upper 9 miles of Cache Creek, is primarily within Management Area 12, proposed wilderness. MA 12 goals are to manage proposed wildernesses to protect their wilderness characteristics pending a decision as to their classification. Wild River Forest-Wide management standards are consistent with MA 12 prescriptions for this segment of the river.

A 0.3 mile reach above the junction with Montana Creek is allocated to Management Area 16. The goal of this MA, to provide for healthy stands of timber and to optimize timber growing potential, is not compatible with management standards for proposed wild rivers. The Forest-Wide standards for wild rivers will take precedent over existing Management Area standards until a river suitability study is complete and/or the river is formally designated. Timber management activities on the 96 acres within the corridor will be deferred in the interim.

Segment 2, the lower 2 miles of the stream, crosses lands currently suitable for timber production including Management areas 13, 16, 17, 18, and 23. For a scenic river, a wide range of silvicultural practices may be allowed provided that such practices are carried on in such a way that there is no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment. The river area will be maintained in its near natural environment. Management areas 16, 17, and 18 provide for timber harvest with visual quality objective of modification. A modification visual quality objective provides for activities that may dominate the landscape, and is not compatible with standards for a scenic river. To protect the eligibility of this segment, a retention visual quality objective is appropriate for the 1/2 mile wide corridor. This will result in more restrictive timber harvest practices within the 640 acre corridor than the Forest Plan currently provides for.

An active mining claim is located within this segment. Valid claims and existing mining activity are allowed to continue provided such activity is conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation, and visual impairment.

b. Clearwater River

Segment length: 13 miles

Potential Classification: Recreational (Corridor is .5 miles wide)

The river is located in Management Area's 9, 13, and 20. The goals for Management Area 9 are to provide for a wide variety of dispersed recreation opportunities in a forest setting available to a wide segment of society. The management area is not suitable for timber management. The goals for Management Area 20 are to optimize habitat conditions and minimize mortality factors to recover grizzly bears to a non-threatened status. Timber harvest is allowed within the constraints of grizzly bear recovery goals. The goal for management area 13 is to manage riparian areas to enhance their value for wildlife, recreation, fishery, aquatic habitat and water quality. The visual quality objective for MA 13 and 20 land adjacent to the Clearwater River is partial retention. The Forest Plan direction is adequate to protect the proposed Recreational river classification. For recreational rivers, timber harvest is allowed under standard restrictions to protect the immediate river environment. No programmed harvest activity is planned during this planning cycle.

Recreational river Forest-wide management standards would be consistent with Management Area 9 and 20 prescriptions.

c. Clark Fork River

Segment length: 23 miles

Potential Classification: Recreational (Corridor varies from .5 to .75 miles wide.)

The river is located in Management Areas 19, 21, 22, 24 and 27. Management area 22 provides for a visual quality objective of retention while maintaining optimal winter range for big game. Timber management is permitted consistent with the above values. Management Area 24 is similar to MA 22 except that it is not within winter range. The goal of Management Area 19 is to optimize big game winter range and provide opportunities for dispersed recreation. The goals for Management Area 21 are to provide for old-growth succession in timber stands with an optimum arrangement of habitat components to maintain viable populations of old-growth dependent species. The goal for Management Area 27 is to provide basic resource protection.

The Lolo Forest Plan assigns a visual quality objective of retention to the Clark Fork corridor in the cut-off area. Management practices consistent with the retention visual quality objective meet or exceed standards for a recreational river.

There are several mining claims and at least two active operations within the river corridor. For a recreational river, mining claims are allowed and existing operations are allowed to continue provided that such operations are conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation, and visual impairment.

The management standards in MA's 19, 21, 22, 24 and 27 plus the proposed Forest wide standards will protect the outstandingly remarkable values and the potential recreational classification of the Clark Fork until a suitability study is completed.

d. Morrell Creek

Segment length: 7 miles

Potential Classification: Scenic (Corridor is .5 miles wide).

The upper 4 miles of Morrell Creek above the falls is located in management area 12. MA 12 goals are to manage proposed wildernesses to protect their wilderness characteristics pending a decision as to their classification. Management standards for this MA are more than adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable features and the potential scenic classification.

The lower three mile of this segment are within management area's 13 and 20. The goals for Management Area 20 are to optimize habitat conditions and minimize mortality factors to recover grizzly bears to a non-threatened status. The goal for management area 13 is to manage riparian areas to enhance their value for wildlife, recreation, fishery, aquatic habitat and water quality. Both management areas are considered suitable for timber harvest.

The visual quality objective assigned to the lower three miles is retention. Management practices consistent with the retention visual quality objective meet or exceed standards for a scenic river. No timber harvest is scheduled within the corridor during this planning period.

The management standards in MA's 12, 13, and 20 plus the proposed Forest wide standards will protect the outstandingly remarkable values and the potential scenic classification of Morrell Creek until a suitability study is completed.

e. North Fork Blackfoot River

River segment: 24 miles

Potential Classification: Wild (Corridor is .5 miles wide).

The North Fork of the Blackfoot is primarily located in management area 12, existing and proposed wilderness. MA 12 goals are to manage existing wildernesses in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. Two miles are within the proposed Bob Marshall wilderness addition where the goal is to manage proposed wildernesses to protect their wilderness characteristics pending a decision as to their classification. Management standards for this MA are adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable features and the potential wild classification.

The lower 0.75 miles of the river corridor between the proposed wilderness and the trailhead cross management areas 13 and 20. The goals for Management Area 20 are to optimize habitat conditions and minimize mortality factors to recover grizzly bears to a non-threatened status. The goal for management area 13 is to manage riparian areas to enhance their value for wildlife, recreation, fishery, aquatic habitat and water quality. Both management areas are considered suitable for timber harvest.

Timber harvest permitted within these management areas is not compatible with management standards for proposed wild rivers. The Forest-Wide standards for wild rivers will take precedent over existing Management Area standards until a river suitability study is complete and/or the river is formally designated. No programmed timber harvest is scheduled within the 240 acre corridor for this planning cycle.

f. Rattlesnake Creek

River segment: 18 miles

Potential classification: Scenic (Corridor is .5 miles wide).

This segment of Rattlesnake Creek is located entirely within the Rattlesnake National Recreation and Wilderness Area. Management standards for the National Recreation Area (MA 28) and for the wilderness (MA 12), are more than adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable features and the potential scenic classification.

g. Rock Creek

River segment: 28 miles

Potential classification: Scenic (Corridor varies from .5 to .75 miles in width).

Rock Creek is located within management area 9 which emphasizes dispersed recreation opportunities and management of other resources consistent with the recreation objective. The management area is not suitable for timber production.

The management standards for this management area will provide adequate protection for resource values and the potential scenic classification for Rock Creek. There are no anticipated conflicts between the existing management standards and those proposed for scenic rivers.

h. South Fork Lolo Creek

River segment: 12 miles

Potential classification: Wild (Corridor width is .5 miles).

The lower 2.3 miles of this river crosses management areas 11, 13, 17, and 21 while the upper 9.7 miles is within MA 12, the Selway Bitterroot wilderness. MA 12 goals are to manage existing wildernesses in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. One mile is within the proposed Selway Bitterroot wilderness addition where the goal is to manage proposed wildernesses to protect their wilderness characteristics pending a decision as to their classification. Management standards for this MA are adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable features and the potential wild classification.

The goal for MA 11 is to provide for a wide variety of dispersed recreation activities in a near natural setting and to provide for old growth dependent wildlife species. Management standards for this MA are adequate to protect resource values and the potential wild classification.

Approximately 363 acres of the corridor are within MA 21 where the goal is to provide for old growth succession in timber stands to maintain viable populations of old-growth dependent wildlife. This MA is suitable for timber and is managed on a double rotation basis. Approximately 212 acres are within management area 17 where the goal is provide for healthy stands of timber and optimize timber growing potential. The riparian areas allocated to MA 13 along the creek are also suitable for timber management.

Timber management as provided for under MA's 13, 17 and 21 is not compatible with proposed standards for a wild river. Specifically, cutting of trees will not be permitted within wild river corridors. The Forest-Wide standards for wild rivers will take precedent over existing management area standards until a river suitability study is complete and/or the river is formally designated. No programmed harvest is scheduled from the 575 acre corridor during this planning cycle.

i. West Fork Fish Creek

River segment: 9 miles

Potential classification: Wild

The West Fork of Fish Creek is located in management area 12, the proposed Great Burn wilderness. MA 12 goals are to manage proposed wildernesses to protect their wilderness characteristics pending a decision as to their classification. Management standards for this MA are adequate to protect the outstandingly remarkable features and the potential wild classification.

4. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impact is defined by 40 CFR 1508.7 as "... the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time."

Alternative A: By deferring the eligibility, potential classification, and development of Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Management Standards, Alternative A would allow resource management activities that could affect the eligibility or potential classification of the nine rivers identified in Alternative B.

Alternative B: There would be no significant cumulative effects associated with Alternative B that would adversely affect the quality of human, wildlife or vegetative environment. By completing the three steps in Chapter I-A, Alternative B would require the completion of a river suitability study for all eligible rivers. A reasonably foreseeable outcome to the river suitability study would be all, a few, or none of the nine eligible rivers designated into the National Rivers System. Any river designated into the System would be managed according to the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Management Standards (Chapter II-1-Step 3). An eligible river designated into the Rivers System under a wild classification would be withdrawn from mineral entry within .25 mile of the river. Any existing claims would be subject to valid existing rights under the 1872 Mining Law. This standard would apply to Cache Creek, West Fork of Fish Creek, and portions of the South Fork Lolo Creek and the North Fork Blackfoot River.

There are no other reasonably foreseeable activities or highly uncertain effects on the human environment that would significantly affect the existing condition of any eligible river as it relates to the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Management Standards and the Forest Plan management area prescriptions. All project-level activities occurring on an eligible river or within the river corridor would require NEPA analysis documenting any environmental effects related to the river's eligibility (free-flowing and "outstandingly remarkable" resource values) and potential classification under the WSRA.

V. LIST OF PREPARERS

The following individuals participated in the formulation and analysis of alternatives and the subsequent preparation of the Environmental Assessment:

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VI. REFERENCES

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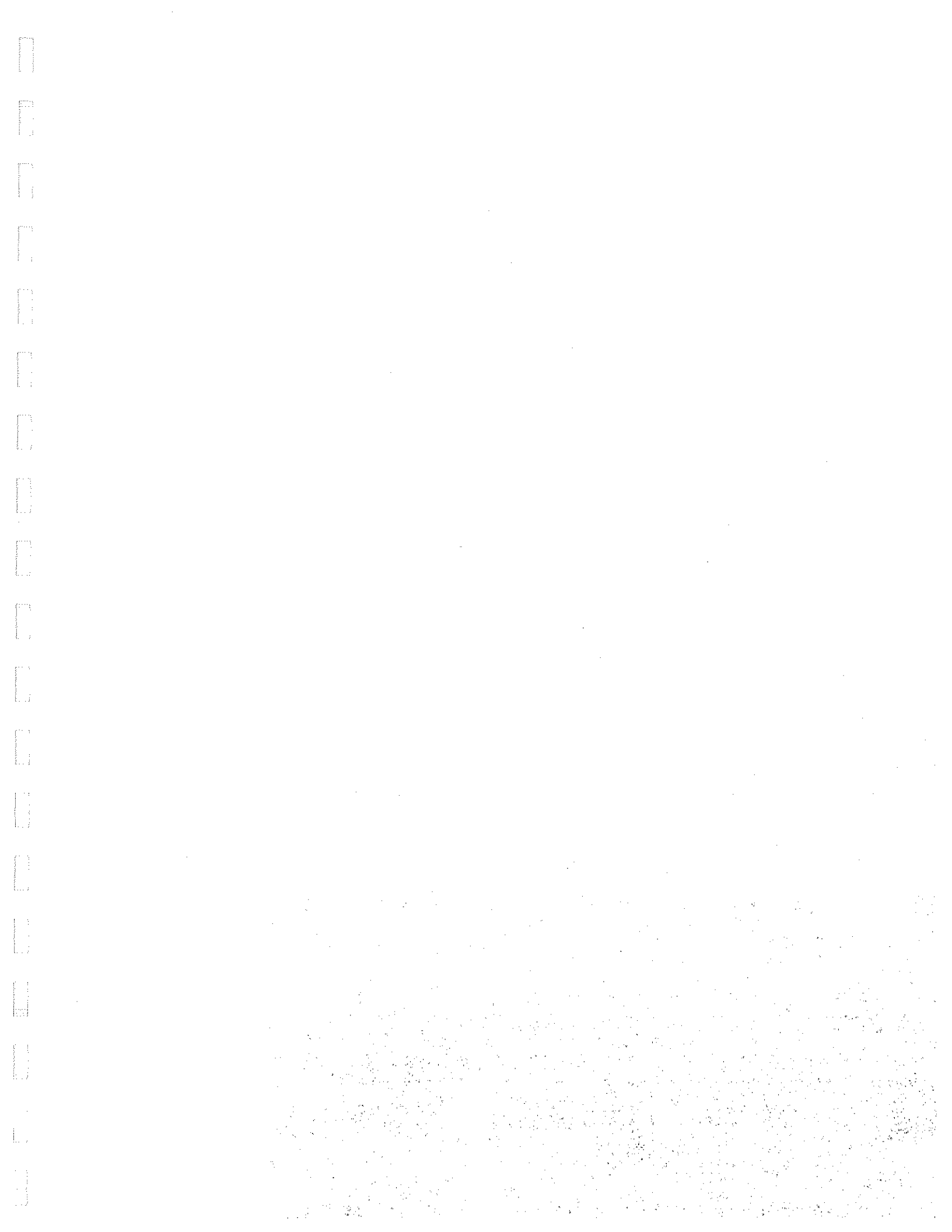
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APPENDIX A

EVALUATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542) requires that all federal agencies consider potential wild, scenic and recreation river areas in all planning for use and development of water and related land resources. The Act describes the process that must be followed to incorporate rivers into the National system as either Wild, Scenic or Recreational rivers.

The initial evaluation process consists of three steps:

1. Identify candidate wild and scenic rivers to evaluate for potential eligibility;
2. Evaluate rivers for eligibility. A river is eligible if it is free flowing and, within its immediate land area, possesses at least one "outstandingly remarkable" resource value.
3. Assign each river a potential classification of wild, scenic, recreational, or a combination thereof, based on its existing condition.

Once eligibility and potential classification is determined, Forest Plan Management Standards are amended if necessary to protect eligible river segments until the river suitability study is completed and/or a future decision is made on their designation into the National River System. The river suitability will be conducted in the future as a separate study report or incorporated into the next revision of the Forest Plan.

The Wild and Scenic River Act (WSRA) states that free-flowing rivers possessing one or more "outstandingly remarkable" resource value (scenic, recreation, geologic, fisheries, wildlife, cultural , natural) be considered eligible for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system. The determination that a river area contains "outstandingly remarkable" values is a professional judgement on the part of the Interdisciplinary Team (Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 8.21c). Outstandingly remarkable values might be a conspicuous example of a value from among a number of similar values that are themselves uncommon or extraordinary. Or the values may be very rare or unique within the State or Nation, or are superior examples of values that may be found elsewhere. Another approach is to recognize representative wild and scenic rivers in each physiographic region of the Nation, even though the river and its associated values are considered common in the region.

Free flowing refers to rivers existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modifications of the waterway.

The following criteria were developed by the ID team to help determine what rivers are eligible for wild and scenic river designation:

"OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE" RESOURCE DESCRIPTIONS

SCENIC:

1. Landforms, vegetation patterns, rock forms, and water features combine to create unique, highly memorable, and harmonious visual settings;
2. views along and away from the river of the surrounding scenery are highly diverse; providing river users with scenery that is spectacular and/or not common to other rivers in the region, and;

3. human alterations either add favorably to or do not intrude on the river users visual quality.

RECREATION:

1. Exceptionally fine, popular or well-known recreational settings that nearly everyone would agree are "Blue Ribbon" resources;
2. recreational settings that are unique within a region or provide very high-quality recreational opportunities;
3. river segments having many attributes (natural or historical features) that are highly valued within the region and recreational users are willing to travel long distances or endure difficult access to use these resources.

GEOLOGIC:

1. An unusual example of a geologic feature, process or phenomena that is unique to the geographic area, and
2. the feature, process or phenomena occurrence being integrally tied to the immediate river environment.

FISHERY:

1. River providing exceptionally high quality habitat for sportfish and are recognized as "Blue Ribbon" or fisheries of a similar high caliber.:
2. A river providing critical habitat for a species of special concern such as westslope cutthroat or bull trout.

WILDLIFE:

1. Rivers that provide critical habitat for unique species as indicated by the Forest Plan's indicator species list, federally-listed threatened or endangered species, or the Forest Service's Region One sensitive species list,
2. and, the species habitat being confined year-round to the riparian corridor or seventy-five percent of the seasonal habitat confined to the riparian corridor.
3. Rivers and adjacent habitat that provide outstanding opportunities for wildlife viewing.

CULTURAL:

1. Sites included on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or has been determined eligible for the Register, or a site is, in the opinion of the Forest, NRHP eligible, the site has a significant relationship to the river, and the site is regionally or nationally prominent.

NATURAL:

1. Populations of plant species that are judged to be of national or regional significance by virtue of their scarcity; outstanding scientific or educational value; and/or designation as threatened, endangered or proposed for threatened or endangered status. This may include known stands of federally listed threatened or endangered (T & E) plant species and plant species proposed for T &

E status by the Montana Rare Plant Project or Montana Natural Heritage Program. The plants must be growing within and dependent on the habitat provided in the riparian zone immediately adjacent to the river.

2. Other natural features officially designated or proposed for designation as national monuments or national natural landmarks.

To determine eligibility and potential classification, the rivers are divided into segments considering such factors as:

Obvious changes in land status or ownership;

Changes in river character such as the presence of dams;

Significant changes in development;

or, the presence of important resource values.

The Interdisciplinary Team considered these factors when identifying river segments; this determination is documented in the analysis for each river that follows.

Assigning Potential Classifications

Once eligible rivers or segments were selected, they were assigned a potential classification of wild, scenic, recreational, as defined by the WSRA, Section 2(b), based on the condition of the river and adjacent lands as they existed during the eligibility assessment. These classifications are defined as:

Wild river areas -- Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic river areas -- Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or, watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational river areas -- Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Each eligible river is evaluated to assess the degree of shoreline development, access, water resource developments and water quality.

EVALUATION

1. Identification of Rivers to Evaluate

The first step in the process is to identify what rivers will be evaluated for potential eligibility as a wild and scenic river. The Pacific Northwest Rivers Study inventoried the majority of streams in Montana and recommended a resource value rating for each stream inventoried. A Lolo National Forest interdisciplinary team reviewed all the inventoried streams against the criteria in the WSRA as well as the outstandingly

remarkable resource criteria identified above to develop an initial list of candidate streams. Comments received from the public were also considered as part of this evaluation.

Based on this initial screening, the following streams, listed by Ranger District, will be evaluated for eligibility:

MISSOULA RANGER DISTRICT

Rattlesnake Creek
Rock Creek
South Fork Lolo Cr

NINEMILE RANGER DISTRICT

Cache Creek
West Fork Fish Creek
North Fork Fish Creek
Straight Creek

SEELEY LAKE RANGER DISTRICT

Clearwater River
Monture Creek
Morrell Creek
North Fork Blackfoot

SUPERIOR RANGER DISTRICT

St Regis River
Clark Fork (Slowey Cut-off)

PLAINS RIVER DISTRICT

Thompson River
Clark Fork River (Cut-off)

2. Eligibility Determination

The next step was a more in-depth analysis of each river to document outstandingly remarkable resources and to determine appropriate river segments and classification. The results of the evaluation are summarized below. The individual river evaluations that document the rationale of the interdisciplinary team follows the summary.

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY STUDY
SUMMARY**

RIVER	REACH	POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION	OUTSTANDING VALUES	LENGTH
ROCK CREEK	Mouth to Forest Boundary	Scenic	Fishery, Recreation, Cultural, Scenery	28
RATTLESNAKE CREEK	Forest boundary to headwaters	Scenic	Recreation, Fishery	18
MORRELL CREEK	Trailhead to headwaters	Scenic	Scenic, Recreation	7
CACHE CREEK	Montana Cr to headwaters Montana Cr to mouth	Wild Scenic	Recreation Recreation	9 2
NORTH FORK BLACKFOOT	Trailhead to headwaters	Wild	Fisheries, Recreation, Scenery, Natural	24
SOUTH FORK LOLO CREEK	NE 1/4 Sec 12 to headwaters	Wild	Recreation, Scenery	12
WEST FORK FISH CREEK	Clearwater Crossing to headwaters	Wild	Natural	9
CLARK FORK (SLOWEY CUTOFF)	Junction w/Flathead to mouth of Tamarack Creek, 1 mile south of St.Regis to 1/2 mile east of Slowey Campground.	Recreation	Scenery, Recreation	23
CLEARWATER RIVER	Seeley Lake inlet to headwaters	Recreation	Recreation, Wildlife, Scenery	13
MONTURE CREEK		Ineligible		
NORTH FORK FISH CREEK		Ineligible		
ST. REGIS RIVER		Ineligible		
THOMPSON RIVER		Ineligible		
STRAIGHT CREEK		Ineligible		

1. INELIGIBLE RIVERS

Based on the interdisciplinary team evaluation, the following rivers do not possess any "outstandingly remarkable" resources, and are not eligible for wild and scenic river classification:

MONTURE CREEK:

Monture Creek is a tributary to the Blackfoot River approximately 8 miles east of the confluence with the Clearwater River. The reach from the headwaters to Forest boundary, 16 miles in length, is almost entirely NF land. The segment considered for eligibility is the 12 mile reach from the Monture Creek trailhead to the headwaters. Much of this reach is within the proposed Bob Marshall Addition to the Scapegoat Wilderness.

Scenic	The scenery along this creek is not particularly unique or highly diverse, with the exception of the upper reaches of the basin which is quite scenic with rugged peaks typical of the divide. Most of the trail passes through even-aged stands of lodgepole pine, scenery typically found along forested streams in western Montana.
Recreation	The recreation opportunities are not considered outstanding. The creek-side trail, which is a portal into the Bob Marshall wilderness, traverses typical mountain and forest terrain for this region. Wildlife viewing opportunities exist but they are not remarkable. The trail is primarily used as a portal into the Bob Marshall Wilderness.
Geologic	No unusual geologic features exist.
Fishery	The fisheries in Monture Creek is considered average and is not remarkable. Bull trout and westslope cutthroat are common in this stream. The bull trout do not reach the size they do in the adjacent North Fork of the Blackfoot. Segments of the stream dry up in the summer.
Wildlife	The land along the creek is classified as Situation 1 habitat for grizzly bears, an endangered species. The density of grizzly bears and the endangered gray wolf is quite low. Other wildlife present is typical for western Montana and the resource is not considered outstandingly remarkable.
Cultural	The Monture Guard Station is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
Natural	No unique or outstanding natural features are known to exist along Monture Creek

RECOMMENDATION: This river possesses no outstandingly remarkable resource values and is not eligible for designation as a wild and scenic river. The adjacent North Fork of the Blackfoot better represents remarkably outstanding attributes of this region.

THOMPSON RIVER:

The proposed reach is from the confluence with the Clark Fork River (just east of the town of Thompson Falls) to the Forest boundary about 11 miles upstream. From this point upstream, the river is primarily on privately owned timber lands that are intensively managed.

- Scenic** The forested canyon and river provide pleasant views that are above average, but not remarkably outstanding. The river is paralleled by roads on both sides. Scenery along the nearby Clark Fork river is more outstanding than that along the Thompson River.
- Recreation** The river is popular for fishing and camping. Recreation opportunities are not particularly unique or outstanding. The corridor is too industrialized (logging traffic on both banks) to make an outstanding float trip. Recreation potential may improve if one of the parallel roads is converted into a hiking/biking trail as proposed.
- Geologic** Large vertical outcrops within stream are significant.
- Fishery** The river provides fair trout fishing for rainbow trout and provides important spring spawning habitat. Historically, fishing was better. The fisheries is not considered outstandingly remarkable.
- Wildlife** Bighorn sheep are prevalent and drainage is on the margin of essential grizzly bear habitat. However, the parallel roads diminish the wildlife value of the river habitat.
- Cultural** The Clark Memorial Cedar Grove commemorates a Forest Service employee who died while hunting. Three small prehistoric campsites are recorded along this segment, however, no outstanding cultural resources are inventoried.
- Natural** No unique or outstanding natural areas inventoried.

RECOMMENDATION: The Thompson River possesses no outstandingly remarkable attributes and is ineligible for wild and scenic river designation

ST. REGIS RIVER:

This river flows through National Forest for approximately 1/2 its 34 mile length. The National Forest segments vary in length from 1 to 5 miles; small private holdings are dispersed throughout its length.

- Scenic** Scenery along the river is not spectacular nor uncommon and is significantly affected by the adjacent Interstate. The channel has been structural altered in many locations.
- Recreation** Cross country skiing, snowmobile and bike trails parallel the river on the abandoned Milwaukee right of way grade. The interstate highway provides ready access to the river and trails. If the Forest Service acquires inholdings along the railroad right of way, the recreation potential will grow. Good opportunities for interpretation along the Interstate.
- Geologic** The St Regis River traverses the Lewis and Clark lineament, a major fault zone.
- Fishery** Fishing is not an outstanding experience nor is the habitat and fisheries. Rainbow trout from the Clark Fork spawn in this river. In-stream fisheries habitat improvements alter the natural setting.
- Wildlife** The river drainage supports high elk populations that are often visible from the river in the spring. However, wildlife values are affected by the adjacent interstate, and are not considered outstanding.
- Cultural** The Savenac Nursery and Work Center is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The DeBorgia School, located on private land, is listed on the register. The river has served as an important transportation corridor that includes the historic Mullan Road, listed as a National Engineering Landmark, the Old Milwaukee and Northern Pacific railroad, and the Yellowstone Trail. They are all eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, there are several historic mining and logging sites considered eligible for the Register. Cultural resources can be considered outstandingly remarkable.
- Natural** Remnant Cedar groves that survived the 1910 fire may exist.

RECOMMENDATION: Although the cultural resources can be considered outstandingly remarkable, the amount of channelization and rip-rap that have occurred along this river bring into question the rivers eligibility. A 1963 Fish and Game Department study revealed that over 60% of the St. Regis river channel had one or both banks altered. This percentage increased with the construction of Interstate 90. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act defines "free-flowing" as existing or flowing in a natural condition withoutstraightening, rip-rapping or other modifications of the waterway. For recreation rivers, the existence of modifications of the waterway is acceptable provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance. Based on the amount of modification, this river is ineligible for further consideration as a wild and scenic river.

STRAIGHT CREEK

Straight Creek is a tributary to the North Fork of Fish Creek. The entire stream reach (8.0 miles) is within the proposed Great Burn wilderness.

- Scenery** The views are a function of the 1910 fires and are unique in terms of openness, brushfields and vegetative variety. Huge larch snags killed by fire create a unique visual experience. A waterfall is visible from the trail.
- Recreation** The trail along the creek is popular for hikers and horseback riders. Opportunities for a primitive recreation experience are good. The sounds of the stream are always present; the stream dominates the senses. Hunting, fishing and hiking are the predominant activities.
- Geologic** The geology is typical of what is found throughout much of the Great Burn.
- Fishery** Westslope cutthroat and bull trout are residents of this stream. Overall fishery value is average.
- Wildlife** Straight Creek provides excellent habitat for a wide range of species. The endangered gray wolf may occupy Cache Creek. Moose and elk are plentiful and mountain goats inhabit the upper ridges and peaks. Overall, the wildlife resource is not outstandingly remarkable.
- Cultural** Three prehistoric sites are recorded in the upper reaches. These sites are potentially eligible for the National Register but would not be considered outstanding.
- Natural** Springs, waterfalls and stream features provide a distinctive experience; however, not unique or distinctive ecosystems or natural features are present.

RECOMMENDATION: Though Straight Creek offers excellent scenery and recreation opportunities, none of the resources are considered outstandingly remarkable. The West Fork of Fish Creek and Cache Creek are better examples of outstandingly remarkable drainages within the Great Burn.

NORTH FORK FISH CREEK

The North Fork branches off the West Fork of Fish Creek at Clearwater Crossing Guard station. The 9 mile stream reach is within the proposed Great Burn wilderness.

- Scenery** When compared to other drainages in the Great Burn, the scenery along the North Fork is average. The lower segment of the stream is primarily within a forested environment created by the 1910 burn. The upper reaches are more open offering views of the surrounding peaks.
- Recreation** The trail along the North Fork is heavily used by hunters and fishermen and is popular with horsemen. Recreation opportunities are not particularly remarkable.
- Geology** Geology is typical of that found throughout the Great burn.
- Fishery** Westslope cutthroat and bull trout are resident fish. Fishery value considered average for Great Burn streams.
- Wildlife** Wildlife values in the North Fork are high but not significantly different from other streams in the Great Burn.
- Cultural** The Greenwood Cabins, mining cabins that date from the turn of the century, are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Four prehistoric sites are recorded in the headwaters. Overall, cultural resources are not remarkably outstanding.
- Natural** Most of this drainage burned during the 1910 fire. Large larch snags are distinctive but no unique natural features exist.

RECOMMENDATION: The North Fork possesses no outstandingly remarkable features and is ineligible for further consideration as a wild and scenic river. The nearby West Fork of Fish Creek and Cache creek provide better examples of outstandingly remarkable drainages in the Great Burn.

2. ELIGIBLE RIVERS

The following rivers meet eligibility requirements for future wild, scenic, or recreation river designation.

CACHE CREEK:

From its headwaters to its confluence with S. Fork Fish Creek. Most of the drainage is within the proposed Great Burn Wilderness approximately 30 miles west of Missoula.

Scenic	Glaciated valley is distinctive but typical of what would be expected along east front of mountain ranges such as the Bitterroot.
Recreation	The geologic ruggedness of the upper reaches of this drainage make this an unusual and remarkable area for recreation. This is a challenging area for off-trail hiking and exploring with an opportunity to see mountain goats. Following this stream from its mouth to the headwaters is a relatively short trip but takes the traveller into very rugged and remote mountains. The high quality recreation experience provided and opportunities for solitude can be considered outstandingly remarkable.
Geologic	Cache Creek is the contact zone between large Idaho batholith to the south and the Belt geologic zone to the north. The hoodoos and spires and rugged terrain of upper Cache Creek can be considered remarkable though they are not within the immediate stream environment.
Fishery	Cache Creek provides spawning habitat for bull trout, a sensitive species. However, the overall fisheries is not outstandingly remarkable.
Wildlife	The endangered gray wolf is thought to occupy the Cache Creek drainage. Moose are plentiful and there are mountain goats in the upper reaches of the drainage. The overall wildlife resource is not outstandingly remarkable.
Cultural	Cache Creek may have been an important travel route for Native Americans. A rock quarry and lithic procurement sites are evident.
Natural	No unique natural or ecological values are known to exist.

POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

Water Resource Development: Free of impoundments.

Shoreline Development	The shoreline remains in an essentially primitive condition with little or no evidence of human activity above the junction with Montana Creek. Below Montana Creek there is evidence of . An old cabin recently deeded to the Forest Service, and past mining activity.
Accessibility	Above Montana Creek, Cache Creek is inaccessible except by trail. Below Montana Creek, Rd #17442 and the Cache Creek trailhead encroach upon the stream corridor.

Water Quality

Meets or exceeds state and federal water quality standards.

RECOMMENDATION:

Eligible for wild river classification due to outstanding recreation opportunities.

MORRELL CREEK:

Morrell Creek drops off the Swan Face east of Seeley Lake and joins the Clearwater River south of Seeley Lake. Approximately 10 miles of the 17 mile stream reach is located on National Forest land. The segment under consideration is the 7 mile reach from the Morrell Falls trailhead to the headwaters. The segment below the trailhead is more influenced by logging and possesses no outstandingly remarkable values.

- Scenic** A spectacular waterfall and a hanging glacier valley above the falls provide outstandingly remarkable scenery.
- Recreation** The Morrell Falls trail is listed as a National Recreation trail. Waterfalls of this nature are somewhat unique in western Montana. The area above the Falls accesses the proposed Bob Marshall Wilderness addition. The trail is not maintained above the falls. Recreation can be considered outstandingly remarkable.
- Geology** The glacier valley is attractive but not particularly unusual.
- Fishery** Fishery in Morrell Creek is average for this area. No fish live in the stream above the falls. The lower reaches of the stream go underground during the summer.
- Wildlife** Morrell Creek provides habitat for grizzly bears and mountain goats. The valley above the falls is known as "Grizzly Basin" and provides an important travel corridor between the Swan and Mission ranges. Beaver and moose are associated with the lakes and wetlands. Wildlife values are high but not outstandingly remarkable.
- Cultural** No significant cultural resources are inventoried.
- Natural** Morrell Lake and associated wetlands are ecologically important by not outstandingly remarkable.

POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

Water Resource Development: Free of impoundment.

- Shoreline Development** Logging has occurred along the corridor in the lower reaches of this stretch. Several roads are within or adjacent to the corridor for short distances. Some evidence of past timber harvest on the adjacent ridges.
- Accessibility:** The upper reaches are generally inaccessible except by trail. The lower reaches are occasionally accessible by road. Motorized use does occur on this trail.
- Water Quality:** Water quality exceeds standards for aesthetics, propagation for fish and wildlife, and for primary contact recreation.

RECOMMENDATION: Morrell Creek possesses outstandingly remarkable recreation, scenic and wildlife values. Due to past timber harvest and occasional road access, the stream is eligible for consideration as a scenic river.

S. FORK LOLO CREEK:

This tributary to Lolo Creek is located approximately 9 miles west of the town of Lolo. The lower 3 miles of this stream are on private land or on managed lands. The candidate segment begins in the NE 1/4 of Section 12 (T 11 N, R 22W) about 1 mile above the South Fork Lolo Creek trailhead. This avoids corporate land and is the start of a 12 mile segment entirely on the National Forest.

- Scenery** Distinctive high mountain meadows adjacent to stream with the Bitterroot Divide as a backdrop provide outstanding scenery, compared by some to Glacier National Park. Huge boulders within the stream are very attractive.
- Recreation** Recreation opportunity for hiking is remarkably outstanding because of the streamside scenery, avalanche paths, the impressive rugged, steep terrain. Located partially within the Selway Bitterroot wilderness, the river is within one hour driving time from Missoula.
- Geology** Because of the location on the edge of the batholith, granitic and decomposed granitic landforms present striking views. The valley was carved by a glacier.
- Fishery** The stream provides good fishing for pan-sized cutthroat trout; bull trout and brook trout are residents. The fishery is not considered remarkable.
- Wildlife** The South Fork provides rich habitat for elk and moose, and mountain goats dwell in the upper reaches. Overall, the wildlife resource is not outstandingly remarkable.
- Cultural** One trappers cabin is recorded in the lower reaches.
- Natural** Huge old growth larch, cedar and spruce line the middle reaches of this stream.

POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

Water Resource Development: Free of impoundment.

- Shoreline Development** Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.
- Accessibility** Inaccessible except by trail.
- Water Quality** Meets or exceeds federal and state standards.

RECOMMENDATION: Due to the outstanding recreation and scenic resources and lack of any development along the river, the river is eligible for classification as a wild river.

CLEARWATER RIVER:

The reach under consideration is the 13 miles of National Forest land from the Seeley Lake inlet to the headwaters of the river. Land ownership adjacent to the river is mixed. Downstream from Seeley Lake ownership is State and private; upstream from Seeley Lake approximately 50 percent of the ownership is NF. The Lolo will evaluate only those lands within the National Forest but will cooperate with other agencies in studying eligibility of reaches of river through out the entire river length.

Scenic	The scenery is outstanding as you travel down an enormous U-shaped glacier valley with views of the nearby Swan and Mission mountain ranges. The riparian/wetland scenery is relatively unusual for Western Montana.
Recreation	River connects regionally significant (recreation) "chain of lakes", providing excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing. The lower three miles of the river serves as a popular canoe trail. There are two developed and numerous undeveloped camping and picnicing sites along the river. Overall, recreation opportunities can be considered remarkably outstanding.
Geology	The glaciated geology creating the chain of lakes is distinctive for Montana.
Fisheries	Supports westslope cutthroat and bull trout. Overall, fisheries is average to below average.
Wildlife	One of the few places in western Montana to view loons. The threatened bald eagle nests within the drainage. The Canoe Trail provides a unique river-based opportunity for bird watching which is remarkably outstanding.
Cultural	The Clearwater River played an important role in the early logging history of western Montana. Logs were floated down the river to the Blackfoot and on to Bonner. Evidence of splash dams exists at the outlets of Seeley, Salmon, and Placid lakes. There are several prehistoric sites along the river.
Natural	Wetlands associated with this river are unique to western Montana.

POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

Water Resource Development: The Inez fish barrier creates an impoundment; the Rainy Lake barrier creates a lesser impoundment. Otherwise the river is free-flowing.

Shoreline Development A number of structures are scattered along the river. Timber harvest areas are visible from the river.

Accessibility State Highway 83 is a paved two lane road which parallels the river most of its length, providing easy access to the river. The road is generally not visible from the river. Three major bridges cross the river.

Water Quality

RECOMMENDATION: The Clearwater River possesses outstandingly remarkable wildlife and recreation resources. Due to the impoundment and development along the river, classification as a recreation river is appropriate.

RATTLESNAKE CREEK:

Within the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area and Wilderness north of Missoula.

Scenery	Good visual variety with lots of vistas. Upper cirque basins and lakes are very attractive. The trail parallels the pristine stream.
Recreation	The stream and water related recreation values are outstanding and were a key reason for establishing the Rattlesnake National Recreation Area and Wilderness. The stream is very popular with Missoula residents as well as visitors.
Geologic	A large terminal moraine about 3 miles up the stream is significant.
Fisheries	Pristine habitat for westslope cutthroat trout as well as the sensitive bull trout. The catch and release cutthroat fishing for trout up to 20" in size is remarkable given the proximity to Missoula. An outstandingly remarkable fisheries.
Wildlife	The wintering elk and deer herd from the Rattlesnake is often visible from Missoula. The Rattlesnake provides habitat for the endangered grizzly bear though densities are low. Mountain goats live near Franklin Bridge and in the upper basins. The wildlife resource is above average.
Cultural	Several historic and prehistoric sites are potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Of special interest is a limestone kiln, unusual for western Montana. Rattlesnake Creek has a long history of recreation use with some unique management due to the domestic water supply.
Natural	Shoo Fly Meadows, in the East Fork of Rattlesnake Creek, represents the southernmost sphagnum bog recorded.

POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

Water Resources Development: Many of the lakes within the Rattlesnake watershed have been dammed. However, the main stream and tributaries are free flowing.

Shoreline Development	Largely primitive and undeveloped with no substantial evidence of human activity. Some evidence of past timber harvest.
Accessibility	Motorized access is retained by Mountain Water Company for maintenance of water supply reservoirs. The stream is crossed by two bridges capable of supporting vehicles.
Water Quality	Water quality meets or exceeds state and federal standards.

RECOMMENDATION Rattlesnake Creek is eligible for designation as a scenic river as it possesses outstandingly remarkable recreation and fisheries resource. Past timber harvest and the access road preclude designation as a wild river.

ROCK CREEK:

Tributary to the Clark Fork River approximately 25 miles east of Missoula. The segment inventoried by the Northwest Rivers Study extends from the mouth of Rock Creek upstream to Hogback Creek. The Forest team feels this reach should be extended upstream to the Forest boundary (an additional 7 km).

- Scenery** Landforms, vegetation patterns, and the pristine stream combine to create a diverse and harmonious visual setting, and can be considered remarkably outstanding. Other features include the groves of old growth ponderosa pines, the open bunchgrass slopes, and the Dalles section of the river.
- Recreation** A "Blue Ribbon" trout stream of national significance, fisherman from across the country come to fish Rock Creek. The Blue Ribbon designation reflects good access, high aesthetics of the area, and high quality fisheries. Recreation can be considered outstandingly remarkable.
- Geologic**
- Fishery** A "blue ribbon" trout stream of National significance, provides both high quality habitat and fisheries. Outstandingly remarkable.
- Wildlife** Two distinct herds of bighorn sheep are often visible from Rock Creek. Wintering bald eagles and nesting prairie falcons and golden eagles can be seen. Rock Creek is one of the best places on the Lolo National Forest for wildlife viewing, where wildlife is visible most of the year. The wildlife resource can be considered outstandingly remarkable.
- Cultural** Puyear Ranch, Hogback Homestead, the town of Quigley with its associated mining, the Bitterroot Divide trail, and several prehistoric sites along the creek are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Rock Creek cabin is listed on the Register. Evidence of at least 10,000 years of human occupation exists along Rock Creek. Historic recreation use from Butte and Missoula residents is important. Cultural resources are outstandingly remarkable.
- Natural** Prime example of old growth ponderosa pine stands along creek which are relatively intact. These remnant pine groves grow scarcer each year. The microburst, an extremely rare weather phenomenon, created a large timber blowdown adjacent to the creek, providing an excellent example of the forces of nature upon our forests. Outstandingly remarkable.

POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundments. Occasional diversions for irrigation ditches. Occasional stretches of rip-rap where the road directly parallels the creek.

- Shoreline Development** The shoreline as viewed from the river is largely undeveloped. Dwellings are dispersed along the lower 10 miles of the stream and Pats and Miller Gulch. For the most part, dwellings are not readily visible from the stream as the stream corridor is intact. The forest appears natural from the riverbank.
- Accessibility** Forest Route 102, a single land unpaved road, parallels the river for its length on the Lolo. While large segments of the stream are visually screened from the nearby

road, 25% of the road is visible from the stream. Approximately 2 miles of the road directly encroach on the stream.

Water Quality

Water quality exceeds standards for aesthetics, propagation for fish and wildlife, and for primary contact recreation.

RECOMMENDATION - Rock Creek possesses outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreation, fisheries, wildlife, cultural and natural resources and is eligible for designation as a wild and scenic river. Viewed from the creek, the shoreline remains largely in a natural state. The short stretches of road that parallel the stream are acceptable for scenic rivers. Therefore, Rock Creek can be considered for classification as a scenic river.

CLARK FORK RIVER (SLOWEY CUTOFF REACH):

This segment under consideration is from the confluence of the Clark Fork and Flathead River upstream to the mouth of Tamarack Creek, which is about 2 miles northeast of St. Regis, and from the north line of Section 31, Township 18 North, Range 27 West to the east line of Section 15, Township 17 North, Range 27 West, just east of the Slowey Campground. The majority of this 23 mile segment is on National Forest land; however, state and private land is intermingled.

- Scenery** The large river combined with the rugged geology create remarkably outstanding scenery. State Highway 135 is under consideration for designation as a scenic by-way. Larch fall colors add to interest and create distinctive vistas from the river. The sheer size of the river with an essentially unmodified natural landscape is remarkable for Montana.
- Recreation** This stretch is popular for floating, fishing, hiking, camping and hunting with people travelling long distances to enjoy the river's amenities. Recreation opportunities are remarkably outstanding.
- Geologic**
- Fishery** The river provides high quality fishing but the overall fisheries is not outstandingly remarkable as sportfish populations are limited in some reaches.
- Wildlife** A large herd of bighorn sheep is often visible along the lower reach of this river. Wintering elk and deer are often visible as well. Bald eagles winter along this stretch of river and osprey nests are common.
- Cultural** Cultural resources in the Cutoff are very diverse including prehistoric campsites associated with fishing and hunting along the river. Historic resources include Flathead House, built by David Thompson at the confluence of the Flathead and Clark Fork rivers, mining activities, homesteads, logging, and Prehistoric sites exist along the river.
- Natural** The Clark Fork is the major river system of the Forest. The Squaw Creek Research Natural Area preserves examples of forested scree habitat and river terrace meadows. The sensitive Coure d'Alene salamander is found along the river.

POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundments. Portions of the lower reach has been rip-rapped along the highway.

Shoreline Development Some timber harvest on the ridge lines is apparent from the river
A major 500kv powerline crosses the river in Section 15, T. 18 N., R. 27 W.. The Montana Rail Link railroad parallels the river crossing it in 6 locations. Residences are scattered along the river but are not very visible from the river. Much of the shoreline remains in a natural state..

Accessibility: The river is readily accessible by parallel road or railroad with several bridge crossings and access points, and at Slowey Campground. The road is quite conspicuous from the river along the lower reaches.

Recommendation: This segment of the Clark Fork possesses outstandingly remarkable recreation and scenic resources. Because of the shoreline development and ready access due to the parallel road and railroad, the river qualifies for designation as a recreation river.

N. FORK BLACKFOOT RIVER:

This river drains the Lolo National Forest's portion of the Scapegoat Wilderness. The segment from the North Fork Blackfoot trailhead up to the headwaters is under consideration. This segment is almost entirely in existing or proposed wilderness.

Scenery	Views up to ridges and down into river canyon combined with views of rapids and falls from above are regionally unique. The Canyon Creek fire of 1988 created interesting vegetative patterns and numerous vistas. The upper portions of the drainage are framed by spectacular peaks. Scenery is outstandingly remarkable.
Recreation	Access to nationally renowned wilderness area adds to the recreation experience of trail adjacent to the stream. The Hob Nob Tom trail, named after a local outfitter, serves as a hiking trail up the waterfalls. Hunting, fishing, and primitive recreation opportunities can be considered remarkably outstanding.
Geologic	Excellent example of an actively down-cutting stream system. U-shaped glacier valleys.
Fishery	Outstanding example of regional Bull trout spawning stream that is the last big stronghold for bull trout in the Blackfoot drainage. Outstandingly remarkable due to high quality habitat for a sensitive species.
Wildlife	Grizzlies tend to congregate in the upper drainage in the fall. The drainage provides high value habitat for a wide range of species but overall is not outstandingly remarkable.
Cultural	The North Fork Cabin and the Carmichael cabin are eligible for the National Register of Historic places. The prehistoric sites in the higher elevations date back to 6000 BP and coincide with the partial abandonment of the plains during a prolonged drought.
Natural	The 1988 Canyon Creek fire created excellent opportunities for scientific study of fire effects, and plant and animal response.

POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION:

Water Resource Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development	From the trailhead to the headwaters, the shoreline is essentially primitive with little or no evidence of human activity.
Accessibility	Accessible only by trail.
Water Quality	High quality free from man made pollutants. Meets or exceeds federal standards for aesthetics, fish and wildlife and swimming.

RECOMMENDATION: The fisheries, scenic, and recreation resources are considered outstandingly remarkable for this river. Due to the primitive nature of this watershed, this river is eligible for classification as a wild river.

W. FORK FISH CREEK, CEDAR LOG CREEK:

Scenic	Glaciated valleys are attractive but typical of what would be expected along east front of mountain ranges such as the Bitterroot. Groves of cedar and the proximity of the trail to the ever-changing stream provides distinctive scenery.
Recreation	Primitive recreation opportunities such as fishing, hunting, hiking and camping are popular. The trail paralleling the stream provides a constantly changing panorama. Recreation opportunities are above average.
Geologic	Rare crystals, eligible for designation as a National Landmark, occur at the head of Cedar Log Creek. Otherwise, geology is typical for the Bitterroot range.
Fishery	Fishery values while high are not better than other streams. The West Fork is an important bull trout spawning stream.
Wildlife	The endangered gray wolf occasionally occupies the West Fork drainage. Wildlife values are high but not significantly better than other areas within the Great burn.
Cultural	No cultural resources are recorded in this drainage.
Natural	Ancient groves of cedar that survived the 1910 fire exist on the upper reaches of the West Fork. The extensive groves are regionally significant by virtue of their scarcity and can be considered remarkably outstanding.

POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive with little or no sign of human development.
Accessibility	Accessible only by trail.
Water Quality:	Meets or exceeds Federal criteria for aesthetics, fish and wildlife propagation, and for primary contact recreation.

RECOMMENDATION: This drainage possesses outstandingly remarkable natural and geologic features. Due to its pristine condition, the river is eligible for designation as a wild river.

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LOLO NATIONAL FOREST
LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AMENDMENT NO. 12

August 15, 1991

The purpose of Amendment No. 12 is to:

- Identify eligible rivers under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended;
- assign each eligible river a potential classification of wild, scenic, recreational, or a combination thereof; and,
- develop Wild, Scenic, and Recreational management standards to manage and protect rivers until a river suitability study is completed and/or a final decision is made on their designation into the National River System.

The Forest Plan will be amended as follows:

II. Forest-wide Management Direction

E. Forest-wide Standards, Chapter II, pg. II-20

59. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Segments of nine streams on the Lolo National Forest are eligible for protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

Cache Creek	Clearwater River	Clark Fork River (Slowey Cut-off)
Morrell Creek	North Fork Blackfoot River	Rock Creek
Rattlesnake Creek	South Fork Lolo Creek	West Fork Fish Creek

A river suitability study will be conducted for these streams and a recommendation on their suitability for inclusion into the National Rivers System will be forwarded to the Chief of the Forest Service. In the interim, Wild/Scenic/Recreational Forest-wide management standards will direct resource management activities of eligible rivers and their adjacent corridors to maintain their outstandingly remarkable resource values and potential classification. These standards are defined in Appendix .

Chapter IV, Rock Creek, is amended to include the following criteria:

That portion of Rock Creek flowing within the proclaimed boundaries of the Lolo National Forest is eligible for classification as a scenic river under the National Wild and Scenic River Act. The Forest-wide management standards for Wild and Scenic Rivers in Forest Plan Amendment No. 12 will be followed.

to protect the outstandingly remarkable resource values of Rock Creek and its potential classification as a scenic river.

APPENDIX R

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

The following Wild, Scenic, and Recreation Management Standards were adopted from Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 and further developed for the eligible rivers on the Lolo National Forest. These standards do not affect other public or private lands and will not abrogate any existing rights, privileges, or contracts affecting Lolo National Forest land held by any private party.

1. Hydroelectric Power

Wild/Scenic/Recreational: No development of hydroelectric power facilities will be permitted. Where the licensing authority is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Forest will recommend that no license be issued for hydroelectric power facilities.

2. Water Supply

Wild/Scenic: All water supply dams and major diversions are prohibited. Necessary water monitoring stations are permitted but must be unobtrusive.

Recreation: Existing low dams, diversion works, rip rap, and other minor structures are allowed provided the waterway remains generally natural in appearance. New structures are prohibited. Necessary water monitoring stations are permitted but must be unobtrusive.

3. Flood Control

Wild: No flood control dams, levees, or other works are allowed in the channel or river corridor. The natural appearance and essentially primitive character of the river area must be maintained.

Scenic: Flood control dams and levees will be prohibited.

Recreation: Existing flood control works may be maintained. New structures are prohibited.

4. Agriculture

Wild: Agricultural use is restricted to a limited amount of domestic livestock grazing and hay production to the extent currently practiced. Row crops are prohibited.

Scenic: A wider range of agricultural uses is permitted to the extent currently practiced. Row crops are not considered as an intrusion of the "largely primitive" nature of scenic corridors as long as there is not a substantial adverse effect on the natural-like appearance of the river area.

Recreation: Lands may be managed for a full range of agricultural uses, to the extent currently practiced.

5. Timber Production

Wild: Cutting of trees will not be permitted except when needed in association with a primitive recreation experience (such as clearing for trails and protection of users) or to protect the environment (such as control of fire). Timber outside the boundary but within the visual

corridors, will be managed and harvested in a manner to provide special emphasis to visual quality.

Scenic: A wide range of silvicultural practices could be allowed provided that such practices are carried on in such a way that there is no substantial adverse effect on the river and its immediate environment. The river area should be maintained in its near natural environment. Timber outside the boundary but within the visual scene area should be managed and harvested in a manner which provides special emphasis on visual quality.

Recreation: Timber harvesting would be allowed under standard restrictions to protect the immediate river environment, water quality, scenic, fish and wildlife, and other values.

6. Mining

Wild: Surface occupancy related to oil and gas leasing is prohibited within 1/4 mile of the river. Valid claims and leases will not be abrogated. Subject to regulations (36 CFR 228) that the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior may prescribe to protect the rivers included in the National System, other existing mining activity would be allowed to continue. Existing mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation, and visual impairment. Reasonable access will be permitted.

Scenic: Subject to regulations at 36 CFR 228 that the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior may prescribe to protect the values of rivers included in the National System, new mining claims and mineral leases could be allowed and existing operations allowed to continue. However, mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment.

Recreation: Subject to regulations (36 CFR 228) that the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior may prescribe to protect values of rivers included in the National System, new mining claims and mineral leases are allowed and existing operations are allowed to continue. Mineral activity must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation and pollution, and visual impairment.

7. Road Construction

Wild: Subject to valid existing rights, no roads or other provisions for overland motorized travel would be permitted within a narrow incised river valley or, if the river valley is broad, within 1/4 mile of the river bank. Also, unobtrusive trail bridges could be allowed.

Scenic: Roads may occasionally bridge the river area and short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous and well-screened roads or screened railroads could be allowed. Consideration will be given to the type of use for which roads are constructed and the type of use that will occur in the river area.

Recreation: Paralleling roads or railroads could be constructed on one or both river banks. There can be several bridge crossings and numerous river access points.

8. Recreation Development

Wild: Major public-use areas, such as large campgrounds, interpretive centers, or administrative headquarters are located outside the wild river area. Simple comfort and convenience facilities, such as fireplaces or shelters may be provided as necessary within the river area. These should harmonize with the surroundings.

Scenic: Larger scale public use facilities, such as moderate size campgrounds, public information centers, and administrative headquarters are allowed if such structures are screened from the river. Modest and obtrusive marinas also can be allowed.

Recreation: Campgrounds and picnic areas may be established in close proximity to the river. However, recreational classification does not require extensive recreation development.

9. Structures

Wild: A few minor existing structures may be allowed assuming such structures are not incompatible with the essentially primitive and natural values of the viewshed. New structures would not be allowed except in rare instances to achieve management objectives (i.e. structures and activities associated with fisheries enhancement programs could be allowed).

Scenic: Any concentrations of habitations are limited to relatively short reaches of the river corridor. New structures that would have a direct and adverse effect on river values would not be allowed.

Recreation: Small communities as well as dispersed or cluster residential developments are allowed. New structures are allowed for both habitation and for intensive recreation use.

10. Utilities

Wild, Scenic, and Recreation: New transmission lines, gas lines, water lines, etc. are discouraged. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights of way are necessary, the scenic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values must be evaluated in the selection of the site.

11. Motorized Travel

Wild: Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, but is generally not compatible with this classification.

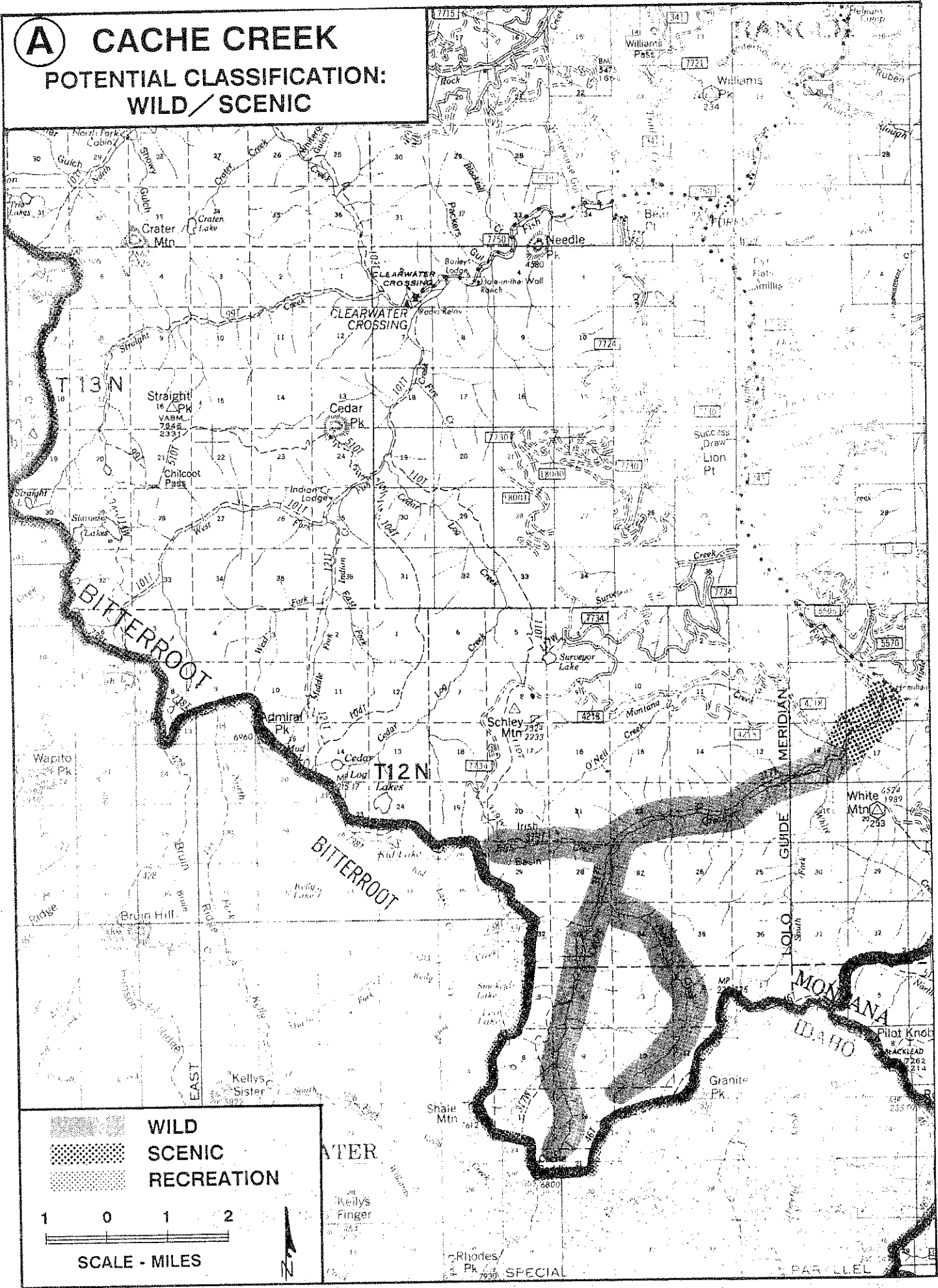
Scenic: Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited, or restricted to protect the river values.

Recreation: Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited, or restricted. Controls will usually be similar to surrounding lands and waters.

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

A **CACHE CREEK**
POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION:
WILD / SCENIC



WILD SCENIC RECREATION

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Kellys Finger

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SPECIAL

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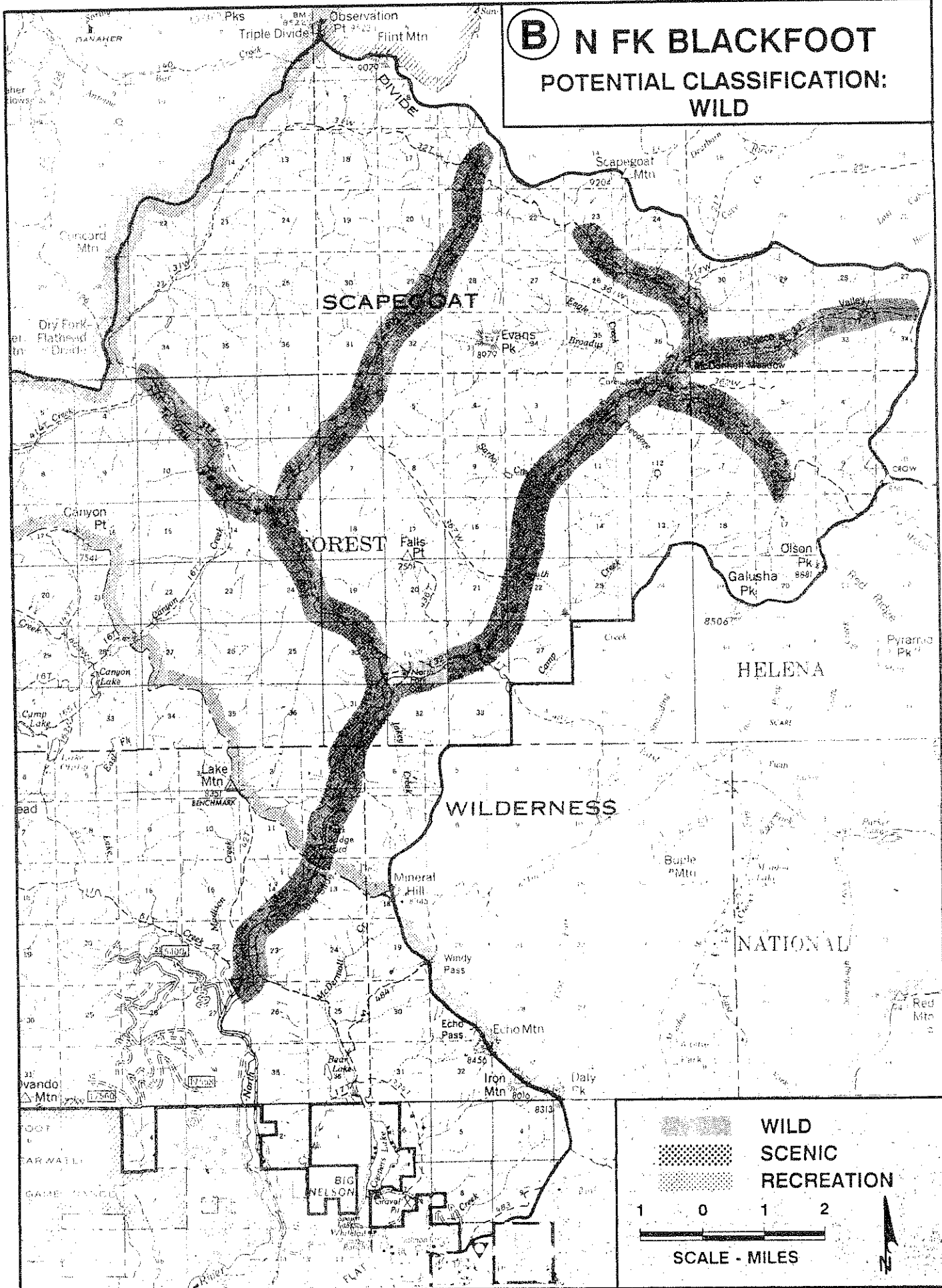
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**(B) N FK BLACKFOOT
POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION:
WILD**



HELENA

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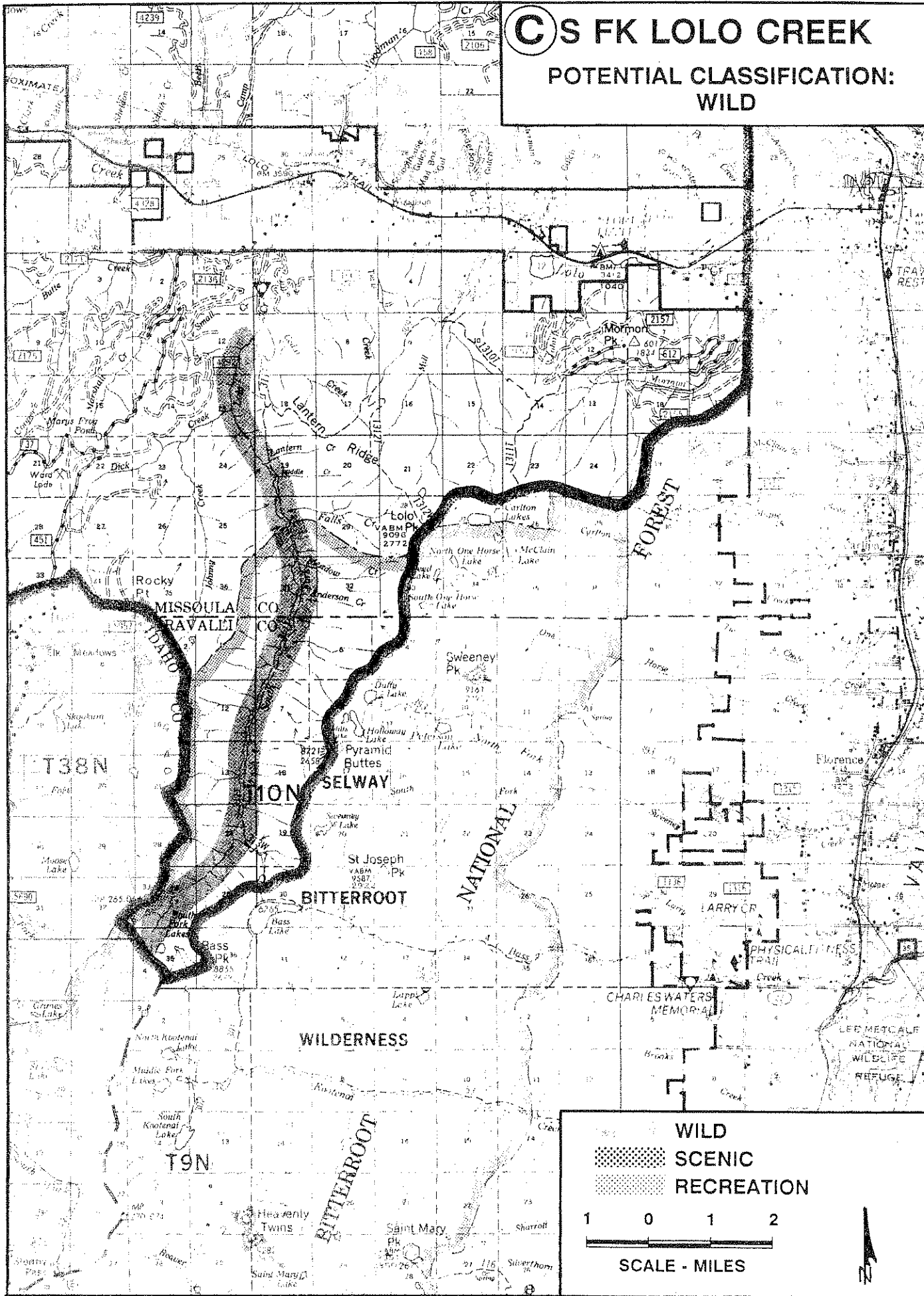
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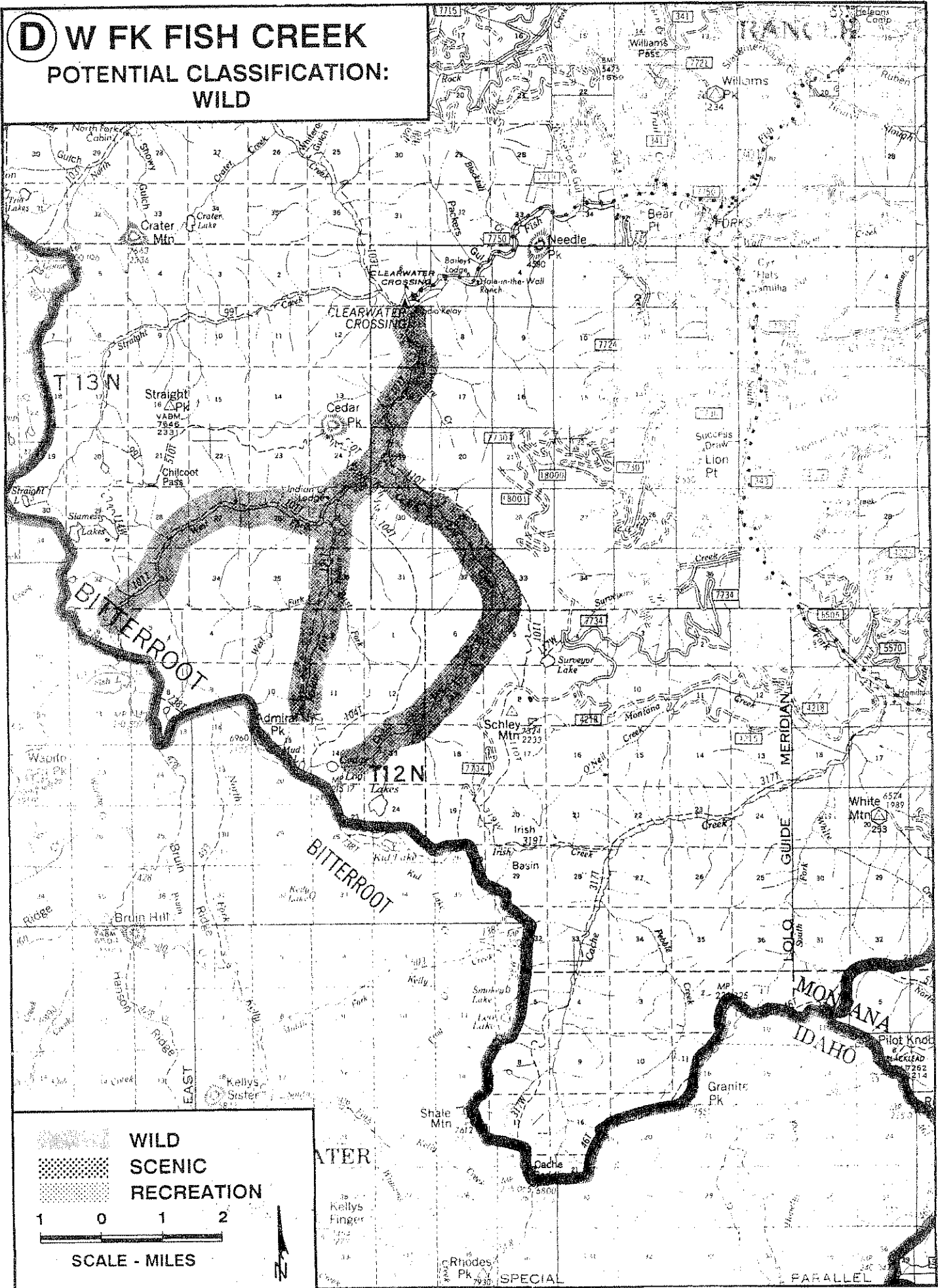


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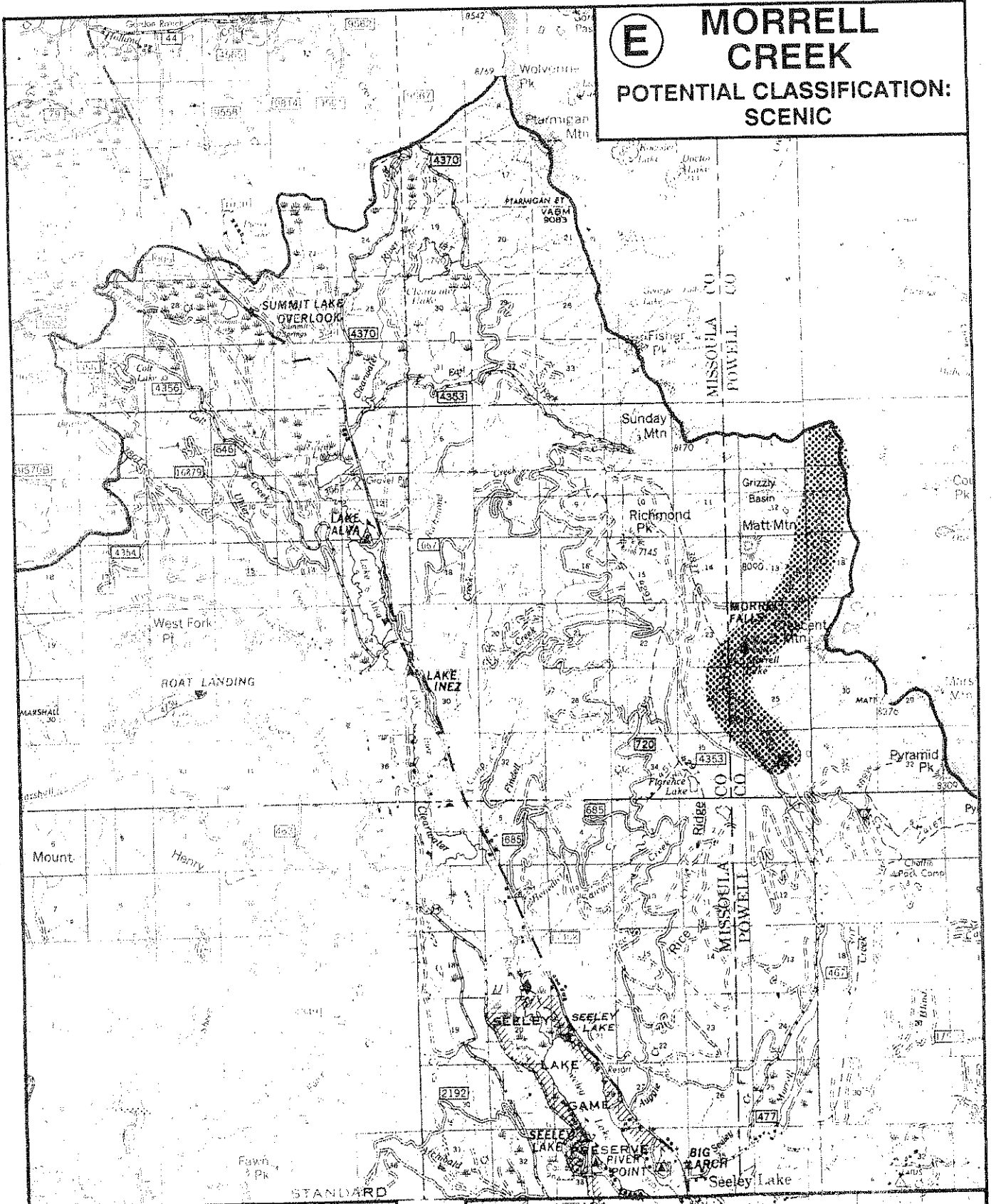
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MORRELL CREEK

POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION:
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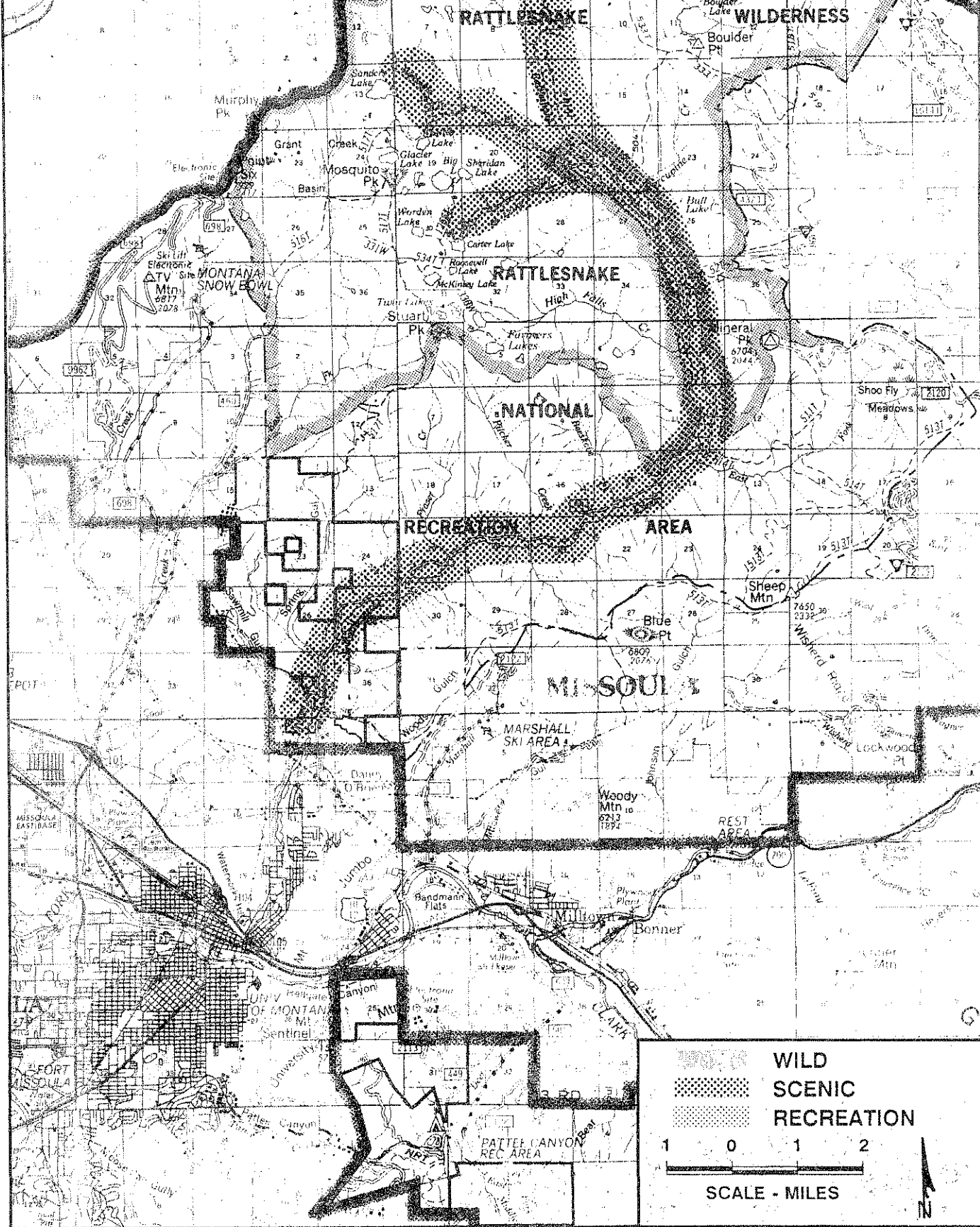
WILD SCENIC RECREATION

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SCALE - MILES



F RATTLESNAKE
CREEK
POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION:
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**WILD
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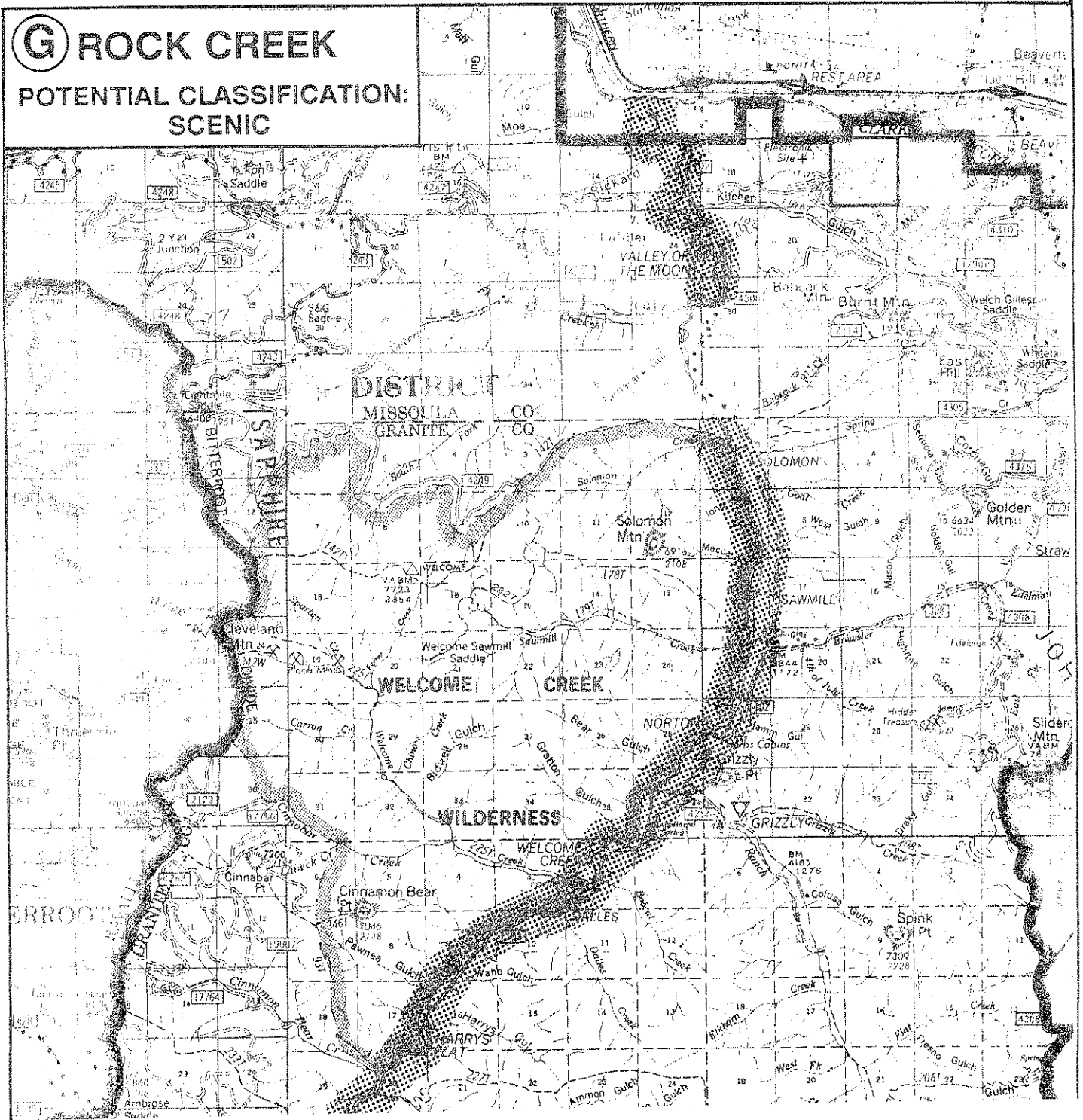
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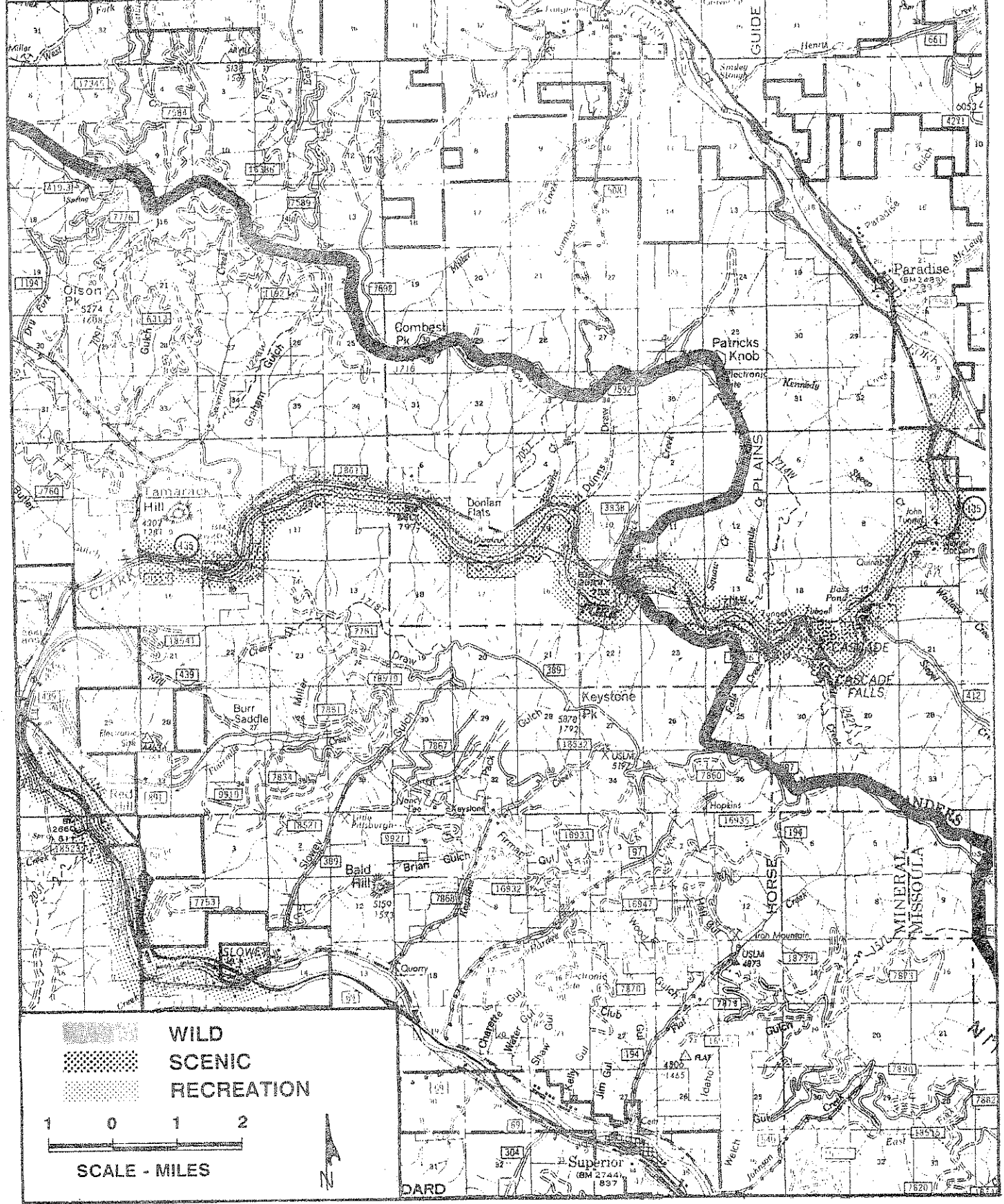
© ROCK CREEK

POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION: SCENIC



H

CLARK FORK SLOWEY CUTOFF POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION: RECREATION



WILD
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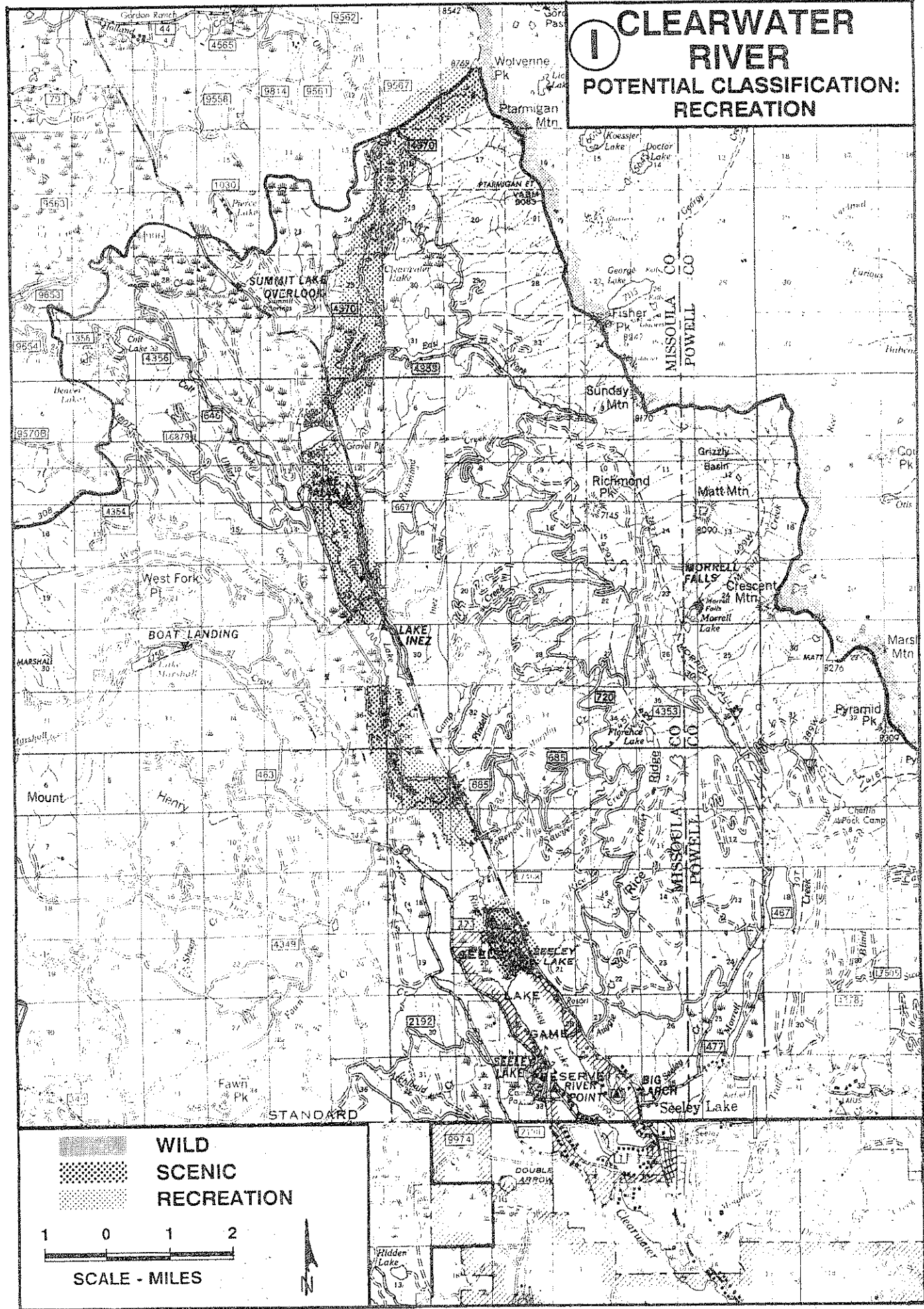
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CLEARWATER RIVER

POTENTIAL CLASSIFICATION: RECREATION



WILD SCENIC RECREATION

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