

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

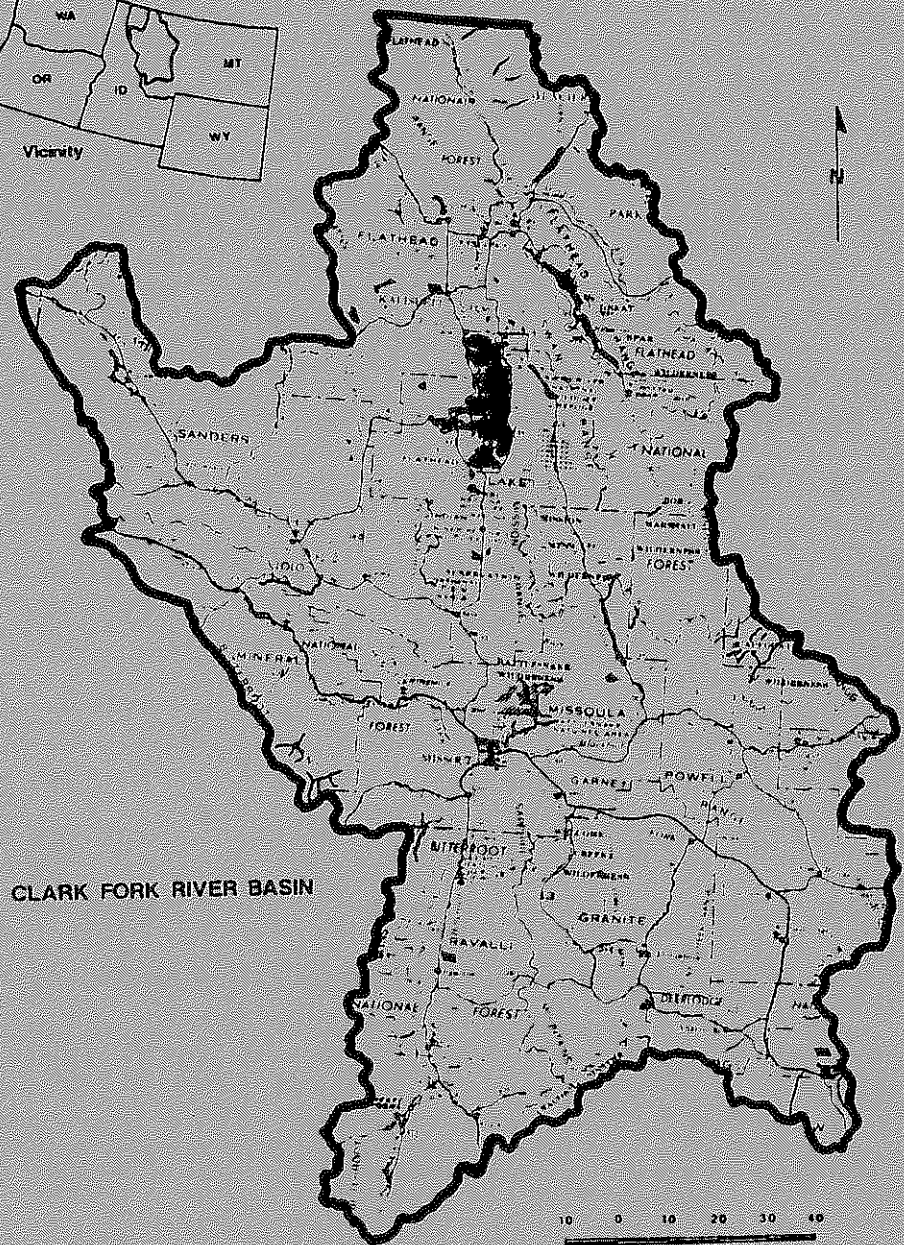
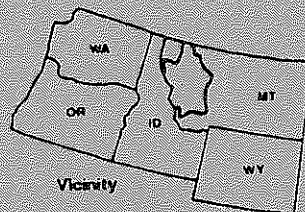
Forest Service

Lolo National Forest

# Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Study and Environmental Impact Statement for Eight Rivers on the Lolo National Forest



August 1996



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Lolo National Forest  
Wild and Scenic River Study Report  
and  
Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement

Lead Agency:

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

Responsible Official:

Dan Glickman  
Secretary of Agriculture

For Further Information:

Forest Supervisor  
Lolo National Forest  
Building 24, Fort Missoula  
Missoula, MT 59801  
(406) 329-3797

ABSTRACT

This Final Environmental Impact Statement and Wild and Scenic Rivers Study documents the analysis of eight river segments under seven alternatives. The analysis determined that the eligible segments are suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The alternatives provide different views on which rivers should be recommended to Congress for classification under the Wild and Scenic River Act.

The rivers are located in six Montana counties: Lewis & Clark, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli, and Sanders; and all segments are within or immediately adjacent to the Lolo National Forest. The rivers include segments of the Clearwater River, Morrell Creek, North Fork Blackfoot River, Rattlesnake Creek, South Fork Lolo Creek, Cache Creek, West Fork Fish Creek, and the Clark Fork of the Columbia River. *Park Cr*

Five of the seven alternatives provide a recommendation for classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; two alternatives recommend no such action, where one provides for management reversion to the Forest Plan standards, and the other provides that more stringent river protection standards be incorporated into the Forest Plan.

The alternatives are:

Alternative 1 - No Action. Recommend no rivers for classification; management reverts to Forest Plan standards.

Alternative 2 - Nondesignation with Protection. Recommend no rivers for classification; incorporate river protection standards similar to those necessary for classified rivers into the Forest Plan.

Alternative 3 - Designation of "At Risk" Rivers. Only those rivers that are prone to have a water resource-related development are recommended for classification.

Alternative 4 - Designation of "Low Risk" Rivers. Provides protection for rivers unlikely to be impacted with water-related development. Rivers suitable for development remain available for such use.

Alternative 5 - Designation of All Eligible Rivers. The assessment found the eligible rivers to be suitable and all are recommended for classification.

Alternative 6 - Classifications different from the Eligibility Study. A change from the eligibility classifications or an addition of major tributaries to a river is made from Alternative 5.

Alternative 6a - The Municipal Watershed Alternative, is similar to Alternative 6, while reserving the possible need for Missoula's municipal water supplier to apply for a permit to construct a water storage facility in the lower 7 miles of the proposed Scenic designation of Rattlesnake Creek in the case of contamination or other loss of Missoula's current aquifer based water supply.

Alternative 6a is the preferred alternative. It proposes designation of all the eligible rivers and the addition of tributaries that are complementary to or an enhancement of the main river's outstandingly remarkable value(s). It also changes the potential designation of two segments from Scenic to Wild because they qualify for the more restrictive designation. And it allows for the contingency action necessary to provide the Missoula Valley with water in case of a potable water supply failure from the current sources.

# FEIS Changes

## ADDENDA

After reviewing and responding to comments on the Draft EIS, we find we are making only minor changes to turn the Draft into the Final EIS. Instead of reprinting an entirely new document, we have decided to save paper, printing, and postage by circulating the following additions (addenda) to the DEIS. These changes along with the original DEIS document will serve as the FEIS.

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### ADDENDA

We have added three items to the Final EIS:

- The first addition is alternative 6a to the list of alternatives. Alternative 6a is a modification of Alternative 6, and was formed in response to comments and review. It is within the range of alternatives analyzed and is found below.

**Alternative 6a** - The Municipal Watershed Alternative, is similar to Alternative 6, while reserving the possible need for Missoula's municipal water supplier to apply for a permit to construct a water storage facility in the lower 7 miles of the proposed Scenic designation of Rattlesnake Creek in the case of contamination or other loss of Missoula's current aquifer based water supply.

Alternative 6a is the preferred alternative. It proposes designation of all the eligible rivers and the addition of tributaries that are complementary to or an enhancement of the main river's

outstandingly remarkable value(s). It also changes the potential designation of two segments from Scenic to Wild because they qualify for the more restrictive designation. And it allows for the contingency action necessary to provide the Missoula Valley with water in case of a potable water supply failure from the current sources.

A summary of the alternatives including 6a and a summary of effects is attached.

- The second addition completes Chapter V by summarizing comment on the DEIS, then reprints all substantive comments, by category, with Forest Service responses to each category of comment. See the attached pages, 5-31 to 5-35.

- The third addition is an appendix containing copies of all letters commenting on the DEIS from federal, state and county agencies and elected officials as required by FSH 1909.15, 24.1(3).
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## COMMENTS ON THE DEIS

### 1. DEIS Comment Stage

The Draft EIS was completed and sent out in September 1995 to all scoping commentors, agencies, and organizations. The Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability

in the *Federal Register* on August 25, 1995. We received 24 replies during the comment period.

Before the end of the comment period, we met with one of the commentors to clarify their concerns.

### 2. Summary of DEIS Commentors

Table V-1 lists the commentors and gives an overall summary of each letter. Comments are summarized by subject later in this chapter. Copies of the comment letters, and individual comments sorted by subject are available for review in the project file.

Of the 24 respondents, six were organized special interest groups or clubs, four were governmental agencies, and the remaining fourteen were individuals or corporations.

TABLE V-1 DEIS Commentors

Stage - Ltr #	Name Organization	City, State	Comment Summary
5 - 1	Pamela and Frank Raine Jr. Sloway segment landowners	Kennewick, WA	Supports Alt. 6 and expressed concerned for recreational quality and bird habitat.
5 - 2	Lois Humphrey	Tucson, AZ	Supports Alt. 6 and has concerns for habitat for endangered species.
5 - 3	Karen & Gary St. Louis	Portland, OR	Supports Alt.6 because of possible fisheries protection. They recreate in Western Montana.
5 - 4	Earl M. Frizell	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Supports Alt. 6 and fishes each year in Western Montana.
5 - 5	Rick Hendricks	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Supports Alt.6.
5 - 6	Jim & Patricia DeSmet	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Supports Alt.6 and are cabin owners onthe Cutoff Segment. Opposes use of jet boats on Clark Fork.
5 - 7	Dick Jones	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Supports Alt.6 and hikes and fishes in Western Montana.
5 - 8	Jerry Dwyer	Missoula, MT	Supports Alt. 6 and is concerned about water pollution and degradation.
5 - 9	James H. Freeman, Forest Futures	Victor, MT	Supports Alt. 1. Dislikes study for reasons of functionalism and lack of inclusion of preparers outside the agency. Finds document premature and lacking vital coordination.
5 - 10	Robert C.Haraden	Bozeman, MT	Wants 'Scenic' designation for Clearwater River. Does not want mining claims or motorized water craft on the river.
5 - 11	Ralph Jackson, Clearwater Stone	St. Regis, MT	Opposes classification, particularly for the Clark Fork, because of restrictions on development and mining.

TABLE V-1 DEIS Commentors (continued)

Stage - Ltr #	Name Organization	City, State	Comment Summary
5 - 12	Dale Harris, Great Burn Study Group	Missoula, MT	Supports Alt. 6 with the addition of the North Fork of Fish Creek and Straight Creek.
5 - 13	Ed Hoy, North Idaho Flycasters	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Supports Alt. 6 in order to promote fisheries.
5 - 14	Missoula Co. Commissioners	Missoula, MT	Supports Alt. 6 except requests that lower 6 miles of Rattlesnake proposed for designation be excepted because of municipal water development concerns.
5 - 15	City of Missoula	Missoula, MT	Asks that no recommendation be made that excludes the lower Rattlesnake from serving as a possible city water supply.
5 - 16	Dennis Palmer	Hamilton, MT	Opposes designation and has concerns about property rights, government intervention, condemnation, mining restrictions and allowing natural forces to dominate vegetative management.
5 - 17	Richard N. Barrett, Missoula Whitewater Association	Missoula, MT	Supports Alt. 6 but requests inclusion of Alberton Gorge on the Clark Fork and the main Blackfoot River.
5 - 18	Donald H. Kern, Montana River Action Network	Helena, MT	Supports Alternative not analyzed in detail, adding new rivers not included in eligibility study, especially a segment of the main Blackfoot and Alberton Gorge of the Clark Fork.
5 - 19	US EPA Region 8	Helena, MT	Agrees with preferred Alternative and rates DEIS as Category LO (lack of objections)
5 - 20	Paul J. Conn	Seeley Lake, MT	Received Summary and Abstract and requests an update of his address. Lives on the Clearwater River.
5 - 21	US Dept.of Interior	Denver, CO	Reviewed DEIS and has no comments.
5 - 22	Roy L. Foote	Superior, MT	Opposes designation as unnecessary and unwelcome federal oversight. Concerned with private property rights,
5 - 23	Matt Brainard	Missoula, MT	Opposes designation and has concerns about government designation, cost of management, erosion of multiple use opportunities and the municipal watershed in the Rattlesnake drainage.
5 - 24	Mountain Water Co.	Missoula, MT	Supports designation but would like lower 7 miles of Rattlesnake available for municipal water supply.
late response:	Arthur F. Gidel	Missoula, MT	Supports Alternative 6.

### 3. Summary DEIS Comments

We organized the 24 comments to combine and categorize comments on the DEIS. The interdisciplinary team has responded to the comments as shown below.

The majority of the comments did specifically indicate support or opposition to the project and

to the alternatives proposed. Many commentors also indicated specific actions they were opposed to or supportive of. Five respondents supported Alternative 1 (no action) and one respondent supported an alternative not analyzed in detail. Thirteen respondents support the preferred alternative (6), one had no objection, and three

requested a change to Alternative 6 that makes the lower portion of Rattlesnake Creek available for development as a municipal water source.

Our response to comments is often consolidated to answer several comments at once for a given topic.

**Supports Alternative 6:**

5 - 5: Please recommend Alternative 6 for all eligible rivers in the Lolo National Forest.

5 - 19: The Region 8 EPA Office supports Alternative 6.

**Response:** Thank for your support of Alternative 6 and protection for these rivers.

**Support Alternative 1 (no action).**

5 - 9: Respondent considers document "a direct throwback to functional activity reports" with inadequate consultation with other resource specialists. Necessary protections can be provided by the State of Montana. There is no additional funding to be expected for management of the rivers in the study if designated.

**Response:** In addition to public scoping and open houses where comments and suggestions were recorded, US Fish and Wildlife Service was consulted and Montana State Fish, Wildlife and Parks was an active participant in some of the fisheries surveys as well as commentors. The State of Montana, in contrast with some other western states, has no legislated protection for rivers and streams that have outstanding values.

These rivers and streams are being managed to preserve eligibility under Amendment 12 of the Forest Plan and designation would not immediately change the management costs of these areas.

5 - 11: Respondent opposes designation, particularly of the Clark Fork because it would restrict mining and development opportunities.

**Response:** The primary function of Wild and Scenic River designation is to keep rivers free-flowing that have outstandingly remarkable qualities. There is no doubt that Wild and Scenic River designation limits the type and extent of development that can take place on federal land within the 1/4 mile corridor on each side.

5 - 22: Respondent opposes designation, particularly of the Clark Fork, stating that almost all landowners along the river oppose it. The federal classification is unnecessary in the light of existing state, county and local authorities and laws.

**Response:** The public scoping process, open houses, and discussions in the field with landowners on the Clark Fork segments revealed a range of responses, from support to opposition. Protecting the river from dams also keeps the river property from being underwater. The State of Montana, in contrast with some other western states, has no legislated protection for rivers and streams that have outstanding values. Designation under Wild and Scenic Rivers does not replace local authorities, but complements them.

5 - 23: Respondent believes that classification removes 48,000 acres of land from multiple use and that most waters suitable for protection have been designated in the past 20 years. He is also concerned with the municipal water supply in the Rattlesnake Creek drainage. Cost of management and the possibility of condemnation of private land are issues as well.

5 - 16: Respondent believes that Alternative 6 places private property rights at risk, constitutes unnecessary government intervention, limits mining

**Response:** Of the 48,000 acres that concerns the commentor, only 7,200 are presently considered suitable timberland, and harvest on these acres is constrained by water quality concerns, State BMPs and the Inland Native Fish Strategy. Mining development would be constrained by forest plan standards as well



as visual and water quality concerns attendant to classification. Other uses of federal lands, such as recreation and grazing, would be managed similarly as they are now. More than 44,000 acres of the total corridor acres are in wilderness or roadless areas and managed for "natural environmental character" under the Lolo Forest Plan.

Under the mandate of the Wild and Scenic River Act, we are instructed to look at rivers on the Lolo NF for eligibility and suitability. When funding became available for this effort, we complied and the results are analyzed in this EIS.

The municipal water supply is of concern to us as well, and Alternative 6 has been modified to address that concern.

The cost of management is addressed as an issue in the Draft EIS.

Condemnation of land is not permitted by the Act because the total acreage of federal and state land on any of the segments is greater than 50%. It is not the intent of the Lolo NF to condemn for scenic easements and there is no budget support for condemnation. Condemnation for public access is not necessary on any of the proposed segments.

- 5 - 3: Fisheries protection: Respondents make one or two trips a summer to fish the Clark Fork and encourage protection and enhancement of the fishery resource.
- 5 - 4: Respondent is a fly fisherman and wants designation to "help protect, preserve and improve the values of these rivers."
- 5 - 7: Respondent "hiked and fished in many of these areas and they are a true asset to Montana and the US Forest Service. "
- 5 - 13: North Idaho Flycasters supports designation for fisheries protection.

**Response:** Management of the fish populations of these rivers is the responsibility of state game officials. However, designation does protect water quality, and focuses awareness on the fisheries resources that are identified as outstanding.

- 5 - 6: Recreational fishing experience: Respondents own land on the Clark Fork and are concerned about the quality of the recreational fishing and boating experience. They oppose jet boats and support Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks catch and release program. They are concerned about visual quality of development.
- 5 - 8: Water pollution: "Since the rate of water pollution and degradation in this country is epidemic, I strongly support maximum protection for all waters addressed in the Wild and Scenic Rivers suitability study detailed in your letter dated 9-11-95."
- 5 - 1: Respondents in both comments are concerned about preserving and
- 5 - 2: enhancing fish, bird and animal habitats. They support Wild and Scenic River designation as one way to accomplish these goals.
- 5 - 10 Motorized boating: Respondents support a Scenic designation for the Clearwater River and a restriction on motorized craft on the river itself.

**Response:** Management of the fish populations and motorized watercraft in these rivers is the responsibility of state game officials. Designation would not affect boating and fish populations directly. However, designation does protect water quality, and focuses awareness on the fisheries resources that are identified as outstanding. Designation does limit development on Forest Service land within the 1/4 mile corridor. Other visual quality concerns are in the authority of county and local governments.

**Supports Alternative 6 with additions:**

- 5 - 12: Addition of tributaries and other segments: One respondent supports
- 5 - 17: Alternative 6 with addition of two tributaries. Two other
- 5 - 18: respondents support Alternative 6 with the addition of two other river segments, the Alberton Gorge on the Clark Fork and the mainstem of the Blackfoot River.

**Response:** The two tributaries of Fish Creek in question were found ineligible in the Eligibility Study because other reaches of Fish Creek (West Fish Creek) better exemplified outstandingly remarkable values. There was no opportunity in the Suitability Study to repeat the eligibility analysis. However, in upcoming forest plan revision, there will be opportunities for public involvement and these streams can be reconsidered at that time.

The mainstem of the Blackfoot River and the Alberton Gorge of the Clark Fork were not considered in the Eligibility Study because they are located in primarily private land. The Suitability Study builds on eligibility, and did not readdress their eligibility. However, in upcoming forest plan revision, there will be opportunities for public involvement and these reaches can be considered at that time.

**Supports Alternative 6 with exclusion:**

- 5 - 14: All of these respondents, 2 government entities and a water company,
- 5 - 15: support Alternative 6 except for the lower 7 miles of Rattlesnake Creek
- 5 - 24: which is deemed essential to protecting the Missoula Valley water supply.

**Response:** A modified alternative, 6a, has been developed to address these concerns. The revised alternative recommends that, while the lower 7 miles of Rattlesnake Creek be classified as a scenic river, special language be placed in the draft bill to protect the future of Missoula's water supply. We realize that failure of the aquifer that supplies the Missoula Valley with domestic water could make it advantageous to place a water storage facility in the lower 7 miles. The language in the bill will allow the permitting process to proceed with the necessary analysis and public involvement to determine and analyze alternatives.



BCC 95-552  
November 20, 1995

Charles Wildes  
Forest Supervisor  
Lolo National Forest  
Building 24, Fort Missoula  
Missoula, MT 59801

Dear Chuck,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Abstract and the Summary of the Draft Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Study and Environmental Impact Statement for Eight Rivers on the Lolo National Forest.

We have studied this issue thoroughly with the assistance of our Rural Planning Department and we feel confident that our findings address the concerns of all parties as well as the general needs of Missoula County residents:

*Missoula County supports the preferred alternative (Alternative Six) with the exception of the designation proposed for Rattlesnake Creek. It is our understanding that the delicate nature of our sole source aquifer makes it wise to retain the option of using treated Rattlesnake Creek water in the future should our aquifer become contaminated. Given the upstream SuperFund site at Milltown, our concern regarding such contamination seems quite reasonable. Consequently, we ask that you exempt the first six (6) miles of Rattlesnake Creek upstream of the existing Mountain Water impoundment from any Wild or Scenic designation which might preclude the placement of facilities such as treatment plants, water removal facilities permitted under existing water rights legislation, etc., in this area.*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your interest in our natural and human resources. We look forward to working with you in this and other issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

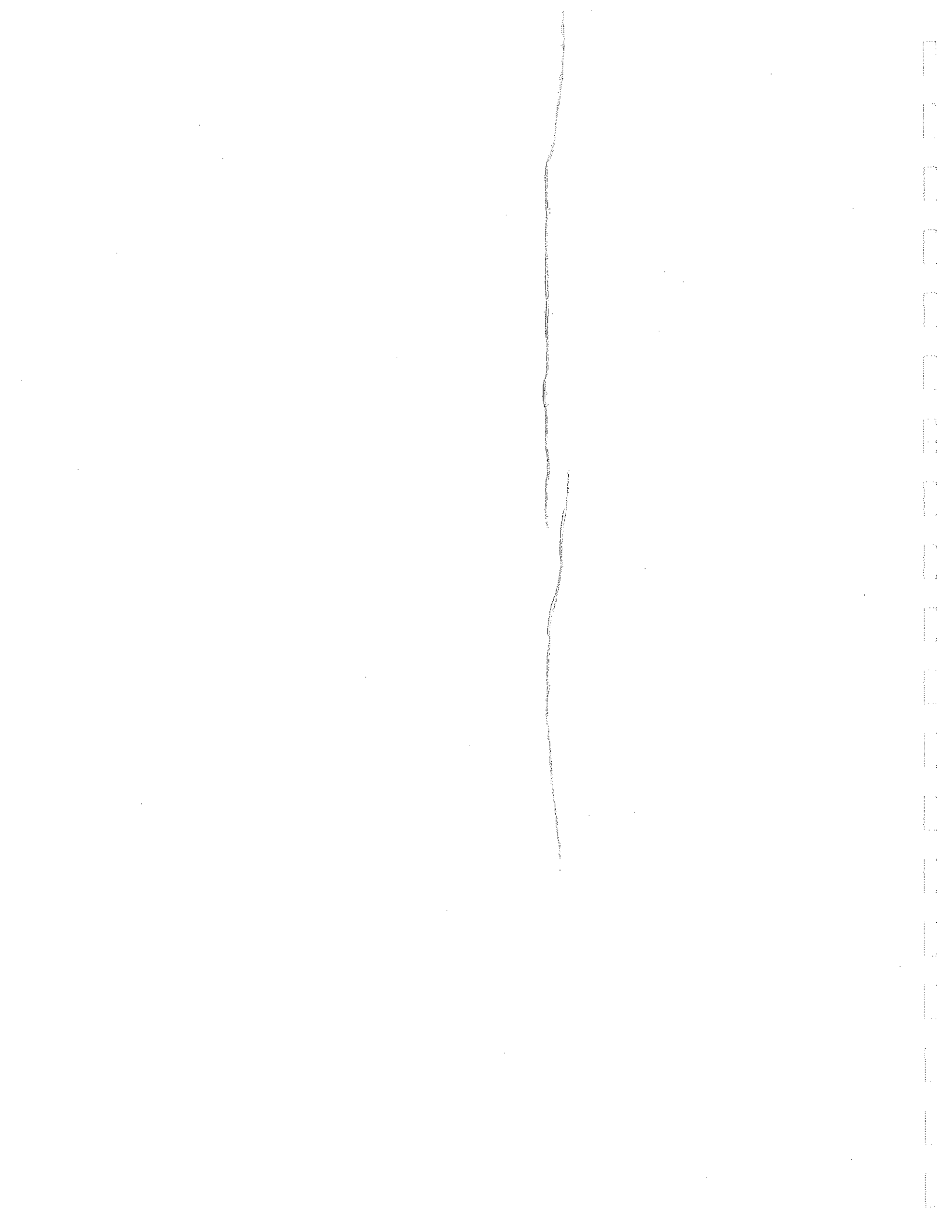
Barbara Evans, Chairman

Fern Hart, Commissioner

Michael Kennedy, Commissioner

BCC/PO:ss

cc: Doug Harrison, Missoula City Council



A RESOLUTION OF THE MISSOULA CITY COUNCIL CONCERNING PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF RATTLESNAKE CREEK UNDER THE FEDERAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM.

WHEREAS the City of Missoula recognizes that most of the Rattlesnake Drainage is under the ownership and control of the Federal Government which must manage the drainage for the benefit of all the citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS in the past the Rattlesnake Creek and the Rattlesnake Creek Drainage have provided an ample supply of high quality potable mountain water for all or part of Missoula's domestic water supply; and

WHEREAS in the future the Rattlesnake Creek and the Rattlesnake Creek Drainage will undoubtedly be needed again to serve as part or all of Missoula's domestic water supply; and

WHEREAS on September 11, 1995, the United States Forest Service (USFS) completed its Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Study for eight rivers on the Lolo National Forest and released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) recommending several reaches of such rivers for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System, including certain stretches of the Rattlesnake Drainage; and

WHEREAS the USFS preferred alternative (Alternative 6) recommends inclusion of 25.2 miles of the Rattlesnake Drainage for inclusion in the system, designated as either wild or scenic; and

WHEREAS the USFS preferred alternative (Alternative 6) would allow continuance of existing developments in the Rattlesnake Drainage but would specifically and permanently prohibit any enlargement of existing domestic public drinking water facilities and would specifically and permanently ban any new dams or diversions or new filtration facilities; and

WHEREAS it is the inherent responsibility of the Missoula Community to assure the ongoing adequacy of domestic water supply for drinking water, fire protection, and commercial, industrial, and agricultural, and recreational uses; and

WHEREAS there are many present and future contingencies affecting the long term dependability and viability of Missoula's current ground water supply system, requiring that we reserve as many options for future use of the Rattlesnake as are prudent and necessary; and

WHEREAS the vast majority of the Rattlesnake Drainage is already protected under special management status either as National Wilderness or as a National Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS it is urgent that the USFS recognize the critical importance of the Rattlesnake Drainage to the future municipal water needs of the City of Missoula and not preclude the appropriate future use of the Rattlesnake Drainage for municipal supply in favor of scenic and recreational values which, while important, are subordinate to the value of the Rattlesnake Drainage as a viable long-term municipal water supply for the City; and

WHEREAS the USFS has solicited public comment on its preferred alternative and recommendations in the DEIS;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missoula City Council hereby urges the United States Forest Service, in making its recommendations on which portions of the Rattlesnake Drainage should be included in the Wild and Scenic River System, to make no recommendation that would either directly or indirectly prohibit the installation of water impoundments or other public drinking water facilities that may be necessary in the future to supply or augment the municipal domestic public drinking water supply for public drinking water consumers in the City of Missoula or Missoula urban community.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of November, 1995.

ATTEST:

/s/ Martha L. Baker  
Martha L. Baker  
City Clerk

APPROVED:

/s/ Daniel Kemmis  
Daniel Kemmis  
Mayor

(SEAL)

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VIII, MONTANA OFFICE  
FEDERAL BUILDING, 301 S. PARK, DRAWER 10096  
HELENA, MONTANA 59626-0096

Ref: 8MO

October 25, 1995

Mr. Charles C. Wildes  
Forest Supervisor  
Lolo National Forest  
Building 24, Fort Missoula  
Missoula, MT 59801

Re: Wild & Scenic River  
Suitability Study and Draft  
EIS for Eight Rivers on the  
Lolo National Forest

Dear Mr. Wildes:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII, Montana Office (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

The Lolo National Forest has evaluated suitability of eight river segments for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System under six alternatives. The alternatives provide different views on which rivers should be recommended to Congress for classification under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The rivers include segments of the Clearwater River, Morrell Creek, North Fork Blackfoot River, Rattlesnake Creek, South Fork Lolo Creek, Cache Creek, West Fork Fish Creek, and the Clark Fork of the Columbia River.

The EPA appreciates the efforts of the Forest Service to analyze and evaluate the natural resources, characteristics, conditions, and values of the identified rivers and their tributaries. The Forest Service's preferred alternative, Alternative 6, proposes designation of 210.2 miles of river segments on the Lolo National Forest to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This proposed designation would include all the eligible rivers and the addition of tributaries that are complementary to or an enhancement of the main river's outstandingly remarkable value(s). Alternative 6 also changes the potential designation of two segments from Scenic to Wild because they qualify for the more restrictive designation.

The EPA agrees with the Forest Service's identification of the preferred alternative. We believe Alternative 6 offers the

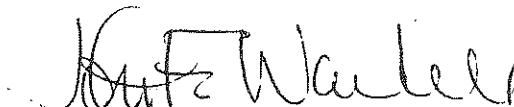
most farsighted and visionary perspective to accomplish protection of the free flowing condition, outstanding values, and water quality of these rivers. We commend the Forest Service for their analysis. The EPA considers Alternative 6 to be the environmentally preferred alternative.

For your information we note that the State agencies responsible for some of the stream permit and regulatory authorities identified in Appendix D of the DEIS have changed agency names as a result of the Montana State governmental reorganization that became effective July 1, 1995. The 3-A Authorization, MPDES Permit, and Stormwater Discharge Permit programs are now administered by the Water Quality Division of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The Small Miners Exclusionary Certification is administered by the Hard Rock Bureau-Reclamation Division of the MDEQ.

Based on the procedures EPA uses to evaluate the adequacy of the information and the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives in an EIS, the Draft Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Eight Rivers on the Lolo National Forest has been rated as Category LO (Lack of Objections). A copy of EPA's rating criteria is attached.

The EPA appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the DEIS. If we may provide further explanation of our concerns please contact Mr. Steve Potts of my staff in Helena at (406) 449-5486 ext. 232.

Sincerely,

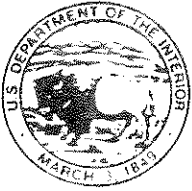


John F. Wardell  
Director  
Montana Office

Enclosure

cc: Bill Geise/Arlene Butler, EPA 8WM-EA, Denver  
Ann Puffer, Forest Service-Region 1, EAP, Missoula  
Steve Tralles, MDHES-WQD, Helena





# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
Denver Federal Center, Building 56, Room 1003  
P.O. Box 25007 (D-108)  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0007

November 20, 1995

ER 95/746

Mr. Chuck Wildes, Forest Supervisor  
Lolo National Forest  
Building 24, Fort Missoula  
Missoula, Montana 59801

Dear Mr. Wildes:

The Department of the Interior has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Study for Eight Rivers on the Lolo National Forest, Lewis and Clark, Mineral, Missoula, Powell, Ravalli and Sanders Counties, Montana, and has no comments.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Stewart  
Regional Environmental Officer

LOLO NF

NOV 24 1995

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PIO	_____
RES	_____
TECH	_____
PLAN	_____
ADMIN	_____



