Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Northern Region, Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests R1-24-05 November 2023

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Land Management Plan

Appendix F: Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Wild and Scenic River Suitability

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

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Final Environmental Impact Statement for 2023 Land Management Plan for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

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Abstract: This Final Environmental Impact Statement documents the analysis of the Preferred Alternative and four additional action alternatives developed for programmatic management of the four million acres of National Forest system lands administered by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The purpose is to provide land management direction for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, combining the 1987 Nez Perce National Forests Land Management Plan and the 1987 Clearwater National Forest Land Management Plan into one plan for the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, now managed as one administrative unit.

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Introduction

As part of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests' plan revision process, the Nez Perce-Clearwater conducted a review of all rivers on the national forest for their potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. During that process, an interdisciplinary team reviewed all the rivers named on standard U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle maps covering the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests; approximately 1,460 rivers were reviewed. The process included a review of the 29 rivers that were found to be eligible during the 1987 Clearwater and Nez Perce plan revision process, with additions in the 1990 Clearwater amendment. See the list at end of this appendix.

The team then determined the free-flowing disposition for each river. Those rivers determined to be free-flowing were evaluated for the presence of river related values consistent with the categories of outstandingly remarkable values established in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The outstandingly remarkable value categories include scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar river related values.

Resource specialists developed category-specific sets of attributes that could be used to determine if the river related value would rise to an outstandingly remarkable value. An analysis of those river related values was conducted for each river to determine how it compared to other rivers within a defined region of comparison. This analysis was conducted to determine which rivers possess one or more outstandingly remarkable values as defined in Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 80, 82.73. This section states that, to be identified as outstandingly remarkable, a river related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant when compared with similar values from other rivers at a regional or national scale.

Once an outstandingly remarkable value was identified, the river, or river segment, was considered eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. As a result of this review, 88 rivers were determined to be free-flowing and possess at least one outstandingly remarkable value. Through this process, three rivers from the 1987 eligibility review were found not to possess a river value that rose to an outstandingly remarkable value. They included Paradise Creek, Wahoo Creek, and White Bird Creek. The decision maker—the forest supervisor—reviewed the process and concurred with the list of eligibility.

The next step was to determine which rivers should be submitted, under Sec. 4 (a) of the Wild and Scenic Act, to the President and the Congress as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. A suitability study was conducted on the 88 eligible rivers, or segments thereof, following direction found in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 80, 83 – EVALUATING RIVER SUITABILITY. The decision maker reviewed the criteria for suitability and, considering the questions found in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, 83.21 – Criteria for Determining Suitability, made a suitability determination for each river segment. See the list at the end of this report.

Relevant Laws, Regulation and Policy

THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT OF 1968 (PL 90-542:16 USC 1271-1287, AS AMENDED): SECTION 4(A) of the Act states, in part; "The Secretary of the Interior or, where National Forest System lands are involved, the Secretary of Agriculture or, in appropriate cases, the two Secretaries jointly shall study and from time to time submit to the President and the Congress proposals for the addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system of rivers which are designated herein or hereafter by the Congress as potential additions to such system; which, in his or their judgement, fall within one or more of the

classes set out in section 2, subsection (b), of this Act; and which are proposed to be administered, wholly or partially, by an agency of the United States."

SECTION 5(D) OF THE ACT STATES: "In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all Federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas, and all river basin and project plan reports submitted to the Congress shall consider and discuss any such potentials. The Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture shall make specific studies and investigation to determine which additional wild, scenic, and recreational river areas within the United States shall be evaluated in plan reports by all Federal agencies as potential alternative uses of the water and related land resources involved."

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE, VOLUME 47, NO. 173, PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 7, 1982: This Notice, titled National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas, provides guidelines for the study of potential national wild and scenic rivers. This regulation requires preparation of a Study Report, defined as a report on the suitability or non-suitability of a study river for inclusion in the national system.

FSM 1920 – LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING, 1924 – WILD AND SCENIC RIVER EVALUATION: This handbook direction states: "Consideration of potential wild and scenic rivers is an inherent part of the Land Management Planning process. A river study assesses the eligibility of a river for inclusion the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System) and evaluates the potential physical, biological, economic and social effects of adding the river to the National System...The study forms the basis for recommendations to the Secretary and Congress and for legislative action."

FSH 1909.12 – LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING HANDBOOK CHAPTER 80 – WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS: This handbook describes the process of identifying and evaluating potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The handbook prescribes a three-step process – 1) Determining eligibility; 2) Assigning potential classification (wild, scenic, or recreational); and 3) Determining suitability.

Study Report

The following documents the process used to determine river eligibility and suitability of rivers for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

Determining Eligibility

As stated in the handbook, when conducting an eligibility study of rivers identified by the Forest Service, per section 5(d)(1) of the Act, during land management plan development or revision, the interdisciplinary team shall include all potential wild, scenic, and recreational rivers flowing wholly or partially on National Forest System lands as identified in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory and by other sources. A river segment that has been evaluated and found to be free-flowing and, in combination with its adjacent land area, possesses one or more outstandingly remarkable values is determined eligible for inclusion in the National System.

The rivers studied for eligibility on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests included all rivers named on a standard U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle map. Additionally, solicitation of public input was used to identify other rivers that may be included. While various rivers were recommended through this public input, no rivers were recommended that were not originally identified.

Free-flowing River Determination

Free-flowing condition is defined in Forest Servest Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 80, 82.71. "'Free-flowing,' as applied to any river or section of a river, means existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, riprapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence, however, of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the [National System] shall not automatically bar its consideration for such inclusion: Provided, that this shall not be construed to authorize, intend, or encourage future construction of such structures within components of the [National System]. (Section 16(b)). Further, the USDA-USDI Guidelines state: "[t]he fact that a river segment may flow between large impoundments will not necessarily preclude its designation. Such segments may qualify if conditions within the segment meet the eligibility criteria."

Most of the rivers and streams flowing through the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests are free-flowing. Therefore, an interdisciplinary team looked for rivers or segments of rivers that are not free-flowing. Streams or stream segments that would not be considered free-flowing were identified utilizing local field knowledge, Google Earth, and National Agriculture Imagery Program aerial imagery. Rivers considered not free-flowing contained constructed dams, diversions, or modifications from historic dredge mining. Historic dredge mining occurred on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests from the late 1800s up to the mid-1900s. The mining activity altered channel substrate and banks, and, in some cases, river segments were displaced. Mining waste, also referred to as tailings piles, is still evident along river corridors.

There are many rivers with culverts that have riprap at the inlets or outlets, and many have been straightened at culvert crossings. Also, many bridges have riprap at their abutments and piers. These short sections of riprap or channel alteration were not deemed as being extensive enough to warrant being called not free-flowing.

Twenty rivers across the Nez Perce-Clearwater were determined to not be free-flowing.

Table 1. Nez Perce-Clearwater rivers found not to be free-flowing

River	Rationale
Bridge Creek, Lochsa River	Private water intake (old concrete box)
Crooked Creek, Red River	Concrete dam and historic dredge mining
Meadow Creek, Salmon River	Earthen/wire dam and flows into ponds
Sand Creek, Salmon River	Earthen/wire dam and flows into ponds
Walton Creek, Powell	Concrete water intake for hatchery
Yoosa Creek, Lochsa River	Concrete dam for water bypass for Nez Perce Tribe hatchery
Powell Creek (not a USGS named stream), Powell	Impoundment and water control structure by the Idaho Transportation Department shed next to U.S. Highway 12
Crooked River (segment from mouth upstream to town of Orogrande), Red River	Extensive historic dredge mining and channel alteration
American River (segment from mouth upstream to Forest boundary), Red River	Historic dredge mining and channel alteration
South Fork Clearwater (segment from Crooked River to American/Red River confluence), Red River	Historic dredge mining and channel alteration

River	Rationale
Red River (segment from Little Moose Creek downstream to private land – "Red River narrows"), Red River	Historic dredge mining and channel alteration
Newsome Creek, Red River	Historic dredge mining and channel alteration
Baldy Creek, Red River	Historic dredge mining and channel alteration
Beaver Creek, Red River	Historic dredge mining and channel alteration
Little Elk Creek, Red River	Historic dredge mining and channel alteration
Deadwood Gulch, Red River	Historic dredge mining and channel alteration
Santiam Creek, Red River	Historic dredge mining and channel alteration
Nugget Creek, Red River	Historic dredge mining and channel alteration
Palouse River, Potlatch	Historic dredge mining and channel alteration
Red Horse Creek, Red River	Historic dredge mining and channel alteration

Source: Field-based review, Google Earth, and NAIP imagery.

Determining Outstandingly Remarkable Values

For a river to be eligible for inclusion in the National Forest System, the river and its adjacent land area, referred to as the "river area," must have one or more outstandingly remarkable value. The categories of outstandingly remarkable values include scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values.

To be identified as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant when compared with similar values from other rivers at a regional or national scale. Unique, rare, or exemplary features are those that are conspicuous examples of these values among the best representatives of these features within a region or the nation.

An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists reviewed all eligible river segments against a set of criteria identified in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 80, 82.73a to identify the presence of outstandingly remarkable values. These criteria were developed based on what is unique, exemplary, or outstanding within the region of comparison. The presence of a river value does not inherently raise it to the level of an outstandingly remarkable value. Once a value has been determined to be an outstandingly remarkable value, it has been determined to satisfy the criteria for eligibility.

Scenery

In developing the region of comparison for the scenery outstandingly remarkable value, the Nez Perce-Clearwater set the region of comparison as the national forest boundary plus the south side of the Salmon River. Distinctive scenery is tied to the deep river canyons and mountain peaks.

The scenery outstandingly remarkable value definition in the Forest Service directive for Wild and Scenic Rivers is: "Landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions. Additional factors, such as seasonal variation in vegetation scale of cultural modifications and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over different parts of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a part of a river corridor."

In considering the types of scenery that are unique or exemplary in the region of comparison, the Nez Perce-Clearwater began by defining specific attributes within the broader definition of scenery that may contribute to outstandingly remarkable values. Although some people think that "beauty is in the eye of

the beholder," there are some basic premises of scenery as described in Agriculture Handbook 701: Landscape Aesthetics: A Handbook for Scenery Management (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1995). The Nez Perce-Clearwater did not consider specific stands of vegetation, such as cedar groves, since vegetation changes over time but considered the variety of vegetation.

Table 2. Criteria for scenery outstandingly remarkable value determination on Nez Perce-Clearwater

Attribute	Description	Information sources*
Distinctive scenic features, such as waterfalls or rapids	Waterfalls and rapids are important scenic features because of the interplay of fast-moving and still water.	Comment letters, Forest Plan assessment, local knowledge, Google Earth U.S. Geological Survey Geographic Names Information System waterfalls list, Idaho Roadless Rule Final Environmental Impact Statement (U.S. Department of Agriculture 2008), www.waterfallsnorthwest.com, www.summitpost.org
Distinctive river canyons	Visually striking cliffs; visually strong geologic forms or distinctive strata layers; rock colors that contrast dramatically with surrounding area; striking juxtaposition of powerful whitewater and slow moving, calm sections; strong juxtapositions of textures, colors, and shapes	Nez Perce-Clearwater website, Forest Plan assessment, comment letters on the proposed action, Google Earth, local knowledge, field notes, www.americanwhitewater.org, www.idahoconservation.org/events/plan-your-own-adventure

Source: Nez Perce-Clearwater criteria for outstandingly remarkable values.
*See the Project Record for a list of publications available to the public that provide independent descriptions and reviews regarding the lands within the Nez Perce-Clearwater.

The two major distinctive river canyons that are not already designated Wild and Scenic Rivers are the lower South Fork Clearwater River upstream from Blackerby Picnic Area to Ten Mile Creek and the North Fork Clearwater River. Both river canyons have cliffs; large boulders forming rapids; the juxtaposition of white water and smooth, reflective water; and a variety of vegetation, trees, shrubs, and grasslands along their length. In addition, Johns Creek stands out with a deeply incised canyon. Several tributaries of Johns Creek, Gospel Creek, and West Fork Gospel Creek have high cirque lakes and dramatic cliffs. The Nez Perce-Clearwater found several of the North Fork tributaries contain highly scenic waterfalls, such as Cave and Chateau Creeks, which include multiple drops over pink granite. These areas include a research natural area, largely due to the waterfalls. Kelly Creek, in addition to its fame for fly fishing, is a beautiful clear-flowing stream. Several of its forks extend to the state line divide and include a diversity of scenery, along with another Kelly Creek tributary. Cayuse Creek is also described as very scenic, along with its recreational value for fishing. Elk Creek Falls is noted as having multiple types of waterfalls in black basalt rock in a short stretch of river downstream of the town of Elk River. The falls is noted in numerous guidebooks and tourism pamphlets as a scenic place to visit.

The Nez Perce-Clearwater re-affirmed the scenic quality of the Salmon River below Long Tom Creek, which has been found scenic in numerous Wild Scenic River reviews. The combination of the waterfalls in Mallard and Noble Creeks that drop in a spectacular manner to the Salmon River offers one of the

longest drops. The boundary for the Frank Church Wilderness appears to have been drawn specifically to include these.

Since the Nez Perce-Clearwater includes 1.2 million acres of some of the most spectacular wilderness areas in the country, it is not surprising that many of the rivers with high scenic quality are found in a wilderness area. The designated Selway River flows through the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and the Nez Perce-Clearwater found many of its tributaries to have high scenic quality, particularly the high cirque lakes and craggy peaks in the headwaters. Notable scenic Selway Crags waterbodies include Three Links Creek, Old Man Creek, and Rhoda Creek. With stunning lakes and cliffs in their headwaters, both Bear Creek and Moose Creek, along with the headwaters of some of their tributaries, such as Cub and Brushy Fork, also have high visual variety.

Warm Springs Creek, a tributary to the wild and scenic Lochsa River in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, has a spectacular waterfall drop of the entire stream into a punchbowl formation noted in the Waterfall Lovers Guide. Other scenic Lochsa tributaries include Storm Creek and its forks on the Bitterroot Divide and Big Sand Creek, which is noted in Amaral (1990) and the americanwhitewater.org website as truly stunning with talus fields and vertical granite walls.

Recreation

In developing the region of comparison for the recreation outstandingly remarkable values, the Nez Perce-Clearwater considered where the majority of visitors come from. Forest visitors generally are local or regional, coming from as far away as Spokane, Washington; Missoula, Montana; and Boise, Idaho; and places in between, or approximately a half day's drive from a portion of the Nez Perce-Clearwater (U.S. Department of Agriculture 2018). Recreational opportunities of rivers on the Nez Perce-Clearwater were compared with rivers people would pass by to get here. That extends in the north to the south half of the Idaho Panhandle to eastern Washington and Spokane, Washington, to the south to the South Fork of the Payette and east to western Montana on the Bitterroot and Clark Fork rivers.

The recreation outstandingly remarkable values definition in the Forest Service directives for Wild and Scenic Rivers states: Recreational opportunities are high quality and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison; or the recreation opportunities are unique or rare within the region. River-related recreational opportunities include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observations, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.

In considering the types of recreation that are unique or exemplary in the region of comparison, the Nez Perce-Clearwater began by defining specific attributes within the broader definition of recreation that may contribute to outstandingly remarkable values.

Table 3. Nez Perce-Clearwater criteria for recreation outstandingly remarkable values

Attribute	Description	Information sources*
Streams paralleled by nationally designated trails or regionally important trails.	National Recreation Trails National Historic Trails Other major trails Idaho Centennial Trail	Recreation Forest Plan assessment; Nez Perce-Clearwater website; Proposed action comment letters; State of Idaho or local tourism websites; hikingfromhere.com; www.idahoconservation.org/events/plan-your-own-adventure; www.trails.com; www.summitpost.org;

Attribute	Description	Information sources*
Swimming or soaking opportunities	Beaches or other swimming areas accessible by road or trail undeveloped hot springs accessible by road or trail	Nez Perce-Clearwater website; Recreation Forest Plan assessment; comment letters; Google Earth; local knowledge; www.idahohotsprings.com; www.hotspringsenthusiast.com
Boatable waters	Rivers or streams that are described as having a boating opportunity	americanwhitewater.org; comment letters from various river advocacy groups
High Quality Blue Ribbon equivalent fishing opportunities	Steelhead fishing Salmon fishing High quality trout fly fishing	Idaho Fish and Game website; Interdisciplinary Team fish biologist Katherine Thompson (retired);
Fish or Wildlife Viewing (river-dependent)	Salmon spawning Bald Eagle nests	Local information; Idaho Fish and Game records

Source: Nez Perce-Clearwater criteria for outstandingly remarkable values.
*See the Project Record for a list of publications available to the public that provide independent descriptions and reviews regarding the lands within the Nez Perce-Clearwater.

1. **Nationally Designated Trails:** The Nez Perce-Clearwater reviewed designated trails, six national recreation trails, two national historic trails, and the Idaho Centennial Trail. Of these, Elk Creek near the Elk River and Meadow Creek, a tributary to the Selway River, stood out as national trails where the focus is on the interaction with the river. Elk Creek Falls includes multiple waterfalls that are easily accessible by a network of trails that make enjoyment of the falls relatively easy for a number of people. The falls segment of Elk Creek is popular and touted in numerous guidebooks and local and regional tourism websites. The trail along Meadow Creek provides an extensive opportunity to interact with the creek.
2. **Swimming or Soaking:** River swimming opportunities occur on large natural beaches with eddies accessible by road or trails. The Salmon River attracts people for swimming beyond the region of comparison. Although there are numerous hot springs in the region of comparison, most have various levels of development, especially those on private land, such as Red River Hot Springs and Lolo Hot Springs. Others, such as Barth Hot Springs, have mortared rocks or other man-made structures. While others are very remote, very small, or do not provide a soaking opportunity. Undeveloped hot springs do not have permanent man-made structures, although they may have loose rock or stacked logs. Two springs that stand out as unique or exemplary include Jerry Johnson Hot Springs on Warm Springs Creek and Stanley Hot Springs on Huckleberry Creek. The series of hot springs in Warm Springs Creek attract visitors from a larger region and are enjoyed throughout the year. Huckleberry Creek is a longer hike at close to five miles with a crossing over Boulder Creek to reach it which limits the season of use, but it is still very popular.
3. **Boatable water:** The river guidebooks and river group websites describe numerous rivers that people have run. They include dramatic waterfalls run by kayakers who may use the term “steep-creeking” to describe extreme kayaking, including an account of kayaking Jerry Johnson Falls on Warm Springs Creek and some of the Elk Creek Falls on Elk Creek, a tributary to Dworshak reservoir. Others describe river opportunities that have excellent whitewater but require a hike of many miles to reach. The lack of practical or legal access makes them unusable for most boaters. In developing the outstandingly remarkable value list, the Nez Perce-Clearwater focused mainly on rivers that are

widely accessible to boaters by road or by a short trail hike. The North Fork Clearwater provides 79 miles of boatable water, ranging from flat water to Class IV rapids. Much of the river is readily accessible by road so various combinations of runs can be done by various watercraft. Lolo Creek offers a dramatic canyon run that is primarily located on Bureau of Land Management land and other ownership but the put-in for the run is at the Lolo Creek Campground on the Nez Perce-Clearwater. The Bureau of Land Management has found the section below the Nez Perce-Clearwater boundary eligible for recreation outstandingly remarkable values.

4. **High Quality Fishing:** Although there are various fishing opportunities throughout the Nez Perce-Clearwater, the unique fishing opportunities are steelhead trout and fly-fishing opportunities for cutthroat trout. Kelly Creek, Cayuse Creek, the North Fork Clearwater River, upper Lochsa River, and Colt Killed Creek stand out for trout fishing. The South Fork Clearwater River offers a unique shore fishing steelhead opportunity that attracts a large number of visitors from Montana and Washington, as well as other parts of Idaho. The Salmon River provides both steelhead and salmon fishing that are rare in the region of comparison.
5. **Fish and Wildlife Viewing:** The most reliable place to watch salmon spawning is on the Red River. The known bald eagle nests are located along existing designated Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Geology

The U.S. Geological Survey's Physiographic Provinces were chosen as the region of comparison for geology. A physiographic province is a geographic region with distinct landscape characteristics and commonly distinct rock types. Within the Nez Perce-Clearwater boundary, there are two U.S. Geological Survey physiographic provinces: the Columbia Plateau and the Northern Rocky Mountains.

The Northern Rocky Mountains consist largely of dissected uplands that are not related to specific uplifts. The Northern Rocky Mountains include mountains lying north and west of Yellowstone Park and into Canada. The Columbia Plateau is the area between the Northern Rocky Mountains and the Cascade Range. The Columbia Plateau is distinguished as a wide flood basalt plateau surface on a substratum of lava.

The geology outstandingly remarkable value definition in the Forest Service directives for Wild and Scenic Rivers states: the river corridor contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is unique, rare, or exemplary within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a "textbook" example, or represent a unique, rare, or exemplary combination of geologic features, such as erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures.

For the most part, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests do not have very many water-related outstandingly remarkable values directly related to water or streams. The region of comparison also includes Glacier National Park, Flathead National Forest, Kootenai National Forest, Idaho Panhandle National Forest, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Payette National Forest, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Salmon Challis National Forest, Sawtooth National Forest, and Helena and Lewis and Clark National Forest. With such a large region of comparison, the geological outstandingly remarkable values truly have to be outstanding to be considered.

Some of the features that would be distinct geologic features include gorges, arches, badlands, oxbows, caves, relic shorelines, bogs, waterfalls, deep canyons, hot springs, and unique rock formations and outcrops.

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is a searchable database that the Nez Perce-Clearwater used to locate major waterfalls, cliffs, and pillars. Other waterfalls known locally were also considered.

Six streams were found that had unique or exemplary geologic features. The series of hot springs in Warm Springs Creek known as Jerry Johnson Hot Springs is one of the best examples of hot springs found in the region of comparison. The Geographic Names Information System included several pillars along the North Fork Clearwater and Kelly Creek, but these are not unusual in the region of comparison.

The Nez Perce-Clearwater determined that the waterfalls located in Cliff Creek, Falls Creek, and Lost Pete Creek in the North Fork Clearwater River subbasin and the combination of Big Mallard and Noble Creek are outstandingly remarkable.

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) mentioned several rivers with interesting geologic features. The Nez Perce-Clearwater considered this information during the review. Whistling Pig Canyon, a tributary to Lake Creek in the Salmon River subbasin, has orbicular granite, which is relatively rare, but not associated with the stream. Other geologic features listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory are not unique or exemplary in the region of comparison.

Fish

Three regions of comparison for the fisheries outstandingly remarkable value have been identified on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests—the Clearwater Basin in its entirety and portions of three subbasins within the Salmon Basin. These three subbasins include the Lower Salmon, Lower Little Salmon, and Middle Salmon-Chamberlain.

The populations of fish within the Clearwater Basin are considered distinct from those in the Salmon Basin, particularly those stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act. The two regions of comparison roughly aligned with draft Snake River recovery plans and their major population groups of Endangered Species Act listed anadromous fish. The regions of comparison in the Salmon Basin are further refined by the separate population characteristics of both steelhead and spring and summer Chinook salmon. Relevant to this assessment, steelhead trout and spring/summer Chinook salmon included in the Chamberlain Creek population within the Middle Salmon-Chamberlain subbasin and the Little Salmon population within the Lower Little Salmon and Lower Salmon subbasins define the regions of comparison within the Salmon Basin.

Given the delineation of these populations, as well as consistency with core areas within the Upper Snake Recovery Unit described for Endangered Species Act listed Columbia River bull trout, the Lower Little Salmon and Lower Salmon subbasins were identified as one region of comparison within the Salmon Basin and the Middle Salmon-Chamberlain subbasin was identified as the second region of comparison. These regions of comparison are also compatible with other native fish populations, including westslope cutthroat trout, interior redband trout, spring Chinook salmon (unlisted stock in the Clearwater basin), and Pacific lamprey.

Thus, the three regions of comparison for fisheries include:

- Clearwater Basin
- Lower Salmon and Lower Little Salmon subbasins (combined)
- Middle Salmon-Chamberlain subbasin

Attributes within These Regions of Comparison Used to Identify Eligible Stream Segments

1. **Fish diversity and abundance**—the presence of two or more native fish species; high known genetic integrity; known high numbers of juvenile fish and adult fish, as indicated by fish density data, redd count data, and smolt outmigrant data; multiple life history strategies present; and higher fish densities than others in the region of comparison.
2. **Habitat quality**—the presence of designated critical habitat for one or more Endangered Species Act listed fish species across most of the reaches evaluated, with documented habitat conditions within or near range of natural conditions or "reference." Or, presence of stream reaches with a very high potential to produce and support anadromous and resident fish, as identified in past subbasin assessments and recovery plans for Endangered Species Act listed fish. The presence of stream reaches modeled for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout to provide cold water refugia in 2040, with moderate to high probability.
3. **Natural reproduction**—natural reproduction by one or more native fish species is known to occur at high levels, as indicated by high densities of wild-origin anadromous 0+ juveniles (relative to others within the region of comparison); consistently moderate to high redd counts of anadromous and resident fish; proportionately high returns of wild anadromous fish when compared to hatchery origin fish (relative to others within the region of comparison); and inclusion of the river or stream in watersheds designated as major or minor spawning areas for anadromous fish in draft Snake River recovery plans.
4. **Cultural and historic importance**—rivers and streams identified by the Nez Perce Tribe meet criteria for "free-flowing" within the region of comparison.

Wildlife

The Nez Perce-Clearwater selected the National Forest administrative boundary, including portions of the Salmon River watershed, as the region of comparison for wildlife because of its unique biodiversity. The plan area's biodiversity occurs because the Nez Perce-Clearwater is located at the junction of three ecoregions—Columbia Plateau, Canadian Rocky Mountains, and Middle Rockies-Blue Mountains. Additionally, the Nez Perce-Clearwater contains a suite of Idaho and regional endemic species that are, in many cases, unique to the plan area. Most of these species would have been identified as regionally or nationally significant at both larger and smaller regions of comparison because of their endemic status and limited distribution. Since some of these species are limited only to the lower Salmon River drainage, it was appropriate to include portions of the Salmon River drainage as part of the region of comparison.

The Nez Perce-Clearwater used a multi-step process for determining outstandingly remarkable values for wildlife populations. The process included 1) identifying the region of comparison and 2) incorporate rivers that contain nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous, river dependent wildlife species. Nationally or regionally important populations of wildlife include species considered to be unique or populations of federal- or state-listed species, candidate threatened or endangered species, or species of conservation concern (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80). Any river with observations of nationally or regionally important populations of these species was identified as having outstandingly remarkable values for wildlife.

Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1902.12 Chapter 80 allows for discretion in whether Nez Perce-Clearwater uses populations or habitat as a criterion. Although the habitat criteria were considered, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest choose not to use habitats as the basis for determining ORV's because habitat requirements for many of these species are poorly understood and are not easily

discernable. Therefore, the population criteria (FSH 1902.12 Chapter 80) were a better measure of Outstandingly Remarkable Values for wildlife within the region of comparison.

To identify regionally or nationally significant wildlife populations, the Nez Perce-Clearwater evaluated 367 wildlife species observed in the plan area (derived from the Idaho Species Diversity Database). The list was narrowed down to 133 species by identifying those species federally listed, state listed as a tier species in the Idaho Statewide Wildlife Action Plan, and species of conservation concern or those considered to be unique, endemic, or rare. The list was further narrowed by removing species that are not river dependent. River dependent species were defined as those that require a river or river's riparian habitat or where all known observations were located within quarter mile of a river. Species determined to not be river dependent were those that are not known to use rivers or riparian habitats, or species sometimes found in riparian habitats but that also occupy upland habitats independent of rivers. Some aquatic species were determined as non-river dependent if they were also found in non-river aquatic habitats, such as lakes, wetlands, or seeps. This resulted in fourteen river dependent species and one group of pond snails (stagnicola) that are taxonomically difficult to distinguish. With the exception of the harlequin duck, a river was identified to have outstandingly remarkable values for wildlife if it had a known observation of one or more of these species. For the harlequin duck, the river was identified if it had more than one observation in different years during the breeding season.

Table 4. Criteria for wildlife determination on the Nez Perce-Clearwater

Name	Distribution
Marbled Disc	An Idaho endemic, found only in the lower Salmon River drainage in Idaho County.
Salmon Oregonian	An Idaho endemic, restricted to a limited reach in the lower Salmon River Canyon.
Selway Forestsnail	An Idaho endemic that occurs in Idaho County in isolated colonies along the lower Lochsa River, the Selway River, the South Fork of the Clearwater River, and the lower Salmon River.
Nez Perce Pebblesnail	Restricted to the Clearwater River and the lower Salmon River, as well as the reach of the Snake River in between these two rivers.
Boulder Pile Mountainsnail	Idaho endemic found along the Salmon River between Hells Gate Creek and Allison Creek.
Pristine Pyrg	Occurs in Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho but known only from scattered locations.
Kingston Oregonian	Regional endemic in Oregon, Montana, and Idaho. In Idaho, it was only known from a few locations until recent (2010-2014) survey efforts documented it at several sites across north Idaho. There is only one known observation within or near the plan area.
Green River (formerlyAshy Pebblesnail	Originally known from the Lower Snake and Columbia River drainages in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, British Columbia, and possibly Montana. Probably extirpated from the middle and upper Columbia River in Washington, Montana, and British Columbia, and may be extinct in the lower Columbia River in Washington and Oregon. Still extant in some tributaries in Washington along the Okanogan and Methow rivers.
Shortface Lanx	Range used to include almost the entire Columbia River basin but restricted to only a few remaining sites today. In Idaho, known in Hells Canyon of the Snake River and the lower Salmon and middle Snake rivers.
Rotund Physa	Endemic to the Columbia River basin. Historically, it was widespread across the basin but possibly now extirpated from Oregon and British Columbia. In Idaho, the species was recorded in the early 1980s from scattered locations along the lower Clearwater River, the lower Salmon River, and the upper Snake River.
Western Ridged Mussel	Widespread across the western United States but with declining populations in many areas of its range. Historically, populations existed in much of the Snake, Clearwater, Salmon, and Little Salmon rivers in Idaho. Recent analyses by the Xerces Society suggests that the species has been lost from about a third of its range in Idaho.

Name	Distribution
Western Pearlshell	Historically, widespread across western North America, including most of Idaho. Once the most common mussel in the Pacific Northwest, it is now increasingly rare. Although the species continues to persist in most forested streams across the state, it has been lost from large stretches of the Snake, Big Wood, Big Lost, Little Lost, Malad, Raft, Payette, Portneuf, Boise, Clearwater, and Bruneau rivers.
Harlequin Duck	In Idaho, approximately 50 pairs breed along a limited number of high-quality streams within the Priest River, Kootenai River, Clark Fork, Lake Pend Oreille, St. Joe River, Clearwater River, and the South Fork Snake River watersheds. Approximately 38 percent of all harlequin duck observations in Idaho were located within the planning area.
Stagnicola Species Group	This species group consists of nine species: *Stagnicola apicina, S. caperata, S. elodes, S. emarginata, S. hinkleyi, S. idahoensis, S. montanensis, S. traski,* and *S. utahensis*. Found in various parts of the Salmon and Snake River drainages. Four of these species—*S. hinkleyi, S. idahoensis, S. montanensis,* and *S. traski*—are currently considered to be rare or uncommon and one, *S. utahensis*, is thought to be extinct in Idaho.

Source: Nez Perce-Clearwater criteria for outstandingly remarkable values.

Historic and Cultural Values

Region of Comparison. The region of comparison for historic and cultural values was determined to be central Idaho and northeast Oregon. This area is meant to capture the deep river canyons that were drivers of past settlement systems, both historic and prehistorically. The region of comparison roughly corresponds to the “usual and accustomed” area of the Nez Perce Tribe, as determined by the Indian Claims Commission.

Historic and Cultural Values. The river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of historic or pre-historic occupation or use by humans. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting history or prehistory.

- History. Sites or features are associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region. A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older. Forest Service administrative history of an area is the result of the retention of early-day administrative procedures longer in time than other national forest system areas. This can be seen in the architecture, communication lines, and business practices used in the administration of these remote areas. These areas remained remote much longer in time; thus, perpetuating early-day practices when Units elsewhere had adopted agency modernity. The longevity of these early-day practices produced a robust administrative history chronicling early agency history and business practices not commonly seen elsewhere.
- Prehistory. Sites of prehistoric human use or occupation may have unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological value, such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living. Areas within the river corridor may have been used for raresacred purposes or represent the origin or conflict of cultures.

Table 5. Criteria for historic and cultural value outstandingly remarkable value determination

Component Definition	Data Sets to Evaluate	Assumptions and Applications
History	GIS data site forms regional histories	Moose Creek: Mouth upstream to the mouths of North/East Forks of Moose Creek. East Fork Moose Creek: First two miles. North Fork Moose Creek: First two miles. Kelly Creek: Mouth to Deer Creek; approximately 11 miles. North Fork Clearwater River: Point of free-flowing above the reservoir upstream to 'The Cedars.' South Fork Clearwater River: South Fork campground upstream to the mouth of American/Red Rivers.
Prehistory	GIS data site forms archaeological reports and overviews	Bear Creek – Selway tributary: Mouth to Cub Creek. Meadow Creek – Selway Tributary: Mouth to Little Schwar Creek. Musselshell Creek: Forest boundary upstream through Musselshell Meadows to its exit from the National Historic Landmark in section 20. North Fork Clearwater River: Point of free-flowing above the reservoir upstream to 'The Cedars.'

Source: Nez Perce-Clearwater criteria for outstandingly remarkable values.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Moose Creek. Forest Service administrative history. The Moose Creek Ranger Station is nationally known as a working historic ranger station located deep within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.
2. East & North Fork Moose Creeks. Early Forest Service history associated with the Three Forks Ranger Station and the embodiment of early outdoor recreation located at the Moose Creek Ranches locale.
3. Kelly Creek. Forest Service administrative history.
4. North Fork Clearwater River. Forest Service administrative history, as well as one of the oldest archaeological sites on the southern Columbia Plateau.
5. South Fork Clearwater River. Mining history. The river features an outstanding collection of mining sites and features and the townsite of New Golden and its surrounding history.
6. Bear Creek. One of three places where *Nimi'ipuu* oral history indicates the Nez Perce Tribe originated from, in addition to the archaeological significance of the drainage.
7. Meadow Creek. The stream has an assemblage of archaeological sites situated along the entirety of the drainage. This level of prehistoric usage for a fifth order stream is an outstanding example of prehistoric land use not found elsewhere.
8. Musselshell Creek. Musselshell Meadows is an important traditional camp and gathering place. The Nez Perce name Sew'issnime (Sa-w'ees-ne-ma), meaning mussel and tributary or Musselshell Meadow drainage, is attributed to the stream and adjacent meadow. The entire Musselshell Meadow is listed on the National Historic Trail Register. The Nee Mee Poo Trail also traverses the site.

Other Similar River-Related Values

While no specific national evaluation guidelines have been developed for this category, determinations consistent with the preceding guidance and section 82.73 of Forest Service Handbook 1909.12 may be developed for other values that may be outstandingly remarkable, including but not limited to botanic, hydrologic, paleontological, scientific, and heritage values.

Table 6. Preliminary Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers and preliminary outstandingly remarkable values (ORV)

Preliminary Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers: Named Rivers and Creeks	ORV Length	River Network	Rec ORV	Scenic ORV	Cultural ORV	Cultural NPT ORV	Fish ORV	Wildlife ORV	Geology ORV	Botany ORV
Potlatch River	6.4	Lower Clearwater						X		
Beaver Creek	1.5	North Fork Clearwater								X
Bostonian Creek	5.0	North Fork Clearwater					X			
Boundary Creek	3.1	North Fork Clearwater					X			
Caledonia Creek	0.5	North Fork Clearwater					X			
Cave Creek	4.6	North Fork Clearwater		X						
Cayuse Creek	35.9	North Fork Clearwater	X				X			
Chateau Creek	2.6	North Fork Clearwater		X						
Cliff Creek	3.9	North Fork Clearwater							X	
Elk Creek	4.9	North Fork Clearwater	X	X						X
Elmer Creek	0.4	North Fork Clearwater								X
Falls Creek	2.1	North Fork Clearwater							X	
Graves Creek	2.0	North Fork Clearwater					X			
Isabella Creek	5.4	North Fork Clearwater								X
Kelly Creek	26.2	North Fork Clearwater	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Lake Creek	11.7	North Fork Clearwater	X	X			X			

Preliminary Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers: Named Rivers and Creeks	ORV Length	River Network	Rec ORV	Scenic ORV	Cultural ORV	Cultural NPT ORV	Fish ORV	Wildlife ORV	Geology ORV	Botany ORV
Little North Fork Clearwater River	4.3	North Fork Clearwater	X	X		X	X			X
Lost Pete Creek	4.0	North Fork Clearwater							X	
Middle Fork Kelly Creek	4.9	North Fork Clearwater		X						
North Fork Kelly Creek	5.9	North Fork Clearwater		X						
North Fork Clearwater River	78.9	North Fork Clearwater	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
South Fork Kelly Creek	6.2	North Fork Clearwater		X						
Weitas Creek	28.5	North Fork Clearwater				X	X			
Clear Creek	0.9	Middle Fork Clearwater					X			
Lolo Creek	19.8	Middle Fork Clearwater	X			X	X	X		
Musselshell Creek	2.1	Middle Fork Clearwater			X	X				
South Fork Clear Creek	7.0	Middle Fork Clearwater					X			
Big Sand Creek	19.9	Lochsa		X			X			
Brushy Fork	4.9	Lochsa		X				X		
Canyon Creek	0.6	Lochsa						X		
Colt Killed Creek	23.3	Lochsa	X	X			X	X		
Crooked Fork	23.2	Lochsa					X	X		
Fish Creek	21.1	Lochsa					X	X		
Glade Creek	3.3	Lochsa						X		
Hopeful Creek	4.7	Lochsa					X			
Huckleberry Creek	0.8	Lochsa	X							
Hungery Creek	13.8	Lochsa					X			

Preliminary Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers: Named Rivers and Creeks	ORV Length	River Network	Rec ORV	Scenic ORV	Cultural ORV	Cultural NPT ORV	Fish ORV	Wildlife ORV	Geology ORV	Botany ORV
Imnamatnoon Creek	1.3	Lochsa						X		
Lake Creek	5.6	Lochsa					X			
Lowell Creek	1.0	Lochsa						X		
North Fork Storm Cr	3.2	Lochsa		X						
Old Man Creek	8.3	Lochsa		X						
Rye Patch Creek	2.7	Lochsa						X		
South Fork Storm Creek	3.7	Lochsa		X						
Storm Creek	10.8	Lochsa		X						
Upper Lochsa River	1.8	Lochsa	X				X	X		
Warm Springs Creek	6.4	Lochsa	X	X					X	
Waw'aalamnime Creek	2.1	Lochsa					X	X		
Bear Creek	22.8	Selway		X	X	X	X	X		
Brushy Fork Creek	8.0	Selway		X						
Buck Lake Creek	12.0	Selway					X			
Cub Creek	16.6	Selway		X						
East Fork Meadow Creek	7.0	Selway					X			
East Fork Moose Creek	34.6	Selway		X	X		X			
Gedney Creek	9.1	Selway					X			
Meadow Creek (Selway)	44.3	Selway	X		X	X	X	X		
Moose Creek	3.8	Selway		X	X		X			
North Fork Moose Creek	20.8	Selway		X	X		X			
O'Hara Creek	2.3	Selway						X		
Rhoda Creek	16.3	Selway		X			X			
Running Creek	16.9	Selway				X				
Three Links Creek	14.7	Selway		X						
West Fork Gedney Creek	10.0	Selway		X						
West Fork Three Links Creek	6.0	Selway		X						
West Moose Creek	9.1	Selway					X			
Wounded Doe Creek	9.2	Selway					X			

Preliminary Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers: Named Rivers and Creeks	ORV Length	River Network	Rec ORV	Scenic ORV	Cultural ORV	Cultural NPT ORV	Fish ORV	Wildlife ORV	Geology ORV	Botany ORV
American River	3.0	South Fork Clearwater						X		
Gospel Creek	7.0	South Fork Clearwater		X						
Johns Creek	18.3	South Fork Clearwater		X			X			
Meadow Creek (S.F. Clearwater)	14.7	South Fork Clearwater				X				
Mill Creek	0.9	South Fork Clearwater						X		
Red River	6.5	South Fork Clearwater	X			X	X	X		
Silver Creek	12.2	South Fork Clearwater				X				
South Fork Clearwater River	34.5	South Fork Clearwater	X	X	X	X	X	X		
West Fork Crooked River	5.4	South Fork Clearwater					X			
West Fork Gospel Creek	5.6	South Fork Clearwater		X						
Allison Creek	8.4	Salmon				X		X		
Bargamin Creek	25.6	Salmon		X			X			
Big Mallard Creek	3.6	Salmon		X					X	
Noble Creek	8.9	Salmon		X			X		X	
North Fork White Bird Creek	5.6	Salmon				X				
Papoose Creek	0.6	Salmon						X		
Sabe Creek	15.3	Salmon					x			
Salmon River	23.2	Salmon	X	X				X		
Slate Creek	11.4	Salmon				X	X	X		
South Fork White Bird Creek	12.4	Salmon				X				
Van Buren Creek	5.3	Salmon					X			

Preliminary Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers: Named Rivers and Creeks	ORV Length	River Network	Rec ORV	Scenic ORV	Cultural ORV	Cultural NPT ORV	Fish ORV	Wildlife ORV	Geology ORV	Botany ORV
Yeva Agai Naokwaide	1.2	Salmon						X		

Source: Eligibility criteria review

Assigning Preliminary Classification

Each river found to be eligible must be assigned a preliminary classification. The preliminary classification of a river found to be eligible is based on the condition of the river and the development level of adjacent lands as they exist at the time of study. Section 2(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act specifies and defines three classification categories for eligible rivers—Wild, Scenic, and Recreational. Per Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 80, 82.8, the following table was used for classification criteria. A final classification will be assigned during the comprehensive river management planning process required by the Act if the river is designated by Congress.

Table 7. Classification criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational segments

Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Water Resource Development	Free of impoundment.	Free of impoundment.	Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions, or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.
Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.	Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.	Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity.
Shoreline Development	The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable.	The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.	The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable.
Shoreline Development	A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable.	The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable.	Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses.
Shoreline Development	Little or no evidence of past timber harvest No ongoing timber harvest	Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.	May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.
Accessibility	Generally inaccessible except by trail. No roads, railroads, or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.	Accessible in places by road. Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.	Readily accessible by road or railroad. The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.
Water Quality	Meets or exceeds criteria or federally approved State standards for aesthetics, propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and primary contact recreation	No criteria are prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 established a national goal that all waters of the United States are made fishable and swimmable.	No criteria are prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 established a national goal that all waters of the

Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
	(swimming). Except where exceeded by natural conditions.	Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable federal and state laws.	United States are made fishable and swimmable.

Source: FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, 82.8 – Classification

Table 8. Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers preliminary classification and length in miles

Eligible River Name	River Network	Classification[1,2]	Eligible miles
Potlatch River	Lower Clearwater	R	6.4
North Fork Clearwater River	North Fork Clearwater	W, R	78.9
Bostonian Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	5.0
Boundary Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	3.1
Caledonia Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	0.5
Graves Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	2.0
Cave Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	4.6
Chateau Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	2.6
Weitas Creek	North Fork Clearwater	S	28.5
Cliff Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	3.9
Lost Pete Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	4.0
Falls Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	2.1
Elk Creek	North Fork Clearwater	S	4.9
Isabella Creek	North Fork Clearwater	R	5.4
Beaver Creek	North Fork Clearwater	R	1.5
Elmer Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	0.4
Kelly Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W, R	26.2
North Fork Kelly Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	5.9
Middle Fork Kelly Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	4.9
South Fork Kelly Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	6.2
Cayuse Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W, S, R	35.9
Little North Fork Clearwater River	North Fork Clearwater	W	4.3
Lake Creek	North Fork Clearwater	S, R	11.7
Clear Creek	Middle Fork Clearwater	S	0.9
South Fork Clear Creek	Middle Fork Clearwater	S	7.0
Lolo Creek	Middle Fork Clearwater	R	19.8
Musselshell Creek	Middle Fork Clearwater	R	2.1
Canyon Creek	Lochsa	R	0.6
Glade Creek	Lochsa	S	3.3
Lowell Creek	Lochsa	R	1.0
Rye Patch Creek	Lochsa	R	2.7
Upper Lochsa River	Lochsa	R	1.8
Colt Killed Creek	Lochsa	W, S	23.3

Eligible River Name	River Network	Classification[1,2]	Eligible miles
Big Sand Creek	Lochsa	W	19.9
Storm Creek	Lochsa	W	10.8
North Fork Storm Creek	Lochsa	W	3.2
South Fork Storm Creek	Lochsa	W	3.7
Crooked Fork	Lochsa	W, R	23.2
Brushy Fork	Lochsa	R	4.9
Hopeful Creek	Lochsa	W	4.7
Fish Creek	Lochsa	S, R	21.1
Hungery Creek	Lochsa	W, S	13.8
Huckleberry Creek	Lochsa	W	0.8
Warm Springs Creek	Lochsa	W	6.4
Imnamatnoon Creek	Lochsa	R	1.3
Waw'aalamnime Creek	Lochsa	R	2.1
Old Man Creek	Lochsa	W	8.3
Lake Creek	Lochsa	W	5.6
Bear Creek	Selway	W	22.8
Cub Creek	Selway	W	16.6
Brushy Fork Creek	Selway	W	8.0
Gedney Creek	Selway	W	9.1
West Fork Gedney Creek	Selway	W	10.0
O'Hara Creek	Selway	R	2.320
Meadow Creek (Selway)	Selway	W, S, R	44.3
East Fork Meadow Creek	Selway	S	7.0
Buck Lake Creek	Selway	W	12.0
Moose Creek	Selway	W	3.8
North Fork Moose Creek	Selway	W	20.8
West Moose Creek	Selway	W	9.1
East Fork Moose Creek	Selway	W	34.6
Rhoda Creek	Selway	W	16.3
Wounded Doe Creek	Selway	W	9.2
Running Creek	Selway	W, S	16.9
Three Links Creek	Selway	W	14.7
West Fork Three Links Creek	Selway	W	6.0
American River	South Fork Clearwater	R	3.0
Johns Creek	South Fork Clearwater	W	18.3
Gospel Creek	South Fork Clearwater	W	7.0
West Fork Gospel Creek	South Fork Clearwater	W	5.6
Meadow Creek (South Fork Clearwater)	South Fork Clearwater	R	14.7
Mill Creek	South Fork Clearwater	R	0.9
Red River	South Fork Clearwater	R	6.5
Silver Creek	South Fork Clearwater	W, S, R	12.2
South Fork Clearwater River	South Fork Clearwater	R	34.5
West Fork Crooked River	South Fork Clearwater	R	5.4

Eligible River Name	River Network	Classification[1,2]	Eligible miles
Allison Creek	Salmon	S, R	8.4
Bargamin Creek	Salmon	W, S	25.6
Sabe Creek	Salmon	W	15.3
Big Mallard Creek	Salmon	W	3.6
Noble Creek	Salmon	W	8.9
North Fork White Bird Creek	Salmon	R	5.6
South Fork White Bird Creek	Salmon	R	12.4
Salmon River	Salmon	R	23.2
Slate Creek	Salmon	R	11.4
Yeva Agai Naokwaide	Salmon	W	1.2
Papoose Creek	Salmon	R	0.6
Van Buren Creek	Salmon	W, R	5.3

1 W = wild classification, S = scenic classification, R = recreational classification
2 These are preliminary classifications.
Source: Eligibility criteria review

Determining Suitability

An interdisciplinary team documented information in response to the thirteen required and optional elements found in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 80, 83.21—Criteria for Determining Suitability—to assist the decision maker in answering the following five questions. Detailed responses to the elements are provided below. A suitability determination was made in consideration of these thirteen elements and five questions. The effects on and from these determinations are documented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement by alternative. As can be seen in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, suitability of any given river or segment may vary by alternative depending on the answers to the five questions and management emphasis of the alternative.

Questions to Address

1. Should the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values be protected, or are one or more other uses important enough to warrant doing otherwise?
2. Will the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values be protected through designation?
3. Will the benefits of designation exceed the benefits of non-designation?
4. Is designation the best method for protecting the river corridor?
5. Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any non-federal entities that may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?

Criteria for Determining Suitability

To reduce redundancy and improve readability, where appropriate, the information for each element stated in this section applies to all eighty-nine rivers considered in this suitability determination analysis. Information specific to any given river is included in the documentation for that river later in this report.

Required elements

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area or the corridor a worthy addition to the National System.

a. See specific river analyses.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area.

   a. All of the lands in the proposed corridors are within and managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

   b. See specific river analyses.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System.

   a. Forest Service identified eligible and suitable rivers must be protected sufficiently to maintain free-flow and outstandingly remarkable values unless a determination of ineligibility or non-suitability is made. Site-specific projects and activities may be authorized when the project and activities are consistent with interim protection measures in Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 80, 84.3 – Interim Protection Measures for Eligible and Suitable Rivers.

   b. Many of the proposed river segments are in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base. In Management Area 3, timber harvest and associated vegetation treatments such as precommercial thinning, planting, and fuels reduction are primary management actions to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and to contribute to the economic stability of local communities. However, FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, 84.3 indicates the cutting of trees and other vegetation is not permitted within wild designated rivers except when needed in association with a primitive recreation experience, to protect users, or to protect identified outstandingly remarkable values. In scenic and recreational designated rivers, a range of vegetation management and timber harvest practices are allowed if the practices are designed to protect users or protect, restore, or enhance the river environment, including the long-term scenic character. These protection measures were intended to, and certainly would, affect vegetative treatment design, implementation and impact within any eligible or suitable river segment, and could significantly modify or curtail timber harvest from what otherwise might occur in Management Area 3 lands.

   c. Management area emphasis may vary between or within proposed river corridors. Therefore, effects to or from potential land uses may vary by river corridor. See specific river analyses.

4. The federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the National System.

   a. The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests would administer the segment if it is added to the national system.

5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by state and local agencies.

   a. The Forest Service does not propose sharing costs with state and local agencies. Water quality for the rivers would continue to be monitored under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

6. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the National System.

   a. This analysis of river eligibility and suitability only applies to river segments on National Forest System lands. Additionally, interim protection measures on agency identified eligible and suitable rivers only apply on National Forest System lands. At this time, the Forest Service is not pursuing acquisition of lands or interests in lands on the basis of Wild and Scenic Rivers.

7. A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

a. All rivers on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests are protected by the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Forest Management Act, and the Historic Preservation Act, and many rivers are protected by the Wilderness Act.

b. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality would participate in monitoring water quality. The Idaho Department of Water Resources administers water rights within the state.

Optional Elements

1. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development.

   a. Idaho Water Resource Board

      i. The Idaho Water Resource Board is charged with the development of the Idaho Comprehensive State Water Plan (Idaho Department of Water Resources 2012). The plan includes the statewide water policy plan and associated component basin and water body plans which cover specific geographic areas of the state. The Idaho Water Resource Board encourages federal resource management agencies to work within the comprehensive state water planning process rather than pursuing federal protection of waters within Idaho.

      ii. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council has demonstrated their commitment to the protection of river-related values through the identification of their "Protected Rivers" status and their stated goals, objectives, and management emphasis of those areas.

      iii. As shown in Table 9, all proposed suitable wild and scenic rivers have some form of protection afforded them by special land designations or classification. Sources of protection include designated wilderness, Idaho roadless areas, Idaho Comprehensive State Water Plan, Northwest Power and Conservation Council, special resource waters, and conservation watershed network.

Table 9. Proposed Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers by Alternative and associated protections afforded by special land designations or classifications

Proposed Suitable River	Alt W	Alt Y	Alt Z	Preferred Alt	Percent in Wilderness/ Roadless	State Protected	NPCC Protected[1]	SRW[2]	CWN[3]
Bargamin Creek			X		100		Portions		Yes
Bear Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Big Sand Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Bostonian Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Boundary Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Brushy Fork Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Buck Lake Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Caledonia Creek			X		100		No		Yes
Cayuse Creek	X	X		X	93	Yes	Yes		Yes

Proposed Suitable River	Alt W	Alt Y	Alt Z	Preferred Alt	Percent in Wilderness/ Roadless	State Protected	NPCC Protected[1]	SRW[2]	CWN[3]
Colt Killed Creek			X	X	91		Yes		Yes
Crooked Fork			X		18		Yes		Portions
Cub Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
East Fork Meadow Creek			X		100		Portions		Yes
East Fork Moose Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Fish Creek	X	X	X	X	100		Yes		Yes
Graves Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Hungery Creek	X	X	X	X	100		Yes		Yes
Johns Creek	X	X	X		25	Yes	Yes		Yes
Kelly Creek	X	X	X	X	95	Yes	Yes		Yes
Little North Fork Clearwater River	X	X	X	X eligible	100	Yes	Yes		Yes
Lochsa River (Upper)			X		0		Yes	Yes	Yes
Meadow Creek (Selway)	X	X	X	X	94		Yes		Portions
Middle Fork Kelly Creek	X	X	X	X	100		Yes		Yes
Moose Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
North Fork Clearwater River		X			54	Yes	Yes	Yes	Portions
North Fork Kelly Creek	X	X	X	X	100	Yes	No		Yes
North Fork Moose Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
North Fork Storm Creek			X		100		No		Yes
Rhoda Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Running Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Sabe Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Salmon River	X	X	X	X	6		Yes	Yes	No
Silver Creek			X		71	Yes	Portions		No
South Fork Clearwater River		X			0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Portions
South Fork Kelly Creek	X	X	X	X	100		No		Yes

Proposed Suitable River	Alt W	Alt Y	Alt Z	Preferred Alt	Percent in Wilderness/ Roadless	State Protected	NPCC Protected[1]	SRW[2]	CWN[3]
South Fork Storm Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Storm Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Weitas Creek	X	X	X	X	100	Yes	Yes	Yes	Portions
West Moose Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes
Wounded Doe Creek			X		100		Yes		Yes

1 Designated by Northwest Power and Conservation Council for protection from construction of new federally-licensed dams for one of or a combination of the following indicators: resident fish only, resident fish or wildlife, anadromous fish only, anadromous and resident fish and wildlife, or determined protected under other federal or state action
2 Special Resource Water
3 Conservation Watershed Network

iv. All streams within the Nez Perce-Clearwater are protected by the Clean Water Act. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality administers the Clean Water Act through water quality standards, designation of beneficial uses, and the anti-degradation program. There are several streams on the Nez Perce-Clearwater that have a distinct status that offers additional protections, including streams in wilderness and Idaho roadless areas, wild and scenic rivers, special resource waters, and state protected waters. Additionally, the National Forest Management Act Sec. 6(g)(3) (E)(iii) specifies that guidelines for land management plans ensures that timber harvest occurs only where protection is provided for streams and other water bodies, along with their streambanks and shorelines. Also, depending on resources present, additional protection is provided by the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

b. Special Resource Waters

i. As outlined in Section 056 of the Idaho Water Quality Standards (IDAPA 58.01.02), special resource waters are those specific segments or bodies of water which are recognized as needing intensive protection to preserve outstanding or unique characteristics or to maintain current beneficial uses. There are 1,380 miles of special resource waters on the Nez Perce-Clearwater. Rivers with special resource water designations include Potlatch River, Clearwater River, North Fork Clearwater River, Middle Fork Clearwater River, Lochsa River, Selway River, South Fork Clearwater River, American River, Red River, Salmon River, Little Salmon River, and Rapid River.

c. Northwest Power and Conservation Council Protected Areas

i. In 2003, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council determined that, for specific stream reaches, hydroelectric development would have unacceptable risks of irreversible loss to fish and wildlife and identified these stream reaches as “Protected Areas.” In essence, Protected Areas are places where fish and wildlife values are judged to outweigh the value of electricity those areas could generate. Under the Northwest Power Act and the Federal Power Act, federal entities—specifically the Bonneville Power Administration, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation—must consider protected area status and restrictions when making decisions regarding hydroelectric facility permits and access to electricity from those facilities. Inclusion in a protected area does not prohibit hydroelectric development at a site. However, the Council 1) calls on the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission not to license a new hydroelectric development in a protected area, and 2) calls on the Bonneville Power Administration not to acquire the power from such a project should one be licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, nor to allow access to the Pacific Northwest-Pacific Southwest Intertie, or "power grid," in a way that would undermine the protected areas policy. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council identified 2,385 miles of protected areas or streams on the Nez Perce-Clearwater.

ii. Protected Area designations by the Council are not the only constraint on hydroelectric development. Federal designations, such as wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and other designations, can constrain hydroelectric development, as can state statutes. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council identified 1,215 miles of streams already protected under other federal or state action.

d. Comprehensive State Water Plan – State Protected River Designations

i. The Idaho Water Resource Board prepared components of the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the North Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 1996) and South Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 2005). The plans provide guidance for the development, management, and protection of water and related resources in the North Fork and South Fork Clearwater River Basins in compliance with provisions of the Idaho State Constitution and Idaho State Code.

ii. The Idaho Water Resource Board has determined that the value of preserving the designated waterways of the North Fork and South Fork Clearwater River basins is in the interest of and for the benefit of the state as a whole. All landowners—private, state, and federal—are encouraged to manage their lands consistent with the Idaho Water Resource Board's protection designations. The Idaho Water Resource Board also encourages federal resource management agencies to work within the comprehensive state water planning process rather than pursuing federal protection of waters within Idaho.

iii. To protect the public interest, current resource use, and the multiple-use character of the basins, the Idaho Water Resource Board designates specific streams and stream segments as protected with the classification of natural or recreational. There are 534 miles of stream with state protected river designations. See Appendix K – Water and Aquatic Resources for more information.

e. Conservation Watershed Networks

i. A conservation watershed network is a designated collection of watersheds where management emphasizes habitat conservation and restoration to support native fish and other aquatic species. The goal of the network is to sustain the integrity of key aquatic habitats to maintain long-term persistence of native aquatic species.

2. The state or local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. This factor requires an evaluation of the river protection mechanisms available through the authority of state and local governments. Such mechanisms may include, for example, state-wide programs related to population growth management, vegetation management, water quantity or quality, or protection of river-related values, such as open space and historic areas.

a. Non-federal lands would not be affected by an agency finding that the river is suitable. Outstandingly remarkable values were determined based on their presence on National Forest System lands.

b. State Protected River System: As outlined in the 2012 Idaho State Water Plan, the Idaho Water Resource Board is authorized to protect highly valued waterways as "State Protected Rivers" with the goal of maintaining free-flowing waterways and conserving unique river features where it is in the public interest to protect recreational, scenic, and natural values. "State Protected Rivers" are designated natural or recreational.

3. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives. Designation may help or impede the goals of tribal governments or other federal, state, or local agencies. For example, designation of a river may contribute to state or regional protection objectives for fish and wildlife resources. Similarly, adding a river that includes a limited recreation activity or setting to the National System may help meet state-wide recreation goals for that activity or setting. Designation might, however, limit irrigation and flood control measures in a manner inconsistent with regional socioeconomic goals.

   a. Designation of a river segment as suitable, particularly where the river segment is included as designated critical habitat for an Endangered Species Act listed fish species, or where it has an additional priority identified in any recovery plan for a listed fish species would be consistent with recovery goals identified in recovery planning. Maintenance and improvement of stream habitat are central tenets of recovery planning, similar to language contained in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which directs outstandingly remarkable values to be protected and enhanced, particularly in rivers where fish is identified as an outstandingly remarkable value. Exceptions could include construction of instream or near-stream structures to restore habitat or establishment of structures or features for collection of fish or fisheries data in conjunction with recovery efforts.

   b. State Protected River System: As outlined in the 2012 Idaho State Water Plan, the Idaho Water Resource Board is authorized to protect highly valued waterways as "State Protected Rivers" with the goal of maintaining free-flowing waterways and conserving unique river features where it is in the public interest to protect recreational, scenic, and natural values. "State Protected Rivers" are designated natural or recreational.

   c. There have been several studies of the hydroelectric potential of rivers and streams across the country, including the Pacific Northwest, Idaho, and rivers and streams on the Nez Perce-Clearwater. Several federal and state agencies have missions that include the development of hydropower. These include the Department of Energy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration, and the Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEMR).

   d. While there are no known proposals or applications for hydroelectric developments on the Nez Perce-Clearwater, it is possible that these other agencies may want to pursue such developments in the future. Any such proposal would include in-depth analysis in compliance with all federal laws including the National Environmental Policy Act, thereby allowing for public, agency, and tribal participation.

4. Support or opposition to designation. Assessment of this factor will define the political context. The interest in designation or non-designation by other federal agencies; state, local, and tribal governments; national and local publics; and the State's Congressional delegation should be considered.

   a. The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests solicited public comment regarding river eligibility and suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In general, there is a broad spectrum of support and opposition for additional wild and scenic rivers.

   b. Some members of the public, including some river conservation groups, have offered a variety of rivers that they believe should be found to be eligible, if not suitable. Groups, such as American

Rivers, American Whitewater, Idaho Rivers United, and Outdoor Alliance, provided comment. While these groups have advocated for specific rivers, all were already included in the review process and considered for eligibility or designation. Additionally, some members of the public, including a variety of river advocacy groups, believe all rivers with identified outstandingly remarkable values should either be found suitable or remain as eligible to allow for Congress to determine if designation is appropriate sometime in the future.

c. Some only support designations of rivers that have potential for future dam sites that may impact free flow. Some feel that rivers in designated wilderness areas already have enough protection, as only the President can authorize dam construction in designated wilderness areas. Others feel that if there is potential for dam construction, even if it is in wilderness, the river should be designated as suitable since no other statute prohibits dam construction.

d. Some members of the public, including local elected officials, feel that the "best of the best" rivers are already formally designated and do not support any additional rivers to be designated as suitable.

e. The Clearwater County Board of Commissioners indicated that their biggest concern was over a suitability determination of the South Fork Clearwater, North Fork Clearwater, and Salmon rivers, as expressed in the Idaho County Commissioners' letter representing multiple counties, in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Idaho County Commissioners, 2020).

f. The Idaho County Board of Commissioners does not support any additional designated or suitable wild and scenic rivers within Idaho County, per the Idaho County Natural Resources Plan of August 2016 (Idaho County Commisioners 2016).

g. The Nez Perce Tribe has indicated they are supportive of all stream reaches identified by the Land Management Plan team as being eligible, but the Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee has not indicated which streams they support as being suitable for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System.

h. The Clearwater Basin Collaborative expressed varying levels of support. While some members recommended portions of Fish Creek, Hungery Creek, Johns Creek, Meadow Creek, Kelly Creek, and Cayuse Creek as eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System, no consensus recommendation was brought forward by the Collaborative.

i. The Efficient Public Collaboration (EPC) collaborative indicated that it does not support suitability for the North Fork or South Fork Clearwater rivers.

5. The river's contribution to river system or basin integrity. This factor reflects the benefits of a "systems" approach. For example, expanding the designated portion of a river in the National System or developing a legislative proposal for an entire river system, from its headwaters to the mouth, or watershed could contribute to river system integrity. Numerous benefits may result from managing an entire river or watershed, including the ability to design a holistic protection strategy in partnership with other agencies and the public.

   a. All rivers and creeks on the National Forest contribute to system and basin integrity, some more than others. See specific river analyses for those rivers identified as having significant contribution to basin integrity.

6. The potential for water resources development. The intent of the Act is to preserve selected rivers in free-flowing condition and to protect their immediate environments. Designation will limit development of water resources projects as diverse as irrigation and flood control measures, hydropower facilities, dredging, diversion, and channelization. Describe specific or types of projects that may be foreclosed by designation of the segment as suitable and the implications for future water resource needs. The description may include a discussion of alternative water resources projects or

project sites outside a river segment being considered, or modified projects, that may be considered if a river is recommended for designation.

In the late 1970's and as recent as 2014 there were national and regional surveys of theoretical hydropower energy potential and feasibility. These surveys covered the Pacific Northwest, including lands encompassed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater. These studies included physiographic and hydrologic characteristics to determine theoretical hydropower potential. They also included information regarding ecological systems, sensitive species, areas of social and cultural importance, land ownership and management practices, legal constraints, and other ecological, social, and economic considerations to determine feasibility of development.

The results of these assessments determined that from a physiographic and hydrologic analysis, theoretical low head and small hydro-electric potential exists within many of the rivers and streams within the Nez Perce-Clearwater. However, due to the presence of numerous environmental, social, cultural, and economic considerations, all rivers and tributaries within Nez Perce-Clearwater were considered to be of low potential, and at low risk of hydro-electric development. Therefore, there is nothing to suggest that such development can be anticipated in the reasonably foreseeable future on the Nez Perce-Clearwater. Additionally, a majority of the stream reaches on the Nez Perce-Clearwater are not downstream of other land ownership that might bring development. There is no indication that hydroelectric development, or other hydrologic diversions and developments, are forthcoming on Nez Perce-Clearwater. Therefore, the potential for water resources development on the Nez Perce-Clearwater is not reasonably foreseeable and does not warrant significant consideration in the river suitability determination.

Following is a synopsis of significant publications regarding theoretical hydroelectric potential nationally, regionally, in the State of Idaho, and in the Clearwater River and Salmon River basins. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Rather, these publications present a consistent set of findings that there is a theoretical potential for the development of rivers and streams on the Nez Perce-Clearwater to produce water-generated electricity. Each of these studies has its own purpose, criteria, and specific findings.

None of these studies draw a conclusion that any of the named rivers, streams, or developments can be developed for hydropower. None of these studies supports that hydroelectric development is reasonably foreseeable on any stream reach within the Nez Perce-Clearwater. Additionally, there are no known proposals or applications for hydroelectric development on the Nez Perce-Clearwater to support that such development is reasonably foreseeable. However, it is recognized that such development could be proposed, and designation of a Wild and Scenic River would preclude any such development from occurring on that river segment.

A Resource Survey of Low-Head Hydroelectric Potential Pacific Northwest Region; Phase I (Gladwell, 1979)

This report documents the first phase of a study under contract between the University of Idaho, IWRRI, and the U.S. Department of Energy. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the theoretical low-head hydroelectric potential of the Pacific Northwest Region, an area which includes all the Columbia River system in the U.S. and all other river basins in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Low-head hydroelectric power is defined as power produced from sites with gross hydraulic heads up to 20 m and with power plant sizes greater than 200 kW. Phase I of the study defined the theoretical power potential of streams by reaches. Restraint considerations such as land-use restrictions, fish problems, power-line availability and load considerations were identified for each reach. Finally, the most promising areas for low-head hydro development were ranked based on feasibility, transmission, load tables, and flows in the reaches.

Restraint considerations including land-use restrictions, special fish problems, power-line availability and load considerations were identified for each reach. These restraints are identified for each state in the appendices. Volume H, Appendix III, Table II of the report documents these restraints for Idaho. Under the “Feasibility Restraint” heading there are four items that could cause problems related to the development of a low-head hydro project in a particular reach: Land Use Restrictions, Utility Displacement, Building Displacement, and Special Fish Problem (Gladwell et al. 1979a).

The Salmon River, Middle and South Fork Clearwater rivers and their tributaries, except American River and Red River, consistently identify Special Fish Problems, among others, as a feasibility restraint. This indicates the reach supports a known run of salmonids or if a sturgeon population is present. Land Use Restrictions and Utility Displacement are also prevalent in these drainages. For many of the Clearwater River and Salmon River tributaries, transmission and load considerations also pose problems for hydroelectric project development (Gladwell et al. (1979b).

The report identifies the most promising areas for low-head hydroelectric development. Stream Reaches were ranked based on feasibility, transmission, load tables, and flows in the reaches. The report, Volume A, pages 86-87, Table III, Idaho Reach Ranking, presents the ranking by major river segment. For the Snake River reaches, none are identified within the Clearwater or Salmon River basins. This suggests that, based on the criteria that was considered significant to low head hydroelectric development, these drainages did not warrant further consideration(Gladwell et al. 1979b)(Gladwell, Phase I, 1979).

A Resource Survey of Low-Head Hydroelectric Potential at Existing Dams and Proposed Sites in The Pacific Northwest Region; Phase II (Gladwell, 1979)

This report documents the second phase of a study under contract between the University of Idaho, IWRRI, and the U.S. Department of Energy. This report documents an evaluation of the hydro potential for existing dams without present generating capabilities, proposed hydro sites, and at proposed power sites in existing irrigation systems. The existing dams that were studied were those that were identified in state dam registration lists or in the Corps of Engineers Dam Safety Studies, including Dworshak Dam on the North Fork Clearwater River.

The primary sources of information for the proposed sites were previous siting studies done by various federal and state agencies. The primary sources of information for proposed sites in the Clearwater basin included: USGS Water Supply Paper 657, published in 1935; USGS Water Power Resources of Idaho, published in 1965; The Bureau of Reclamation Report on the Western Energy Expansion Study published in 1977; The Corps of Engineers 308 Report, published in 1950. No searches were made for new sites that had not been previously identified.

Undeveloped Hydropower as A Potential Energy Source in Idaho (Warnick, 1979)

This report was based on the work documented in *A Resource Survey of Low-Head Hydroelectric Potential Pacific Northwest Region* (Warnick and Heitz 1979). The report documents an evaluation of more than 550 river reaches in Idaho for the theoretical hydroelectric energy potential of streams for small scale hydropower development where there is no present hydroelectric production.

Rivers evaluated within the Clearwater River basin included the main stem Clearwater, Potlatch River, North Fork Clearwater and tributaries, Middle Fork Clearwater including the Lochsa River and Selway River and their tributaries, and the South Fork Clearwater and tributaries. The report shows considerable theoretical potential for small scale hydro power in the State of Idaho, including the Clearwater River and Salmon river basins.

A preliminary social, political, and environmental feasibility evaluation was made for each reach that had a theoretical energy potential. To accomplish this, a set of parameters that would restrain development were used. These parameters included land use restraints, utility displacement, building displacement, special fish problem, energy transmission and energy load. Notes were made of any reach that appeared to have conditions that met any of the parameters. An initial screening was done to eliminate those reaches that did not warrant further consideration. The remaining reaches were ranked according to the highest available flow available 30 percent of the time. Table 4 lists the most promising reaches having potential for small scale hydro development. After screening for feasibility, the Clearwater and Salmon river basins were dropped from further consideration and are not included in this list (Gladwell et al. 1979a).

Idaho Hydroelectric Potential: Theoretical Potential in Streams and Potential at Existing Dams and Proposed Sites (Heitz, 1980)

This publication is a companion document to *A Resource Survey of Low-Head Hydroelectric Potential Pacific Northwest Region*; Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, University of Idaho September 1979. The information contained in this companion report is specific to the Idaho portion of the study area. The original report identified proposed dam sites throughout the state. These sites were previously identified in various federal and state dam siting studies. No new sites were identified in this report. The sources of information for proposed sites in the Clearwater basin included: USGS Water Supply Paper 657, published in 1935; USGS Water Power Resources of Idaho, published in 1965; The Bureau of Reclamation Report on the Western Energy Expansion Study published in 1977, and; The Corps of Engineers 308 Report, published in 1950, among others.

The report presents the results of evaluation of stream reaches meeting the minimum power requirement (P50>200kW) with 20m of head, where flows exceeded 36 cfs at least 50% of the time. A +reach hydro potential sheet was developed for each stream reach that was studied. A total of 497 reaches were analyzed for the State, with 87 of these in the Clearwater River basin, covering 709 miles. The report showed that Idaho has approximately 23% of the $P_{(30)}$ power potential and 24% of the E(30) energy potential in the Pacific Northwest Region.

Another part of the reach study was the evaluation of the feasibility of development of small hydro projects. Eight items were evaluated for each stream reach studied. Screening the stream reaches was done to represent one possible way to use the feasibility information in choosing the reaches most likely to be developed. Screening was done using the feasibility constraints as well as transmission, load tables, and flows in the reaches. The feasibility, transmission, and load data were used to rank the reaches and their likelihood of development.

Of the 497 reaches studied, 43 or 9% of the reaches survived the screening. Table XV of the report shows that 59 sites with hydro potential between 200kW and 25MW, and 19 sites with hydro potential greater than 25MW in the Clearwater basin were studied. No reaches in the Clearwater or Salmon River basins were survived the screening and were not ranked (Heitz et al. 1980).

Water Energy Resources of the United States with Emphasis on Low Head/Low Power Resources, DOE-ID-11111 (Hall, 2004)

This report documents the analytical assessments of the water energy resources in the 20 hydrologic regions of the United States. This was accomplished using state-of-the-art digital elevation models and geographic information system tools. The principal focus of the study was on low head (less than 30 ft)/low power (less than 1 MW) resources in each region. Stream segments excluded from development and developed hydropower were accounted for to produce an estimate of total available power potential. Summing information for all the regions provided total power potential in various power classes for the entire United States (U.S. Department of Energy 2004).

The amounts of “available” power potential are gross numbers that would be greatly reduced by a feasibility assessment accounting for the viability of resources based on such parameters as site accessibility, proximity to load centers and infrastructure, and constraints on development that have not been addressed in this study. The feasibility of developing these potential resources was not evaluated.

The report indicates that 26% of the Pacific Northwest is currently excluded from development by federal statutes and policies. Two of the metrics measured indicated that the Hawaii and Pacific Northwest Regions were, by far, the largest in total power potential of water energy resources, and in total power potential densities (power potential divided by the regions area: kW/sq mi.). Idaho ranks third in terms of total power potential and total power potential density, and second in terms of available power potential and power potential density of water energy resources.

The study showed that over half of the power potential of the country resides in the top two hydrologic regions: Alaska (29%) and Pacific Northwest (26%); in particular, in the states of Alaska, Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. Nearly half of the available power potential also resides in the top two regions: Alaska (26%) and Pacific Northwest (23%). Viewed from the perspective of where the greatest concentrations of available power potential are located; Hawaii, Washington, and Idaho have the highest concentrations. Idaho ranks fourth in terms of total power potential and third in available power potential of water energy resources (U.S. Department of Energy 2004).

Feasibility Assessment of the Water Energy Resources of the United States for New Low Power and Small Hydro Classes of Hydroelectric Plants; DOE-ID-11262 (Hall, 2006)

In this study, previously identified water energy resource sites were evaluated to determine the feasibility of their development using a set of feasibility criteria. These criteria considered site accessibility, load or transmission proximity, and land use or environmental sensitivities that would make development unlikely. Additionally, the gross power potential of the sites was refined to determine the realistic hydropower potential of the sites using a set of development criteria assuming they are developed as low power (less than 1 MWa) or small hydro (between 1 and 30 MWa) projects. In this assessment, the development model used to assess hydropower potential did not require a total obstruction of the water course or the creation of a reservoir. The results for the country in terms of the number of feasible sites, their total gross power potential, and their total hydropower potential are presented. Water energy resource sites that met the feasibility criteria were designated as feasible potential project sites.

Nationally, slightly over 500,000 water energy resource sites were assessed, and approximately 5,400 sites were identified that could potentially be developed as small hydro plants. Six western states, Alaska, Washington, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana have the highest power potentials. They concluded from the study results that “there are a large number of opportunities for increasing U.S. hydroelectric generation throughout the country that are feasible based on an elementary set of feasibility criteria” (Hall, Idaho National Laboratory 2006). However, the report also acknowledges that local land use, policies, and environmental sensitivities not accounted for in the study may render some of the identified potential projects unfeasible. Additionally, economic factors were not considered that could also affect the development viability of some sites.

The project feasibility criteria that were used to identify feasible potential project sites addressed the likelihood of development based on land use and environmental sensitivities, prior development, site access, and load and transmission proximity. Specifically, the feasibility criteria applied to each water energy resource site were:

- Hydropower potential ≥10 kWa

- Does not lie within a zone in which development is excluded by federal law or policy
- Does not lie within a zone that makes development highly unlikely because of land use designations
- Does not coincide with an existing hydroelectric plant
- Is within 1 mile of a road
- Is within 1 mile of part of the power infrastructure (power plant, power line, or substation) OR is within a typical distance from a populated area for plants of the same power class in the region.

The feasibility assessment identified 127,758 sites as feasible potential projects, having a total gross power potential of 98,700 MWa. Ultimately, approximately 5,400 sites were identified that could potentially be developed as small hydro plants. Idaho ranks third in terms of total gross power potential of water energy resources in the United States and, with 2,122 MWa, fourth in hydropower potential of feasible potential projects. Over 50% of Idaho's water energy resources have not been developed and are not in development exclusion zones (Cook 2014).

Unfortunately, the Virtual Hydropower Prospector GIS application that was used for this study was not accessible. Therefore, the data used and produced regarding specific sites, including in Idaho, were not available.

New Stream-Reach Development: A Comprehensive Assessment of Hydropower Energy Potential in the United States (Kao, 2014)

This study assessed the new stream-reach development (NSD) resource potential of more than 3 million stream reaches across the country to better describe the nation's hydropower resource potential in undeveloped streams. A methodology was designed to identify and characterize stream-reaches with high energy density and, most importantly, to compile and spatially join the energy potential of stream-reaches with information related to natural ecological systems; sensitive species; areas of social and cultural importance; and policy, management, and legal constraints. The methodology used only considered the physical characteristics of each stream and landscape and did not consider feasibility issues arising from environmental impacts, cost, or benefits. It did not produce estimates of capacity, production, cost, or impacts of sufficient accuracy to determine absolute economic feasibility or to justify financial investments in individual site development. The potential high-energy-density areas are considered worthy of more detailed site-by-site evaluation by engineering and environmental professionals; not all areas identified in this assessment will be practical or feasible to develop for various reasons (U.S. Department of Energy 2014).

The study considers over 110 million acres of protected lands in the Pacific Northwest, Region 17, with 49% of that administered by the USDA Forest Service. With a total of 3,793 stream-reaches of high energy density, the report shows that the Pacific Northwest, Region 17, has the highest hydropower potentials in the country; Idaho has the third largest potential capacity behind Oregon and Washington; the Lower Snake Subregion has the highest hydropower potentials; and the Snake, Clearwater and Salmon rivers have the highest hydropower potentials in the Lower Snake Subregion (U.S. Department of Energy 2014).

The study also assessed environmental characteristics that would potentially affect resource potential. It recognized that 16 of the 70 native fish species in the Region fall under an ESA listing or candidate listing, and twenty-eight animal species have critical habitat designations. A high proportion of the total NSD capacity in the Pacific Northwest Region is associated with stream-reaches overlapping ESA critical habitats. The Pacific Northwest, California, Lower Colorado, Great Basin, and Upper Colorado regions have higher proportions of NSD capacity from stream-reaches falling within HUC08 subbasins with three or more fish species falling under ESA listing categories.

The report's concluding statement for Region 17 states, "Out of 3,793 stream-reaches, 83% intersect at least one critical habitat (Figure 20.8). Almost all stream-reaches (99.9%) fell into HUC08 subbasins with at least one fish falling under an ESA category. Likewise, 99% of stream-reaches intersect protected lands, with 4.2% of stream reaches (353 MW) overlapped with national parks and 41% (> 5.99 GW) overlapped with Wild and Scenic Rivers. Almost 66% of stream-reaches are associated with water quality concerns. Recreation is abundant with recreational boating, boat ramps, and fishing access areas intersecting 81%, 25%, and 78% of stream-reaches, respectively. Water use values are about equally distributed among stream-reaches in this region (U.S. Department of Energy 2014)." Clearly these findings suggest the Pacific Northwest Region would demand a more detailed site-by-site evaluation by engineering and environmental professionals before any final determination as to feasibility.

River Analyses

Clearwater River Basin

Potlatch River

Table 10. Potlatch River

Segment Description	Little Boulder Creek Campground to Cedar Creek Confluence
Segment Length	6.4 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	2,048 acres
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Recreation (boatable waters)

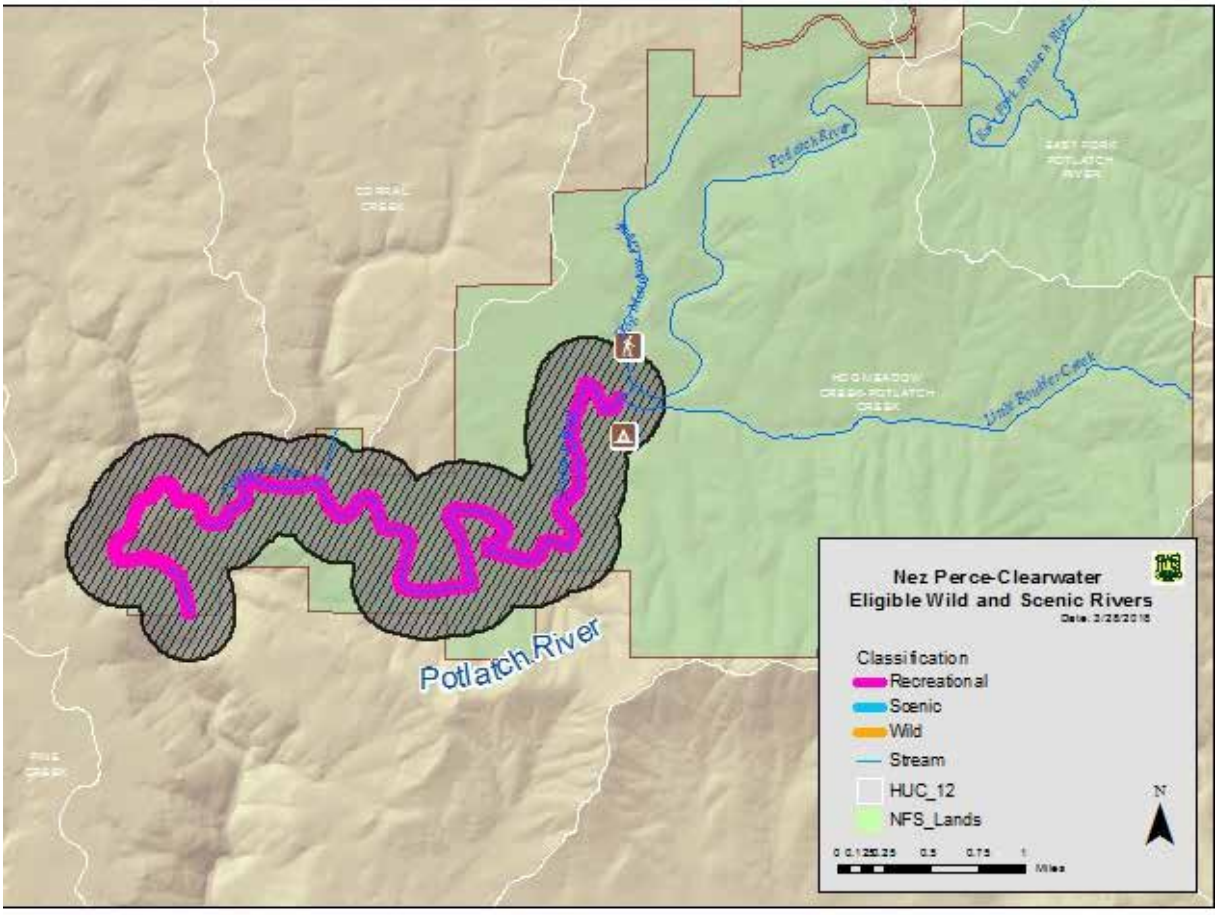

Figure 1. Potlatch River Segment Map

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. **Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system**

The Potlatch River, from Little Boulder Campground to the Cedar Creek Bridge, provides a unique early season kayaking opportunity 15 miles long through a deep, rugged, rocky, inaccessible gorge of basalt

and granite. The easy access to the put in, on a paved road and at relatively low elevation of 2,580 feet at Little Boulder Creek and 1,440 feet at Cedar Creek allows for boating as early as February, March, or April. During this season, other boating opportunities in the region of comparison may be icy or inaccessible due to snow. It provides challenging whitewater with rapids up to a long Class V known as Coleman Falls. An old roadbed parallels the river for a few miles, and some logging roads are visible in the lower canyon but do not provide access to the river. It is otherwise a remote and rugged steep-walled canyon until it opens up in the lower reaches of the run a few miles from the take out. Use is primarily from within the region of comparison from the Moscow, Idaho, area.

The first four to five miles of the run are on National Forest System lands with the remainder through a mix of private, state, and Bureau of Land Management lands. The take out for this upper canyon segment is the Cedar Creek Bridge, accessible from the Cedar Canyon Road. There is no developed take out site at the bridge. Below this bridge, other boating runs are possible through a mix of private lands with fences crossing the stream. The river below Cedar Creek Bridge is not included in the eligible recreation outstandingly remarkable value.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests; the areas both above and below the section proposed are in private ownership. The entire segment is on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production, and this area has been managed primarily for timber production. This area has a timber production emphasis under the 1987 Forest Plan and past management actions include timber harvest. This area is within Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

The proposed segment is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base where timber harvests are one management tool used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and where timber harvest provides products to provide for economic stability for local communities.

The cutting of trees and other vegetation is not permitted within wild designated rivers except when needed in association with a primitive recreation experience, to protect users, or to protect identified outstandingly remarkable values. In scenic and recreational designated rivers, a range of vegetation management and timber harvest practices are allowed if the practices are designed to protect users or protect, restore, or enhance the river environment, including the long-term scenic character.

Timber harvest may be curtailed on 766 acres due to the recreational classification of the Potlatch River. If timber harvest is curtailed or foreclosed on these lands, restoration of forested vegetation would be curtailed on 41 acres within the warm dry potential vegetation type group and 713 acres in the warm moist potential vegetation type group. Additional acres occur on non-forested potential vegetation type groups. Management activities near the river would follow the direction of best management practice for riparian management zones. If included in the national system, management activities within the segment area would have additional restrictions. The segmented area is wider than the riparian management zone.

4. The federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system

5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by state and local agencies

6. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system

Should the Potlatch River be added to the National System by Congress, Congress may or may not authorize or direct the Forest Service to pursue acquisition of lands or land interests, potentially affecting up to 507 acres of private land within the current corridor. As it is not reasonably foreseeable that Congress would direct the agency to acquire lands or land interests, the cost of such an action is not being calculated at this time.

7. A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system

This segment is in Latah County. Latah County has not yet indicated willingness to participate in the preservation and administration of the river nor have they indicated support or opposition to designation.

8. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development

While Latah County zoning rules do apply, it is not apparent that Latah County ordinances would prevent incompatible development nor would they necessarily protect outstandingly remarkable values to a degree greater than already protected by federal and state statute, such as the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.

9. State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objective

11. Support or opposition to designation

The Potlatch River is free-flowing without obstruction for approximately 4.6 miles through the National Forest System lands. However, boaters typically start their journey on National Forest System lands but continue for approximately 15 miles through private lands with multiple ownerships. As is typical for agricultural and corporate lands in this area, these lands may have various developments or improvements, primarily fencing, in or adjacent to the river corridor that could pose safety hazards or adversely affect access to the river. Therefore, the potential for injury or user conflict associated with such improvements may create opposition to designation from these private landowners.

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

All rivers and creeks on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate this river's important contributions to the system.

13. The potential for water resources development

The potential for water resources development is moderate. Private property above and below could impact water flows. Dam construction is unlikely but possible on the Potlatch River.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 11. Potlatch River segment suitability determination alternatives

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

North Fork Clearwater River Basin

North Fork Clearwater River

Table 12. North Fork Clearwater River

Segment Description	Confluence with Marquette Creek to source
Segment Length	78.9 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	25,248 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild in the headwaters downstream to Meadow Creek, then recreational for the remainder
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Scenery, recreation, cultural, Nez Perce Tribe cultural, fish, wildlife, and botany

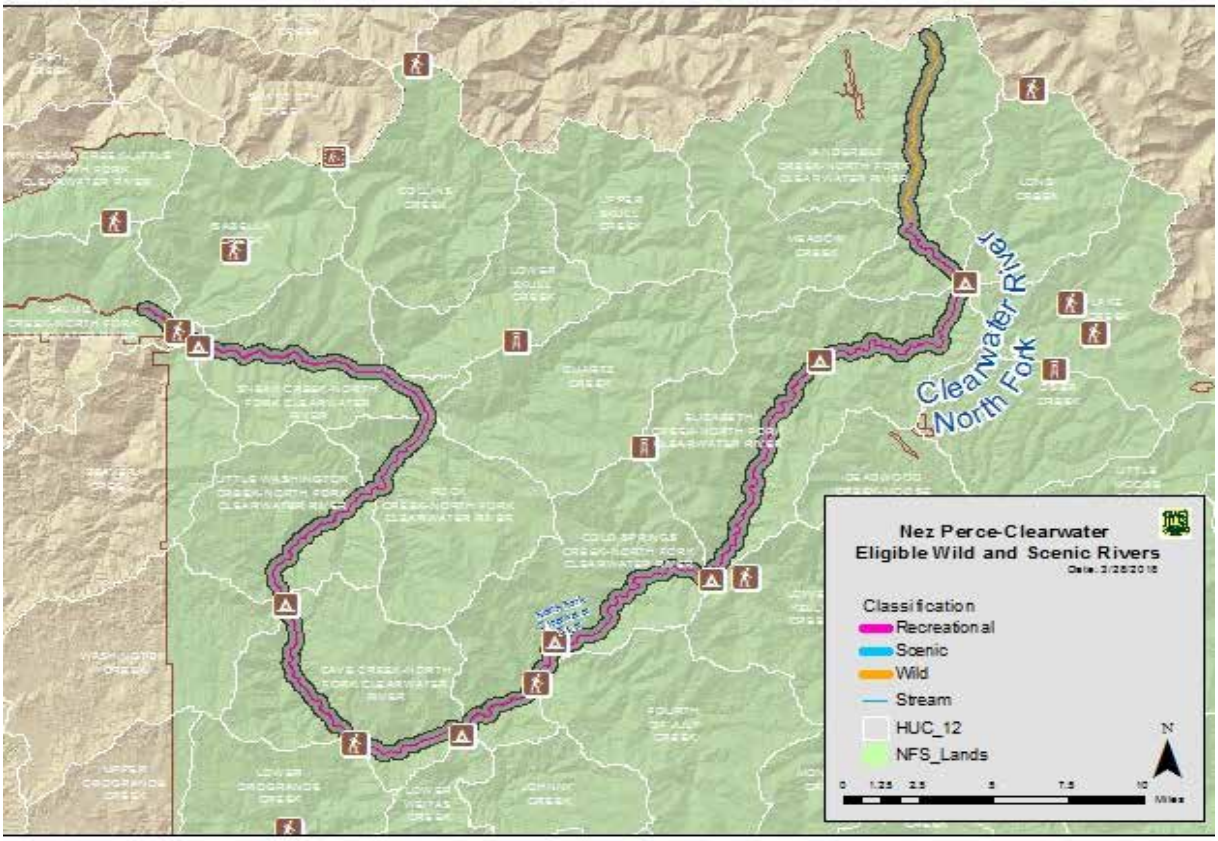

Figure 2. North Fork Clearwater River Segment Map

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The North Fork Clearwater River forms a major, distinctive river canyon on National Forest System lands. This river has recreation, scenic, cultural resources, cultural importance to the Nez Perce Tribe, fish, wildlife, and botany outstandingly remarkable values. For the scenic outstandingly remarkable value, it has cliffs, interesting rock formations, large boulders forming rapids, juxtaposition of white water and

smooth, reflective water, and a variety of vegetation, trees, shrubs, and grasslands along its length. The Black Canyon section is particularly dramatic.

Its outstandingly remarkable value for recreation includes boating and fishing. The North Fork Clearwater River provides 79 miles of boatable water, ranging from flat water to Class IV rapids. Much of the river is readily accessible by road, so various combinations of runs can be done by various watercraft. It also provides high quality Blue Ribbon equivalent fishing opportunities and exemplary fly-fishing opportunities for cutthroat trout that attract out-of-state visitors from within and beyond the region of comparison.

The outstandingly remarkable value for cultural resources can be found from the point of free flow above the reservoir upstream to the Cedars Campground. They include Forest Service administrative history, as well as one of the oldest archaeological sites on the southern Columbia Plateau.

The Nez Perce tribal staff identified this segment as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The fish outstandingly remarkable value for the North Fork Clearwater River is based on diversity and abundance and habitat quality. Though impounded downstream by Dworshak Dam, the remaining free-flowing portions that have been identified as eligible provide an important habitat for a large population of fluvial westslope cutthroat trout and fluvial and adfluvial bull trout; the quality and extent of available habitat is unsurpassed within the region of comparison. The river is included as designated critical habitat for Columbia River bull trout.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. The North Fork Clearwater River has not been assessed or there is insufficient data to determine whether water quality standards are being met or if beneficial uses are supported.

The wildlife outstandingly remarkable value in the North Fork Clearwater River corridor is based on observations of nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous, river dependent wildlife. Specifically, this river hosts populations of the harlequin duck and the Coeur D'Alene salamander. Populations of these two species occur along the majority of the North Fork Clearwater River.

The harlequin duck has been considered rare in Idaho for more than 100 years. In Idaho, approximately 50 pairs of harlequin ducks breed along a limited number of high quality streams within the Priest River, Kootenai River, Clark Fork River, Lake Pend Oreille, St. Joe River, Clearwater River, and the South Fork Snake River watersheds (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017a). Approximately 38 percent of all harlequin duck observations in the Idaho Species Diversity Database[1] have been observed within the Land Management Plan area. Harlequin ducks breed along relatively large, fast-moving mountain streams with gradients of one to seven percent. Breeding streams are characterized by rocky substrates that support the benthic macro-invertebrates upon which the ducks feed, as well as large numbers of rapids and riffle areas interspersed with eddies. Water quality appears to be very important for successful foraging, with clear, low-acid water being optimal. Relative to other species of ducks, harlequin ducks occur at low population densities and exhibit high breeding site fidelity, low reproductive rates, and delayed reproduction. All of these traits contribute to making harlequin duck populations particularly slow to recover from habitat degradation or loss or other factors that may lower duck survival. Harlequin ducks have disappeared from former breeding sites in Idaho and Montana (Wiggins 2005). The North Fork

[1] Idaho Species Diversity Database: https://idfg.idaho.gov/species [accessed April 2017]

Clearwater River contributes substantially to the population of harlequin ducks within the plan area, as well as across Idaho.

Although it is not a wildlife ORV indicator species, the Coeur D'Alene salamander is a regional endemic. While it has narrow habitat characteristics it has an area of distribution from the Selway River north into southern British Columbia, including parts of western Montana. The North Fork Clearwater River and St. Joe River drainages in Idaho and the lower Clark Fork and Kootenai Rivers in Montana comprise the core of the distribution (Groves 1988). A study by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game determined that populations were present at 95% of previously surveyed locations and the populations are stable. Five percent are of unknown status. (Cassirer & Groves, 1994) Coeur d'Alene salamanders have been found in springs or seeps, waterfall spray zones, and edges of streams. It is distributed irregularly across its range in association with sharply fractured rock formations. Genetic evidence suggests there is little to no genetic exchange between populations (Howard et al. 1993).

The botany outstandingly remarkable value applies to the low elevation canyon sections of the river characterized by relatively warm temperatures and high precipitation. This combination of climatic factors, which is rather unusual in the Northern Rocky Mountains, is responsible for an extraordinary assemblage of coastal disjunct and endemic plant and animal taxa and the unique vegetation types found in the area. Refugia species chickweed monkey flower (*Mimulus alsinoides*) and licorice fern (*Polypodium glycyrrhiza*) have been recorded in this area downstream of the confluence with Fish Creek.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

There are a number of developed recreation sites, trails, and roads along the river segment. There are seven campgrounds along the river. There are many trails in the segment, many of which start near the river and access other areas of the national forest. Roads running alongside the river include Forest Road 247, Forest Road 250, Forest Road 5425 at Cedars Campground, and Forest Road 720, known as Fly Hill Road. Over 30 other roads within the corridor provide administrative or public access to the campgrounds and trails.

The North Fork Clearwater River runs along the boundary of a number of Idaho Roadless Areas. The following Idaho Roadless Areas with a backcountry/restoration theme are adjacent to the river: Siwash, Pot Mountain, Bighorn-Weitas, Mallard Larkin, and Moose Mountain. It also runs along the primitive themed roadless areas of Mallard Larkin and Moose Mountain. From the source to about one-half mile upriver from the confluence with Birch Creek, it is within the Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork primitive Idaho Roadless Area. Management has been for non-motorized, dispersed recreation within the backcountry/restoration and primitive roadless areas. The river also runs through the Aquarius Research Natural Area and is adjacent to the Chateau Falls Research Natural Area.

In addition, sections of the river flow through blocks of the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 and 1987 Forest Plan management areas E1 and E3, which both have a timber production emphasis. Timber harvest and elk habitat improvement projects have occurred within the river corridor.

The river runs through the Aquarius Research Natural Area and is adjacent to the Chateau Falls Research Natural Area. The Aquarius Research Natural Area encompasses a cross section of canyon that contains many of these rare and unique climatic elements. The Chateau Falls Research Natural Area consists of steep mountainous terrain and features waterfalls on Chateau Creek. The forests burned in the catastrophic wildfire of 1919 and possibly again in 1929 or 1931, and much of the area in the Research Natural Area remains in a shrub state.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If a segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated. No changes to motorized use in the upper reaches that are recommended for wild classification would occur, as no motorized use is currently permitted in that section.

This section of the North Fork Clearwater River is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are one management tool used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and where timber harvest provides products that would contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest would be limited in the recreational section to practices designed to protect users or protect, restore, or enhance the river environment. Timber harvest would be limited in the wild section to actions needed in association with a primitive recreation experience, to protect users, or to protect outstandingly remarkable values. Therefore, experience has shown, timber harvest would be extremely limited by these management objectives on the approximately 25,000 acres within the designated corridor.

Areas along much of the North Fork Clearwater River provide winter habitat for big game and, of particular interest, for elk. Changes in vegetation succession have been cited as a factor contributing to declining elk populations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2014). Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

A variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, have habitat within the river corridor and would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. Lynx habitat occurs along the North Fork Clearwater River, from the confluence with Lake Creek upstream to the headwaters. Conservation of these habitats within the river corridor would be preserved or enhanced should the river be included in the national system.

No changes are anticipated to the land use surrounding the North Fork Clearwater River in wilderness areas, roadless areas, or research natural areas.

The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry/restoration themed areas. However, for backcountry/restoration areas, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction and surface occupancy in primitive theme areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

The federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system.

4. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies

5. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system

6. A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system

7. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development

This is not an issue since there are no private lands in the corridor or visible from the corridor.

8. State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands

This segment does not include any non-federal lands.

9. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives

Designation is inconsistent with the Clearwater County Natural Resource Plan.

Designation is inconsistent with Idaho Park and Recreation programs and policies. The Idaho Fish and Game has not indicated whether designation would be consistent with agency plans nor have they indicated support or opposition.

The North Fork Clearwater River segment from the headwaters to Wrangle Creek and the segment from Isabella to Dworshak were identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the North Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 1996). These sections are designated as natural rivers and are free of substantial impoundments, dams, or other structures, and the riparian areas are largely undeveloped. The outstanding values recognized are species of concern and scenery. Activities prohibited are alterations of the stream bed, construction of hydropower projects, construction of water diversion works, construction or expansion of dams or impoundments, dredge or placer mining, and mineral or sand and gravel extraction within the stream bed.

The North Fork Clearwater River, from Wrangle Creek to Isabella Creek, was also identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the North Fork Clearwater River Basin. It is designated a recreational river and may include some man-made development in the waterway or riparian area. The outstanding values recognized are species of concern, boating opportunity, geological features, and scenery. Activities prohibited are construction of hydropower projects, construction of water diversion works, construction or expansion of dams or impoundments, and mineral or sand and gravel extraction within the stream bed. Stream bed alteration is allowed to provide for maintenance and construction of bridges and culverts and installation of fisheries enhancement structures. Bridges and culverts must be constructed and maintained to reduce sedimentation and to allow unrestricted fish passage. Alteration of the stream bed for recreational dredge mining is allowable as regulated by the Idaho Department of Lands and the Idaho Department of Water Resources during the period of June 30 to August 15. A permit from the Idaho Department of Water Resources is required.

All landowners—private, state, and federal—are encouraged to manage their lands consistent with the Idaho Water Resource Board's protection designations. The Idaho Water Resource Board also encourages

federal resource management agencies to work within the comprehensive state water planning process rather than pursuing federal protection of waters within Idaho.

10. Support or opposition to designation

Many members of the public, river conservation groups, and local environmental groups have expressed support for a finding of suitable or designation of the North Fork Clearwater River.

Additionally, the history of damming on the river and the number of potential dam sites remaining on the river suggest legislation may be needed to prevent future dam building.

11. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

This is one of the major rivers on the national forest and is itself a basin. Its overall health contributes to and defines basin integrity.

12. The potential for water resources development

Theoretical low head and small hydro-electric potential exists within many of the rivers and streams within the Nez Perce-Clearwater. However, when considering other ecologic, social, and economic factors analyzed in studies, the feasibility of hydrologic development seems highly unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 13. North Fork Clearwater River segment suitability determination by alternative

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Bostonian Creek, Boundary Creek, Caledonia Creek, and Graves Creek

Table 14. Bostonian Creek, Boundary Creek, Caledonia Creek, and Graves Creek

Segment Description	Graves and Boundary creeks: confluence with the North Fork Clearwater River to headwaters Bostonian Creek: mouth to headwaters Caledonia Creek: mouth to private land boundary
Segment Length	10.6 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	3,392 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Fish

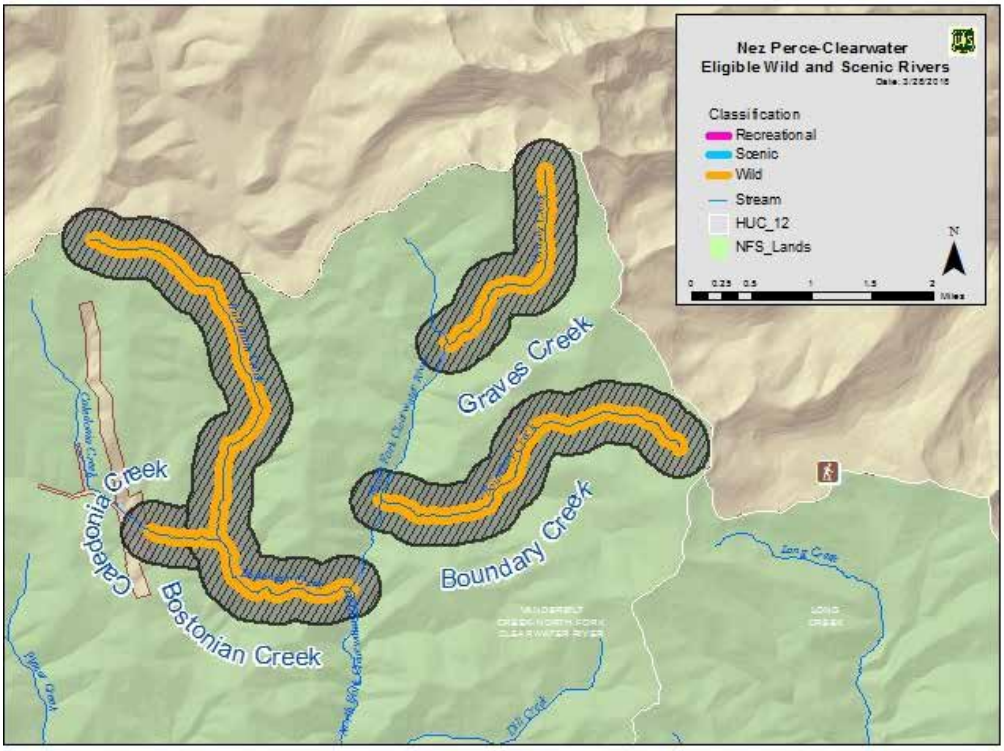

Figure 3. Bostonian Creek, Boundary Creek, Caledonia Creek, and Graves Creek segment map

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The fish outstandingly remarkable value includes habitat quality and natural reproduction. Collectively, eligible stream segments included in this group comprise the most significant complex of modeled climate shield reaches for bull trout persistence in 2040 within the region of comparison (Isaak et al. 2015). Accordingly, the highest known numbers of fluvial and adfluvial bull trout within the region of comparison spawn in these streams, and habitat supports very high densities of juveniles. These streams are critically important to meet recovery goals for Columbia River bull trout. They contain designated critical habitat for bull trout and a local population has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior

2015). A population of westslope cutthroat trout is also present. There are no known non-native aquatic species.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Bostonian Creek, Boundary Creek, Caledonia Creek, and Graves Creek have not been assessed or there is insufficient data to determine if water quality standards are being met or if beneficial uses are supported.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The segments are in the primitive themed Meadow Creek-Upper North Fork Idaho Roadless Area.

Historical mining took place in Bostonian Creek and Caledonia Creek. The area above the eligible segment of Caledonia Creek has a patented mining claim and is in private ownership.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

No changes are anticipated to land use since the area surrounding the creeks has been managed to protect the primitive theme of an Idaho Roadless Area. A wild and scenic designation would enhance the protections. However, under the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If these segments are found suitable, a wild designation would result in timber modified, reduced, or curtailed on 2,454 acres.

The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction and surface occupancy in primitive theme areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

4. The federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system

5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by state and local agencies

6. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system

7. A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system

8. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development

There is private land along Caledonia Creek upstream of the segment proposed for designation. If changes in water quality and sedimentation occur from land use on these private lands, the habitat for bull trout could be affected.

9. State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands

These segments do not include any non-federal lands.

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

Bostonian, Boundary, Caledonia, and Graves Creeks were identified as important contributors to the river system and to basin integrity. A fish outstandingly remarkable value corresponding to the potential to support recovery goals of Endangered Species Act listed aquatic species has been identified. These creeks are some of the larger tributaries in the sub-basin and basin. As such, they play an important ecological role in providing clean, free-flowing water, and habitat for fish and wildlife species. They also are often critically important culturally in the present day, historically, and prehistorically.

13. The potential for water resources development

Theoretical low head and small hydro-electric potential exists within many of the rivers and streams within the Nez Perce-Clearwater. However, when considering other ecologic, social, and economic factors analyzed in studies, the feasibility of hydrologic development seems highly unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 15. Bostonian Creek, Boundary Creek, Caledonia Creek, and Graves Creek segment suitability determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable

Cave Creek and Chateau Creek

Table 16. Cave Creek and Chateau Creek

Segment Description	Chateau: confluence with North Fork Clearwater River to headwaters. Cave: confluence with Chateau Creek to headwaters
Segment Length	7.2 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	2,304 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Scenic

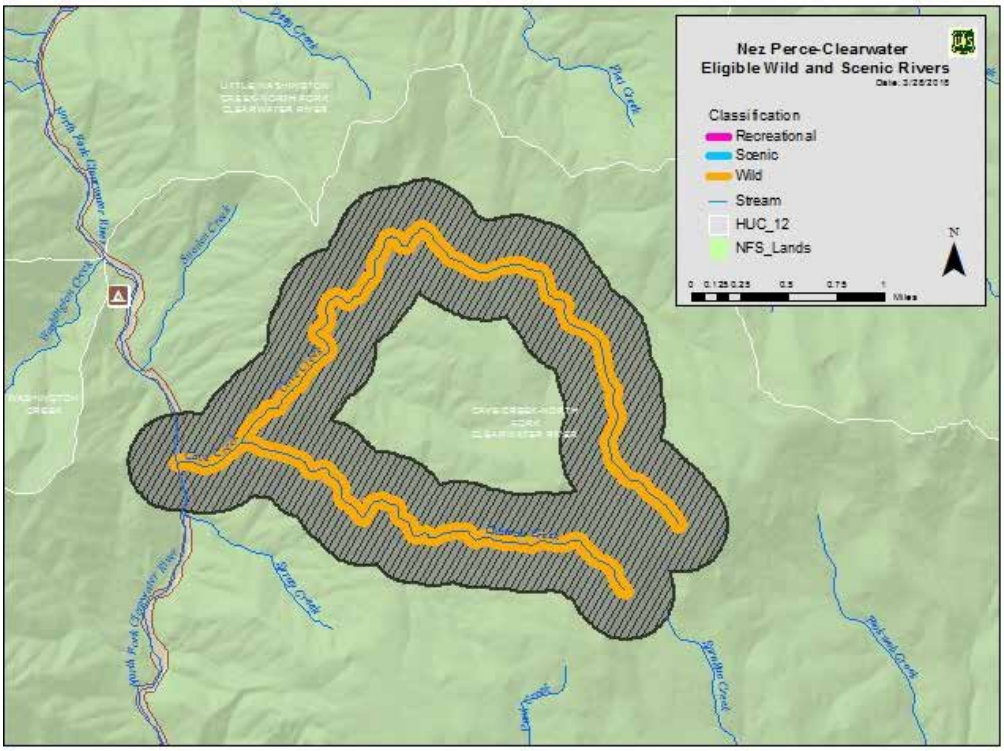

Figure 4. Cave Creek and Chateau Creek segment map

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

These North Fork Clearwater River tributaries have highly scenic waterfalls, including multiple drops over pink granite. Part of this segment is within the Chateau Falls Research Natural Area, largely due to the waterfalls. The Chateau Falls Research Natural Area consists of steep mountainous terrain and features waterfalls on Chateau Creek. The area burned in the catastrophic wildfire of 1919, and possibly again in 1929 or 1931, and much of the area remains in a shrub state.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Cave Creek and Chateau Creek are meeting water quality standards and fully supporting

beneficial uses. Beneficial uses for these streams are cold water aquatic life, primary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the corridor proposed are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The segments are mostly within the Pot Mountain Idaho Roadless Area, which holds a backcountry/restoration theme. A section of the Chateau Creek from the confluence with Cave Creek to 0.84 miles upstream is in the Pot Mountain Idaho Roadless Area and is part of the research natural area.

Within the corridor the Cave Creek Trail, Trail #617, is open to motorcycle use.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated. If the segment is designated wild,motorized use would be prohibited.

No other changes are anticipated to land use since the area surrounding the creeks has been managed to protect the research natural area and roadless area.

However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If these segments are found suitable, a wild designation would result in timber modified, reduced, or curtailed on 2,285 acres.

The Idaho Roadless Rule prohibits the development of leasable minerals on these creeks in the Idaho Roadless Rule special themed areas. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction and surface occupancy in special theme areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872. There currently are no mining claims near either Cave or Chateau Creek.

A wild and scenic designation would prohibit water developments. These are very small streams and do not have any dam sites identified. Although waterfalls, in general, could be considered for small hydropower development, these streams are nowhere near private land or Forest Service administrative sites and are not at risk for this type of development. The protections in the Idaho Roadless Rule and the research natural area are sufficient for the scenic features of the rocks and waterfalls.

4. The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system

5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies

6. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system

7. A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system

8. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development

This is not an issue since there is no private land in the corridor or visible from the corridor.

9. State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands

This segment does not include any non-federal lands.

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

All rivers and creeks on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate both creeks' important contributions to the system.

13. The potential for water resources development

Theoretical low head and small hydro-electric potential exists within many of the rivers and streams within the Nez Perce-Clearwater. However, when considering other ecologic, social, and economic factors analyzed in studies, the feasibility of hydrologic development is highly unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 17. Cave Creek and Chateau Creek segment suitability determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Weitas Creek

Table 18. Weitas Creek

Segment Description	Confluence with North Fork Clearwater River to headwaters
Segment Length	28.5 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	9,120
Preliminary Classification	Scenic
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Nez Perce Tribe cultural, recreation, and fish

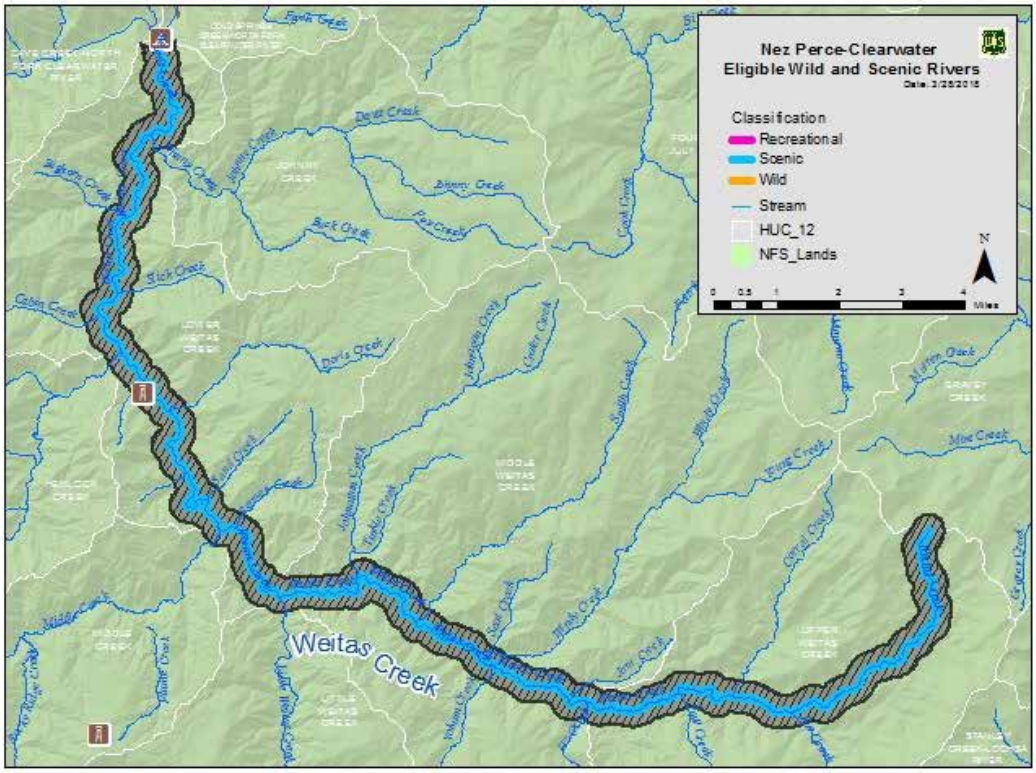

Figure 5. Weitas Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. **Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system**

Nez Perce tribal staff identified this segment as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

In the draft wild and scenic rivers eligibility review, the Nez Perce Tribe cultural importance was the only outstandingly remarkable value identified by the Forest Service. Public comment suggested scenery, recreation, botany, wildlife, history, and water quality be added as outstandingly remarkable values. After further review, outstandingly remarkable values for both recreation and fish were added. Weitas Creek did not meet the established criteria for botany, wildlife, or history. Water quality is considered an important part of all rivers and not a separate outstandingly remarkable value.

For the recreation outstandingly remarkable value, Weitas Creek provides an exemplary trout fly fishing experience from a trail along one of the largest tributaries of the North Fork Clearwater River. Although not as famous as the nearby Kelly Creek, use has increased with the reopening of the road bridge over the North Fork Clearwater River near the mouth of Weitas Creek.

The fish outstandingly remarkable value is based on abundance and diversity, natural reproduction, and habitat quality. Weitas Creek is home to one of three extremely important fluvial westslope cutthroat populations in the North Fork Clearwater River basin and one of six in the region of comparison. Fluvial bull trout are also present. Eligible river segments are included as designated critical habitat for Columbia River bull trout and a local population has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Habitat has been minimally affected by human disturbance.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Weitas Creek has portions that have not been assessed and other sections that are meeting water quality standards and fully supporting beneficial uses. Beneficial uses are cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The segment is within the Bighorn-Weitas Idaho Roadless Area, which holds backcountry/restoration theme. The Weitas Creek area is a popular recreation destination and is a significant tributary to the North Fork Clearwater River.

Within the segment, Forest Road 105 leads to Weitas Campground at the confluence with the North Fork Clearwater River. Also, Trail 20, which allows for non-motorized and motorcycles use, runs along the creek for over 27 miles. Dozens of non-motorized trails are present in the segment.

The Weitas Guard Station, Forest Road 555 (with a bridge crossing the creek), Forest Road 555-C, and Forest Road 555-F are within the segment.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If designated scenic, as recommended, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

If the segment is designated wild, motorized use in this area would be curtailed.

The area has been managed to protect the backcountry/restoration theme of an Idaho Roadless Area. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If these segments are found suitable, a scenic designation would result in timber harvest modified, reduced, or curtailed on 9,136 acres.

The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry/restoration theme areas; however, for backcountry/restoration areas, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The rule does not protect this area from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

As one of the large tributaries to the North Fork Clearwater River, a wild and scenic designation would enhance protections and prohibit water developments.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

This is not an issue since there is no private land in the corridor or visible from the corridor.

9. **The State or local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

This segment does not include any non-federal lands.

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

Weitas Creek Outfitters, an Idaho licensed outfitter that operates under a Forest Service special use permit, offers fly fishing opportunities for their clients.

Designation of the segment as suitable, particularly where the segment is included as designated critical habitat for an Endangered Species Act-listed fish species or where it has an additional priority identified in any recovery plan for a listed fish species, would be consistent with recovery goals identified in recovery planning.

From the headwaters to the mouth, Weitas Creek was identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the North Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 1996) . It is designated a natural river and is free of substantial impoundments, dams, or other structures, and the riparian area is largely undeveloped. The outstanding values recognized are species of concern, salmonid spawning, and scenery. Activities prohibited are alterations of the stream bed, construction of hydropower projects, construction of water diversion works, construction or expansion of dams or impoundments, dredge or placer mining, and mineral or sand and gravel extraction within the stream bed.

All landowners, private, State, and Federal, are encouraged to manage their lands consistent with the Idaho Water Resource Board's protection designations. The Idaho Resource Board also encourages Federal resource management agencies to work within the comprehensive state water planning process rather than pursue federal protection of waters within Idaho.

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

Weitas Creek is an important large tributary to the North Fork Clearwater River, which is also an eligible river.

Weitas Creek was identified as an important contributor to the river system and to basin integrity. Multiple outstandingly remarkable values have been identified, including a fish outstandingly remarkable value corresponding to the creek's potential to support recovery goals of Endangered Species Act-listed aquatic species. Weitas Creek is one of the larger tributaries to the North Fork Clearwater River. As such, it plays an important ecological role in providing clean, free-flowing water and habitat for fish and wildlife species. They also are often critically important culturally in the present day, historically, and prehistorically.

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 19. Weitas Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable

Cliff Creek, Falls Creek, Lost Pete Creek

Table 20. Cliff Creek, Falls Creek, Lost Pete Creek

Segment Description	Cliff Creek: confluence with Collins Creek to headwaters Falls Creek: confluence with Isabella Creek to headwaters Lost Pete Creek: confluence with North Fork Clearwater River to headwaters
Segment Length	10.0 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	3,200 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Geology

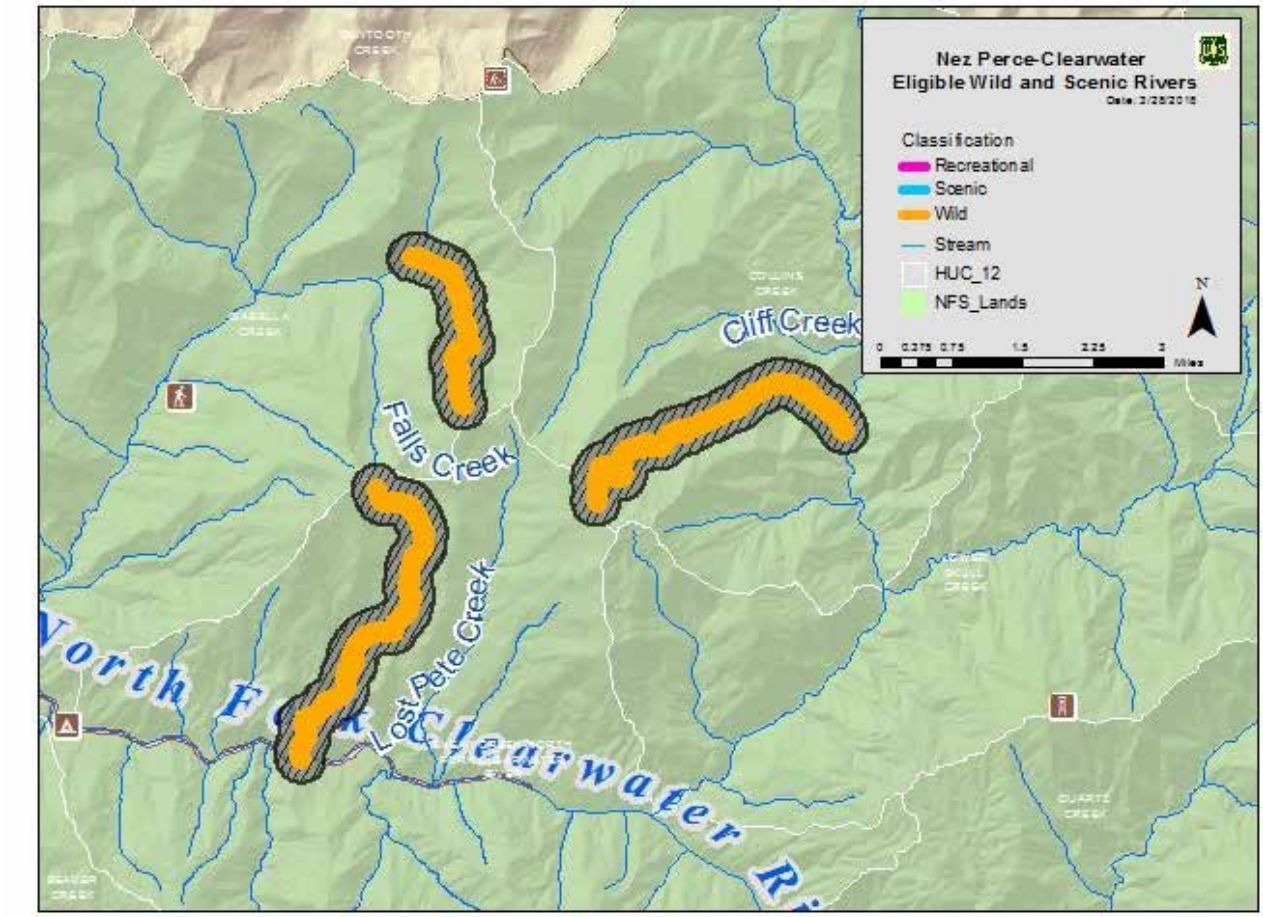

Figure 6. Cliff Creek, Falls Creek, Lost Pete Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. **Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system**

For the most part, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests do not have very many water-related geological outstandingly remarkable values, features directly related to water and streams.

With their vertical drop and falling characteristics, the waterfalls in Cliff Creek, Falls Creek, and Lost Pete Creek in the North Fork Clearwater subbasin are on par with other spectacular waterfalls in the region of comparison and, therefore, were determined to be outstandingly remarkable.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Cliff Creek and Lost Pete Creek are meeting water quality standards and fully supporting beneficial uses. Beneficial uses for Cliff Creek are aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and wildlife habitat. Beneficial uses for Lost Pete Creek are cold water aquatic life, primary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning. Falls Creek is listed as impaired (Class 4A) for water temperature and is not supporting cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning beneficial uses. It is fully supporting secondary contact recreation. Falls Creek is included in the Environmental Protection Act approved Lower North Fork Clearwater River Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load Addendum. A total maximum daily load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the total maximum daily load allocated to a stream.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

Cliff Creek and Falls Creek are in the Mallard-Larkins Idaho Roadless Area, which holds a wildland recreation theme. Lost Pete Creek is also in the Mallard-Larkins Idaho Roadless Area and holds wildland recreation and primitive themes.

A couple of non-motorized trails are in this segment and there are no roads.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

Changes to land use are not anticipated since the surrounding area has been managed to protect the Mallard-Larkins Idaho Roadless Area.

In the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes within primitive theme areas. If the segment of Lost Pete Creek that flows through the primitive theme area of the Mallard-Larkins Roadless Area is found suitable, the wild designation would result in timber modified, reduced, or curtailed on 3,180 acres.

The Idaho Roadless Rule prohibits the development of leasable minerals on these creeks. No road construction or reconstruction or surface occupancy is allowed within primitive or wildland recreation theme areas. However, the rule does not protect from water developments or mining activities governed by the General Mining Law of 1872. Nevertheless, water development is not ideal on these creeks given their relatively small size, location, and lack of non-federal ownership.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality would participate in monitoring water quality. The Idaho Water Resource Board administers water rights within the state.

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

All rivers and creeks on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate these creek's important contributions to the system.

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 21. Cliff Creek, Falls Creek, Lost Pete Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Elk Creek

Table 22. Elk Creek

Segment Description	Downstream of Elk Creek Reservoir and above Dworshak Reservoir high pool
Segment Length	4.9 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	1,568 acres (including 125 acres of private land)
Preliminary Classification	Scenic
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Scenic, recreation, and botany

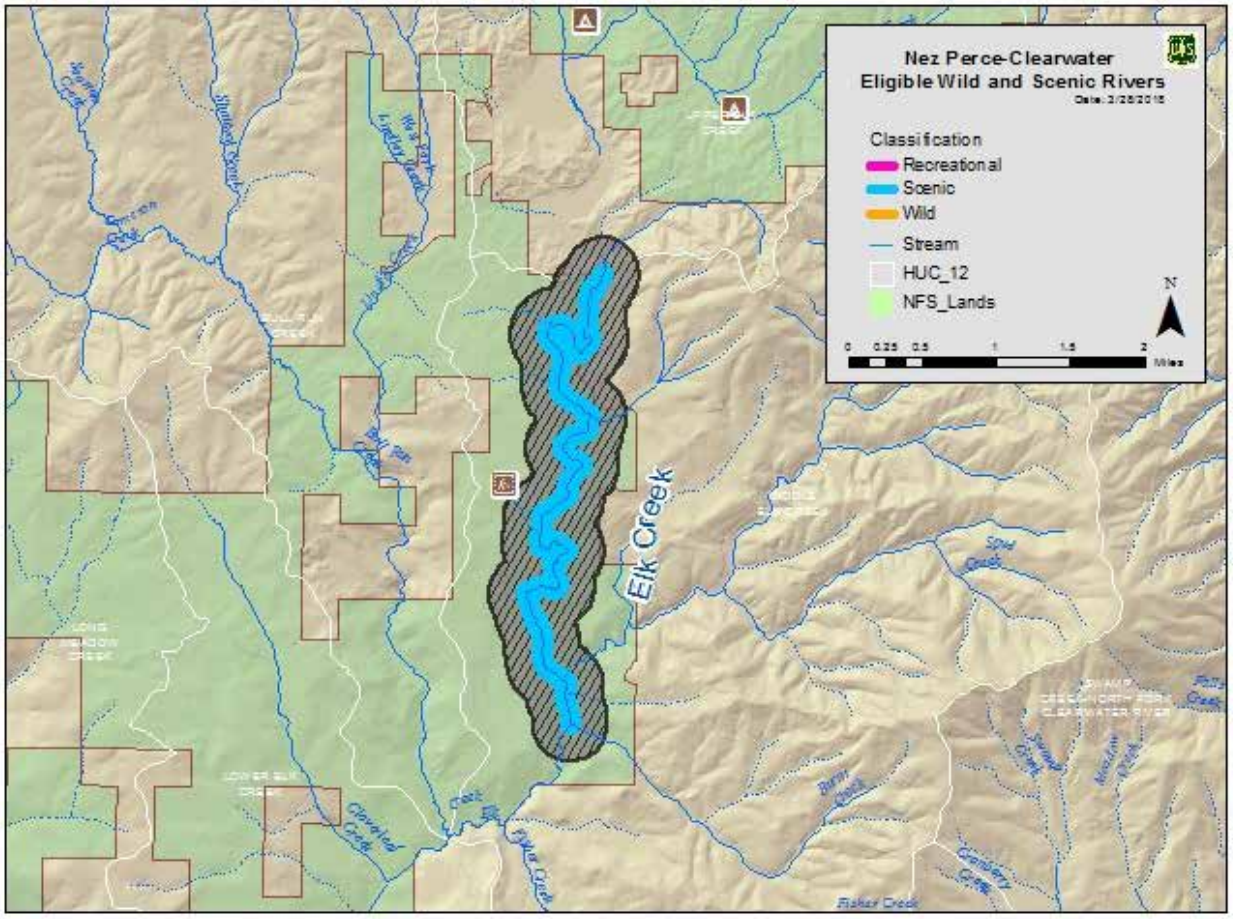

Figure 7. Elk Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. **Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system**

Figure 8. Elk Creek waterfalls

The scenic outstandingly remarkable value is based on a series of highly scenic waterfalls that is unique because of the presence of five waterfalls in varying types from punchbowl to cataract dropping in basalt cliffs within a one-half mile segment of Elk Creek. The waterfalls are accessed from a trail and are visible across open grassland and rock formations in the canyon. The area has long been managed for its high scenic quality.

The Elk Creek Falls Trail has a national recreation trail designation for this popular, family-friendly trail two miles from the city of Elk River, population 125. Although there are many waterfalls in the region of comparison, few waterfalls can be reached by hiking only a few miles across gentle terrain. It is a featured site along the Elk River backcountry byway. Pools below the waterfalls are also used for swimming and soaking.

Elk Creek exhibits core coastal refugia plant associations that are remnants of the last Ice Age. Although there are other examples of coastal refugia on the national forest, only six streams exhibit the core coastal refugia characteristics.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for water bodies in Idaho. Elk Creek is listed as Class 4A, impaired, for water temperature, physical substrate habitat alterations, and other flow regime alterations and does not support cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning beneficial uses. It fully supports primary contact recreation. Elk Creek is included in the Environmental Protection Agency approved Clearwater River Subbasin, Lower North Fork Clearwater Total Maximum Daily Load Plan. A total maximum daily load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the total maximum daily load allocated to a stream.

2. **The current status of land ownership and use in the area**

The area maintains mixed ownership with both National Forest System lands and private lands. The Elk Creek Falls Trail that provides access to the waterfalls is managed as a national recreation trail. A 720-

acre portion of the corridor has been managed as the Elk Creek Falls National Recreation Area since 1977. Management has been for non-motorized, dispersed recreation associated with viewing the waterfalls. Timber management has been used to manage for hazard and disease trees.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

Changes to land use are not anticipated since much of the area has been managed to protect the waterfalls and the national recreation trail.

The proposed segment is in the suitable timber base of Land Management Plan Management Area 3, where timber harvests provide a management tool to move current vegetation conditions towards the desired conditions and provide products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be modified, reduced, or curtailed on 1,600 acres due to the scenic classification. About 60 percent of the acres mentioned are within the Elk Creek Falls Recreation Area, so it is unlikely that vegetation management would change. However, current management of the recreation area is guided by the 1987 Forest Plan. As the 1987 Forest Plan is revised, it is possible that management direction for the recreation area would change.

Management activities near the river would follow the direction of the best management practices designed for riparian management zones. If included in the national system, management activities within the segment would have additional restrictions. The segment is wider than the riparian management zone.

Water flow is currently sufficient to maintain waterfall values, even during mid-August low flows. Upstream surface water rights include the City of Elk River with 6 cubic feet per second for municipal water and with 25 cubic feet per second for fish propagation in the Elk Creek Reservoir, an Idaho Fish and Game recreational fishery. Several other water rights for minor amounts are decreed for commercial and domestic use. If designated, the Forest Service would pursue a water right to maintain outstandingly remarkable values. If demand for water rights increases, the water flows through the falls could be affected.

4. The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system

5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies

6. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system

The Forest Service’s authority for finding a river eligible or suitable only applies to National Forest System lands. Only the Forest Service administered portions of the creek would be managed as eligible or suitable. At this time, the Forest Service is not pursing acquisition of lands or interests in lands on the basis of wild and scenic rivers. However, should Elk Creek be added to the national system by Congress, Congress may or may not authorize or direct the Forest Service to pursue acquisition of lands or land interests, potentially affecting up to 125 acres of private land within the corridor. As it is not reasonably foreseeable that Congress would direct the agency to acquire lands or land interests, the cost of such an action is not being calculated at this time.

7. A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system

Elk River is a recreation-based community and encourages visitors to enjoy Elk Creek Falls in their electronic and print media. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality would participate in monitoring water quality. The Idaho Department of Water Resources administers water rights within the state.

8. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development

Clearwater County does have zoning ordinances. It is not apparent that Clearwater County ordinances would prevent incompatible development nor would they necessarily protect outstandingly remarkable values to a degree greater than already protected by federal and state statutes (Clearwater County Commissioners, 2018).

9. State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives

The Elk Creek segment from its headwaters to Deep Creek was identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the North Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 1996). It is designated as a recreational river and may include some man-made development in the waterway or riparian area. Recreational use is the outstanding value recognized. Activities prohibited include construction of hydropower projects, construction of water diversion works, construction or expansion of dams or impoundments, dredge or placer mining, and mineral, sand, and gravel extraction within the stream bed. Stream bed alteration is allowed to provide for maintenance and construction of bridges and culverts and installation of fisheries enhancement structures. Bridges and culverts must be constructed and maintained to reduce sedimentation and to allow unrestricted fish passage.

All landowners—private, state, and federal—are encouraged to manage their lands consistent with the Idaho Water Resource Board's protection designations. The Idaho Water Resource Board also encourages federal resource management agencies to work within the comprehensive state water planning process rather than pursue federal protection of waters within Idaho.

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

System integrity is not present due to reservoirs both upstream and downstream of the segment.

All rivers and creeks on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and have the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate this creek's important contributions to the system.

13. The potential for water resources development

There are currently dams both upstream and downstream of the segment. Additional water rights could be filed to supply private lands in and around Elk River.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 23. Elk Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Beaver Creek, Elmer Creek, and Isabella Creek

Table 24. Beaver Creek, Elmer Creek, and Isabella Creek

Segment Description	**Beaver Creek: confluence with North Fork Clearwater River to 1.47 miles upstream Elmer Creek: confluence with Isabella Creek to confluence with Johns Creek Isabella Creek: confluence with North Fork Clearwater River to confluence with Jug Creek**
Segment Length	7.3 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	2,336 acres, including 21 acres of private land in the Beaver Creek corridor
Preliminary Classification	Isabella Creek and Beaver Creek: recreation Elmer Creek: wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Botany

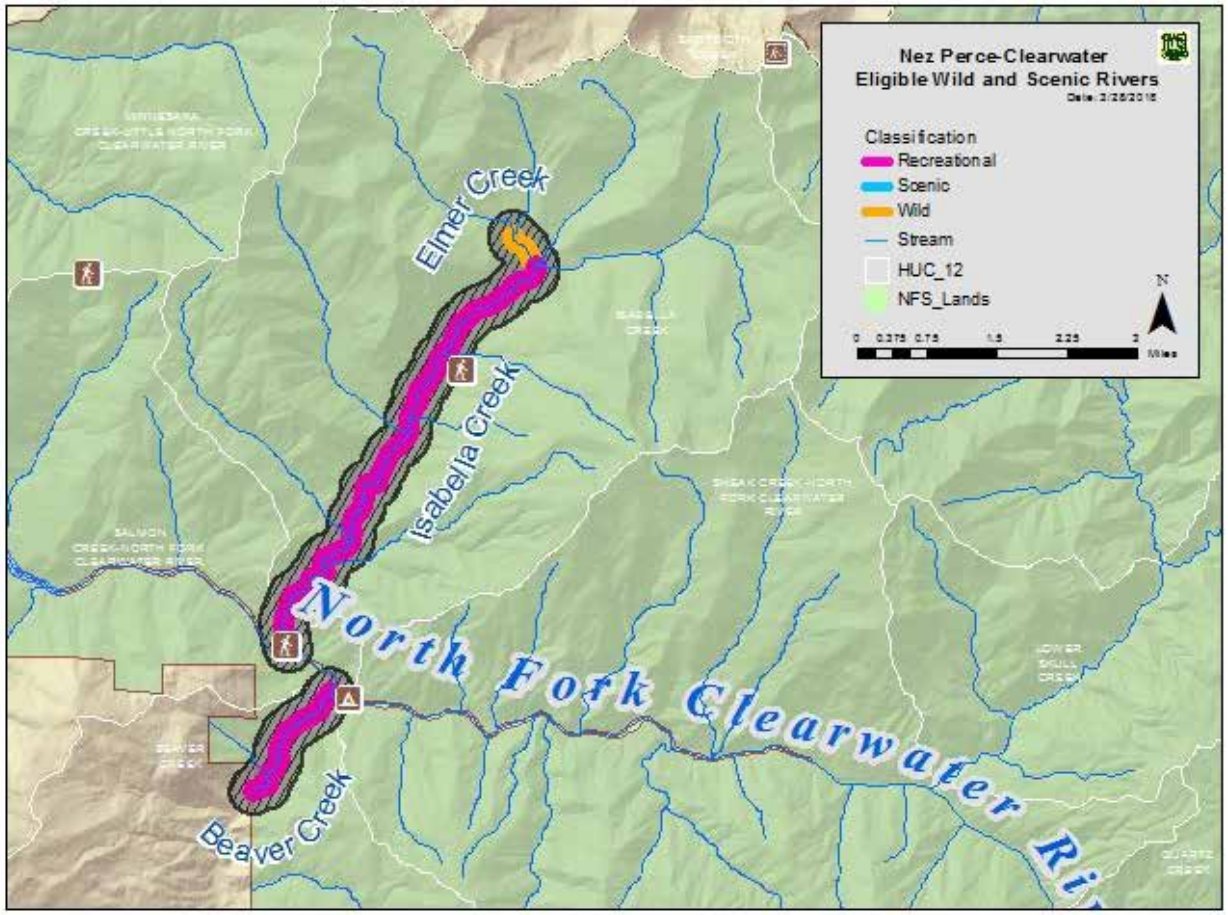

Figure 9. Beaver Creek, Elmer Creek, and Isabella Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The Beaver and Isabella Creeks flow into the North Fork Clearwater River in the Aquarius Research Natural Area. This section of the North Fork Clearwater River is a low elevation canyon characterized by relatively warm temperatures and high precipitation. This rather unusual combination of climatic factors in the Northern Rocky Mountain is responsible for an extraordinary assemblage of coastal disjunct and endemic plant and animal taxa and the unique vegetation types found in the area. The Aquarius Research Natural Area encompasses a cross section of canyon that contains many of these rare and unique elements.

Beaver Creek: The Aquarius Research Natural Area is on the west side of Beaver Creek from the confluence with the North Fork Clearwater River to about 0.25-miles upstream. No specific refugia species was identified for this segment.

Elmer Creek: *Thelypteris nevadensis* (Sierra wood-fern) is found here.

Isabella Creek: The mouth of this creek is in the Aquarius Research Natural Area. Polypodium glycyrrhiza (licorice fern) is found here. A Thelypteris nevadensis (Sierra wood-fern) site is located just outside of the 0.25-mile segment area.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Isabella Creek and Beaver Creek are listed as impaired, Class 4A, for water temperature and do not support cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning beneficial uses. They fully support secondary contact recreation. Both creeks are included in the Environmental Protection Agency's approved Lower North Fork Clearwater River Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load Addendum. A total maximum daily load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the total maximum daily load allocated to a stream. Elmer Creek meets water quality standards and fully supports cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning beneficial uses.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

Beaver Creek runs alongside Forest Road 247. The Aquarius Campground, Forest Road 6061, and Forest Road 6061A (ML-1) are within the segment. The west side of the creek from the confluence with the North Fork Clearwater River is in the Aquarius Research Natural Area. The rest of the area is in the roaded front Management Area 3. Various timber harvest activities have occurred within the Beaver Creek corridor.

Isabella Creek runs alongside of Forest Road 700 and Forest Road 705. The Isabella Landing and Trailhead, which allows motorcyclists; the Isabella Point Trailhead, including two campground units at the trailhead; Forest Road 5339 (ML-1); and Forest Road 74023 (ML-1) are within the segment. The Mallard-Larkins Idaho Roadless Area runs along the west side of Forest Road 705 within the segment. After Forest Road 705 leaves the creek, the creek enters the roadless area. Approximately one mile is within the primitive themed area and one-half mile is within the wild land recreation theme. From the confluence with the North Fork Clearwater River to the roadless area, this creek is in the roaded front Management Area 3. Various timber harvest activities have occurred within the Isabella Creek corridor.

Elmer Creek is in the Mallard-Larkins Idaho Roadless Area's wild land recreation theme. There are no roads in this segment.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

The proposed segment is in Land Management Plan's suitable timber base within Management Area 3 where timber harvests move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and provide products that contribute to the economic stability of local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed on 2,352 acres of the Isabella Creek and Beaver Creek corridors due to the recreational classification.

Isabella Creek also flows through Idaho Roadless Rule lands with themes that allow timber harvest for ecological restoration and other purposes. If this segment is found to be suitable, restoration activities would be curtailed within the corridor.

Management activities near the river would follow the direction of the best management practices designed for riparian management zones. If included in the national system, management activities within the segment area would have additional restrictions. The segment is wider than the riparian management zone.

Areas along much of Isabella, Beaver, and Elmer Creek provide winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Areas within the Isabella and Elmer Creek corridors provide habitat for mountain goats. Changes in vegetation succession have been cited as a factor contributing to declining elk populations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2014). Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

A variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, have habitat within the corridor and would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. High quality fisher habitat occurs along these creeks. Conservation of these habitats within the river corridor would be preserved or enhanced should these rivers be included in the national system.

No changes to land use within the roadless areas is anticipated. The development of leasable minerals is prohibited in Idaho Roadless Areas. No road construction or reconstruction or surface occupancy is allowed within the wild land recreation and primitive theme areas. However, the rule does not protect from water developments or mining activities governed by the General Mining Law of 1872. For the segments within Management Area 2, a wild and scenic designation would enhance protections.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by state and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

Isabella Creek, from Black Creek to Jug Creek, was identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the North Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 1996). It is designated a natural river and is free of substantial impoundments, dams, or other structures, and the riparian area is largely undeveloped. The outstanding remarkable values recognized include species of concern, salmonid spawning, recreation use, and scenery. Activities prohibited are alterations of the stream bed, construction of hydropower projects, construction of water diversion works, construction or expansion of dams or impoundments, dredge or placer mining, and mineral or sand and gravel extraction within the stream bed.

Isabella Creek, from Black Creek to the mouth, and Beaver Creek, from Charlie Creek to mouth, are designated as recreational rivers and may include some man-made development in the waterway or riparian area. The outstanding remarkable values recognized for Beaver Creek include species of concern, salmonid spawning, and scenery. Activities prohibited are construction of hydropower projects, construction of water diversion works, construction or expansion of dams or impoundments, dredge or placer mining, and mineral, sand, and gravel extraction within the stream bed. Stream bed alteration is allowed to provide for maintenance and construction of bridges and culverts and installation of fisheries enhancement structures. Bridges and culverts must be constructed and maintained to reduce sedimentation and to allow unrestricted fish passage.

Elmer Creek was not designated as a protected river.

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 25. Beaver Creek, Elmer Creek, and Isabella Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Cayuse Creek, Kelly Creek, North Fork Kelly Creek, Middle Fork Kelly Creek, and South Fork Kelly Creek

Table 26. Cayuse Creek, Kelly Creek, North Fork Kelly Creek, Middle Fork Kelly Creek, and South Fork Kelly Creek

Segment Description	**Cayuse Creek: confluence with Kelly Creek to headwaters Kelly Creek: confluence with North Fork Clearwater River to confluence with Middle and North Fork Kelly creeks North Fork Kelly Creek: confluence with Kelly Creek to headwaters Middle Fork Kelly Creek: confluence with Kelly Creek to headwaters South Fork Kelly Creek: confluence with Kelly Creek to headwaters**
Segment Length	79.1 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	25,312 acres
Preliminary Classification	Upper portion of Kelly Creek, North Fork Kelly Creek, Middle Fork Kelly Creek, South Fork Kelly Creek, upper and middle segments of Cayuse Creek: wild Lower portion of Kelly Creek and a short section in the lower portion of Cayuse Creek: recreational Short section in the upper portion of Cayuse Creek: scenic
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Kelly Creek: recreation, scenic, cultural, Nez Perce Tribe cultural, fish, and wildlife Cayuse Creek: recreation and fish North Fork Kelly Creek, Middle Fork Kelly Creek, and South Fork Kelly Creek: fish

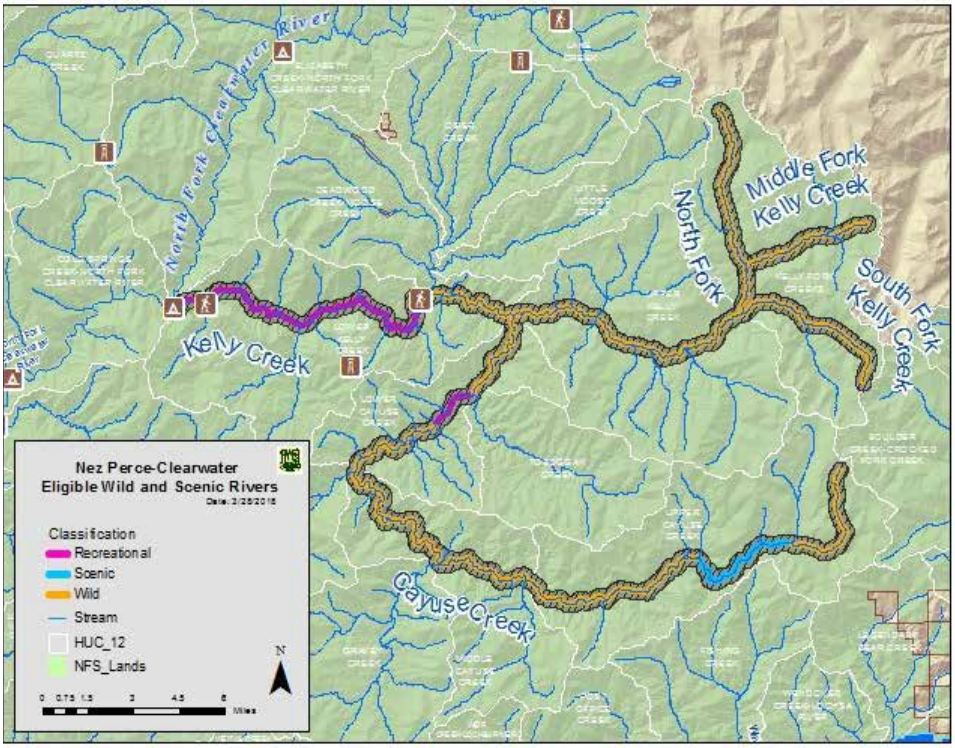

Figure 10. Cayuse Creek, Kelly Creek, North Fork Kelly Creek, Middle Fork Kelly Creek, and South Fork Kelly Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The recreational outstandingly remarkable value for Kelly and Cayuse Creeks is their exceptional trout fishing. Although there are various fishing opportunities throughout the national forest, the unique fishing opportunities are steelhead trout and fly-fishing opportunities for cutthroat trout. Kelly and Cayuse Creeks provide high quality blue ribbon equivalent trout fishing. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game maintains special catch-and-release fishing regulations for both streams. People travel from within and beyond the region of comparison to fish Kelly Creek since it offers a high-quality trail-based fishing opportunity in a natural setting.

The fish outstandingly remarkable value for Kelly and Cayuse Creeks includes diversity and abundance, habitat quality, and natural reproduction. Kelly and Cayuse Creeks are two of four extremely important fluvial westslope cutthroat populations in the North Fork Clearwater River Basin and two of a half dozen in the region of comparison. Genetic integrity is high. Fluvial bull trout are also present, and eligible river segments are included as designated critical habitat for Columbia River bull trout. A local population has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Habitat has been minimally affected by human disturbance.

Fish diversity and abundance is defined as the presence of two or more native fish species with high known genetic integrity, known high numbers of juvenile fish and adult fish, multiple life history strategies present, and higher fish densities than others in the region of comparison. Habitat quality is the presence of designated critical habitat for one or more Endangered Species Act listed fish species across a majority of the reaches evaluated or the presence of stream reaches with very high potential to produce and support anadromous and resident fish. The presence of stream reaches was modeled for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout to provide cold water refugia in 2040 and produced moderate to high probability. Natural reproduction is defined by one or more native fish species known to occur at high levels.

The scenic outstandingly remarkable value for Kelly Creek is a harmonious relationship of rock, water, and a variety of vegetation. Kelly Creek is a clear, swift stream flowing through a variety of terrain, including high country meadows, forests, and rocky canyons. It includes fast moving water forming rapids and still pools. The upper reaches of several of its forks—the North Fork, Middle Fork, and South Fork—originate near the state line divide and include distinctive cliffs.

Nez Perce tribal staff identified the Kelly Creek segment as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The wildlife outstandingly remarkable value in the North Fork Clearwater River corridor is based on observations of nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous, river dependent wildlife. Specifically, this river hosts populations of the harlequin duck. Populations of harlequin ducks occur along Kelly Creek, but they have not been documented on Cayuse Creek.

The harlequin duck has been considered rare in Idaho for over 100 years. In Idaho, approximately 50 pairs of harlequin ducks breed along a limited number of high-quality streams within the Priest River, Kootenai River, Clark Fork, Lake Pend Oreille, St. Joe River, Clearwater River, and the South Fork Snake River watersheds (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b). Approximately 38 percent of all harlequin

duck observations in Idaho Species Diversity Database, accessed April 2017, have been observed within the Land Management Plan area. Harlequin ducks breed along relatively large, fast-moving mountain streams with gradients of one to seven percent. Breeding streams are characterized by rocky substrates that support the benthic macro-invertebrates upon which the ducks feed, as well as large numbers of rapids and riffle areas interspersed with eddies. Water quality appears to be very important for successful foraging, with clear, low-acid water being optimal. Relative to other species of ducks, harlequin ducks occur at low population densities and exhibit high breeding site fidelity, low reproductive rates, and delayed reproduction. All of these traits contribute to making harlequin duck populations particularly slow to recover from habitat degradation or loss or other factors that may lower duck survival. Harlequin ducks have disappeared from former breeding sites in Idaho and Montana (Wiggins 2005). Kelly Creek contributes to the population of harlequin ducks within the plan area, as well as across Idaho. Cayuse Creek is not known to have populations of harlequin ducks.

The Forest Service administrative history from the mouth to Deer Creek, approximately 11 miles, is the cultural outstandingly remarkable value for Kelly Creek.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Kelly Creek, North Fork Kelly Creek, Middle Fork Kelly Creek, and South Fork Kelly Creek are meeting water quality standards and are fully supporting beneficial uses. Beneficial uses for these streams are aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, wildlife habitat, and agricultural and industrial water supply. Cayuse Creek has not been assessed or there is insufficient data to determine if water quality standards are being met or if beneficial uses are supported.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

Kelly Creek runs through the Land Management Plan Management Area 3, the Bighorn-Weitas Idaho Roadless Area's backcountry restoration theme, the Hoodoo Idaho Roadless Area's wild land recreation theme, the Mallard-Larkins Idaho Roadless Area's backcountry restoration theme, and the Moose Mountain Idaho Roadless Area's backcountry restoration and primitive themed areas. The following roads are within the segment: ML 4 roads—Forest Road 250 and Forest Road 255; ML 3 road Forest Road 255-A; and ML 2 roads Forest Road 581 and Forest Road 581-A. The Kelly Creek Work Center, including a campground, trailhead, and retail cabin; the Junction Creek Trailhead; and the Junction Mountain Trail, Trail #191, open to motorcycle use and nine non-motorized trails.

Kelly Creek has one mining claim, Glory Hole, within the segment corridor near the intersection of Forest Road 581 and Forest Road 255. The Huff-n-Puff Claim, Moose Bar Placer, and Sweetwater Placer claims are location adjacent to the corridor within 0.25 miles.

The North, Middle, and South Forks of Kelly Creek are within the Hoodoo Idaho Roadless Area's wild land recreation theme. Two non-motorized trails are in the area. Approximately the first 0.5 miles of the headwaters of the South Fork Kelly Creek are within the proposed Rhodes Peak Research Natural Area.

Cayuse Creek runs through Management Area 3, the Hoodoo Idaho Roadless Area's wild land recreation theme, and the Bighorn-Weitas Idaho Roadless Area's backcountry restoration and special area of historic and tribal significance themes. ML 2 roads Forest Road 500, Forest Road 581, and Forest Road 581-A are all within the Cayuse Creek corridor. Two of these roads cross the creek. The Cayuse Landing Field; –the Lunde Creek Rock Garden Trail #534, offering non-motorized and motorcycle use; and a couple of non-motorized trails are within the corridor.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

A wild designation would curtail motorized use in the corridors with roads and motorized trails.

Some sections of these eligible segments are in the suitable timber base of the Land Management Plan's Management Area 3, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and provide products which contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed, reduced, or reduced on 25,318 acres of the segments classified as recreational and scenic that overlap with Management Area 3.

Portions of Cayuse and Kelly Creeks also flow through Idaho Roadless Areas with themes that allow timber harvest for ecological restoration and other purposes. If these segments are found to be suitable, restoration activities would be curtailed within the recreational and scenic segments of the creek that flow through the Idaho Roadless Areas. This means that forest vegetation restoration would be curtailed on 265 acres within the cool moist potential vegetation type group, 552 acres within the warm dry potential vegetation type group, and 1,744 acres within the warm moist potential vegetation type group.

If Cayuse and Kelly Creeks are found to be suitable, restoration activities would be curtailed within the wild segments that flow through Idaho Roadless Areas because tools for restoration would be further limited.

Areas along much of Kelly and Cayuse Creeks provide winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk and mountain goats. Changes in vegetation succession have been cited as a factor contributing to declining elk populations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2014). Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession. If included in the national system, management activities within the corridor would have additional restrictions within any sections within Land Management Plan Management Area 3.

A variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, that have habitat within corridor would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Lynx habitat occurs in sections of Kelly Creek upstream from the confluence with Cayuse Creek and in the whole of Cayuse Creek. These habitats within the corridor would be conserved or enhanced should these creeks be included in the national system.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the roadless areas. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry restoration theme areas; however, for backcountry restoration theme areas, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction and surface occupancy in wild land recreation, primitive, and special area of historic and tribal significance theme areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

As one of the large tributaries to the North Fork Clearwater River, a wild and scenic designation would enhance the protections and prohibit water developments.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

All rivers in Idaho County are protected by the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and National Forest Management Act.

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

This is not an issue since there is no private land in the corridors or visible from the corridors.

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

Kelly Creek, from the headwaters to Moose Creek, including North Fork Kelly, Middle Fork Kelly, and South Fork Kelly, and Cayuse Creek, from the headwaters to the mouth, were identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the North Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 1996). These sections are designated as natural rivers and are free of substantial impoundments, dams, or other structures, and the riparian areas are largely undeveloped. The outstanding values recognized are species of concern, salmonid spawning, recreation use, and scenery. Activities prohibited are alterations of the stream bed, construction of hydropower projects, construction of water diversion works, construction or expansion of dams or impoundments, dredge or placer mining, and mineral, sand, and gravel extraction within the stream bed.

Kelly Creek, from Moose Creek to the mouth, was also identified in the State Water Plan and is designated a recreational river and may include some man-made development in the waterway or riparian area. The outstanding values recognized are species of concern, salmonid spawning, recreational use, and scenery. Activities prohibited are construction of hydropower projects, construction of water diversion works, construction or expansion of dams or impoundments, dredge or placer mining, and mineral, sand, and gravel extraction within the stream bed. Stream bed alteration is allowed to provide for maintenance and construction of bridges and culverts and installation of fisheries enhancement structures. Bridges and culverts must be constructed and maintained to reduce sedimentation and to allow unrestricted fish passage.

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

These creeks were identified as an important contributor to the river system and to basin integrity. Multiple outstandingly remarkable values have been identified, including a fish outstandingly remarkable value corresponding to the creeks' potential to support recovery goals of Endangered Species Act listed

aquatic species. These creeks are some of the larger tributaries in the subbasin or basin. As such, they play an important ecological role in providing clean, free-flowing water and habitat for fish and wildlife species. They also are often critically important culturally in the present day, historically, and prehistorically.

13. The potential for water resources development

Theoretical low head and small hydro-electric potential exists within many of the rivers and streams within the Nez Perce-Clearwater. However, when considering other ecologic, social, and economic factors analyzed in studies, the feasibility of hydrologic development is highly unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 27. Cayuse Creek, Kelly Creek, North Fork Kelly Creek, Middle Fork Kelly Creek, and South Fork Kelly Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable

Little North Fork Clearwater River

Table 28. Little North Fork Clearwater River

Segment Description	National Forest boundary to National Forest boundary
Segment Length	4.3 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	1,376 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Scenic, botany, recreation, fish, and Nez Perce Tribe cultural

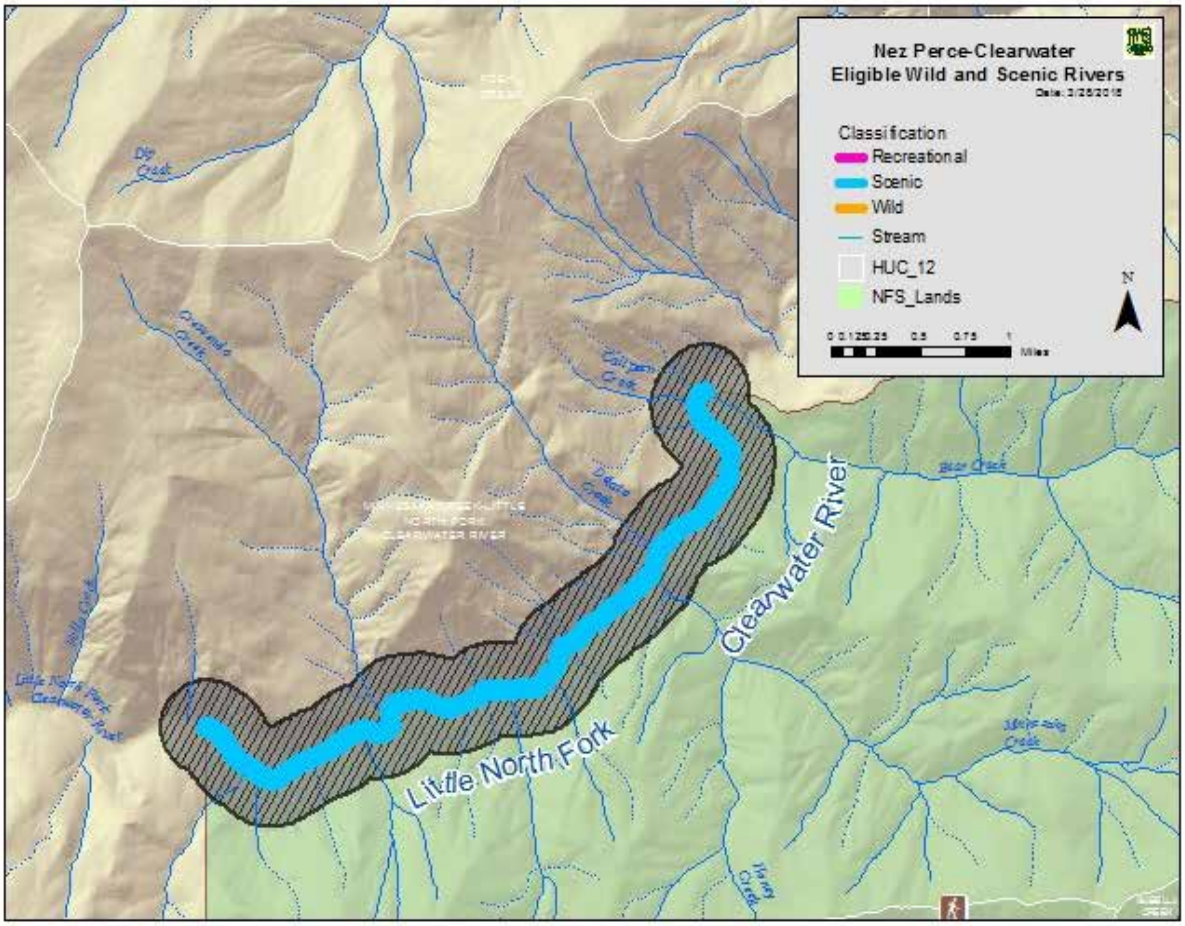

Figure 11. Little North Fork Clearwater River

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The scenic outstandingly remarkable value is based on a diversity of water, vegetation, and rock features. The segment includes several rapids that provide a dramatic contrast of whitewater, rocks, and steep canyon slopes. The Forest Service found the Little North Fork Clearwater River within the Idaho Panhandle National Forest eligible for scenery. Most of the Little North Fork Clearwater River is managed by that national forest. Approximately four miles of the south side of the river is managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

Recreation is an outstandingly remarkable value on both the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests due to the river providing a multi-day whitewater boating opportunity that is accessible by roads at both ends and does not require a competitive permit. This is relatively rare in the region of comparison. The Salmon River and Hells Canyon require permits and are much larger rivers. Meadow Creek provides a multi-day boating opportunity but requires a hike-in of three-plus miles, which limits the types of boats.

The botany outstandingly remarkable value for this segment exhibits core coastal refugia plant associations that are remnants of the last Ice Age. Although there are other examples of coastal refugia on Nez Perce-Clearwater, only six streams exhibit the core coastal refugia characteristics.

The fish outstandingly remarkable values are based on abundance and diversity, natural reproduction, and habitat quality. The Little North Fork Clearwater River supports a population of fluvial and potentially adfluvial westslope cutthroat trout population, which exhibits higher abundance than a majority of others within the region of comparison. The Little North Fork Clearwater River is one of three extremely important fluvial westslope cutthroat populations in the North Fork Clearwater basin and one of a half dozen in the region of comparison. Fluvial bull trout are also present and eligible river segments are included as designated critical habitat for Columbia River bull trout, with an identified local population (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Habitat has been minimally affected by human disturbance. There are no known non-native species present in eligible segments.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. The Little North Fork Clearwater River has not been assessed or there is insufficient data to determine if water quality standards are being met or if beneficial uses are supported.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

The Little North Fork Clearwater River is the boundary between the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. All of the land on the south side of the corridor is managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The land on the north side of the river and upstream of the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is managed by the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. Below the boundary, the Little North Fork continues onto Potlatch lands with a takeout there.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forest identified 26.6 miles of the Little North Fork Clearwater River corridor as eligible for inclusion in the national system. Identifying the segment on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests for inclusion as part of the national system would complement the preliminary classification across the river and directly upstream.

There are no roads or trails in the corridor. The segment is in the Mallard-Larkins Idaho Roadless Area and is managed under the primitive theme.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

Since the surrounding area is within the Mallard-Larkins Idaho Roadless Area and the north side of the river has already been identified as an eligible wild river by the Idaho Panhandle National Forest, no changes to land use are anticipated. The segment is within the Management Area 2 roadless area.

However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If this river segment is found suitable, the scenic designation would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest on 1,389 acres and would likely foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration.

There are currently no mining claims adjacent to this river on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

There are at least three potential dam sites on the Little North Fork Clearwater River. Existing laws, rules, and regulations do not protect the river from water developments or restrict instream mining. As one of the large tributaries to the North Fork Clearwater River, a wild and scenic designation would enhance the protections and prohibit water developments.

Areas along the Little North Fork Clearwater River provide winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

A variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, that have habitat within the corridor would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

Although there is no private land in the corridor or visible from the corridor, Potlatch Corporation owns lands used for a takeout at the lower end of the eligible river segment.

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality lists the Little North Fork River as a "natural" river in their 1996 North Fork Basin Plan (Idaho Water Resource Board 1996).

State Protected River System: As outlined in the 2012 Idaho State Water Plan, The Idaho Water Resources Board is authorized to protect highly valued waterways as "State Protected Rivers" with the goal of maintaining free-flowing waterways and conserving unique river features where it is in the public interest to protect recreational, scenic, and natural values. "State Protected Rivers" are designated natural or recreational.

The Little North Fork Clearwater River, from Meadow Creek to Cedar Creek, was identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the North Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 1996). It is designated a natural river and is free of substantial impoundments, dams, or other structures, and the riparian area is largely undeveloped. The outstanding values recognized are species of concern, boating opportunity, and scenery. Activities prohibited are alterations of the stream bed, construction of

hydropower projects, construction of water diversion works, construction or expansion of dams or impoundments, dredge or placer mining, and mineral, sand, and gravel extraction within the stream bed.

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

There is a reservoir downstream of the eligible segment, so river system integrity is not present.

13. The potential for water resources development

Theoretical low head and small hydro-electric potential exists within many of the rivers and streams within the Nez Perce-Clearwater. However, when considering other ecologic, social, and economic factors analyzed in studies, the feasibility of hydrologic development is highly unlikely in the foreseeable future. There is a dam downstream of the eligible segment. Three potential dam sites have been identified on this river. While dam construction is possible, it is unlikely.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 29. Little North Fork Clearwater River Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Eligible

Lake Creek

Table 30. Lake Creek (North Fork Clearwater sub-basin)

Segment Description	Fish Lake to Siam Creek Siam Creek to North Fork Clearwater River
Segment Length	12.4 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	3,744 acres
Preliminary Classification	Lower portion from confluence with the North Fork Clearwater River to end-of-road 295 below Siam Creek – Recreational From end-of road 295 to headwaters – Scenic
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Fish

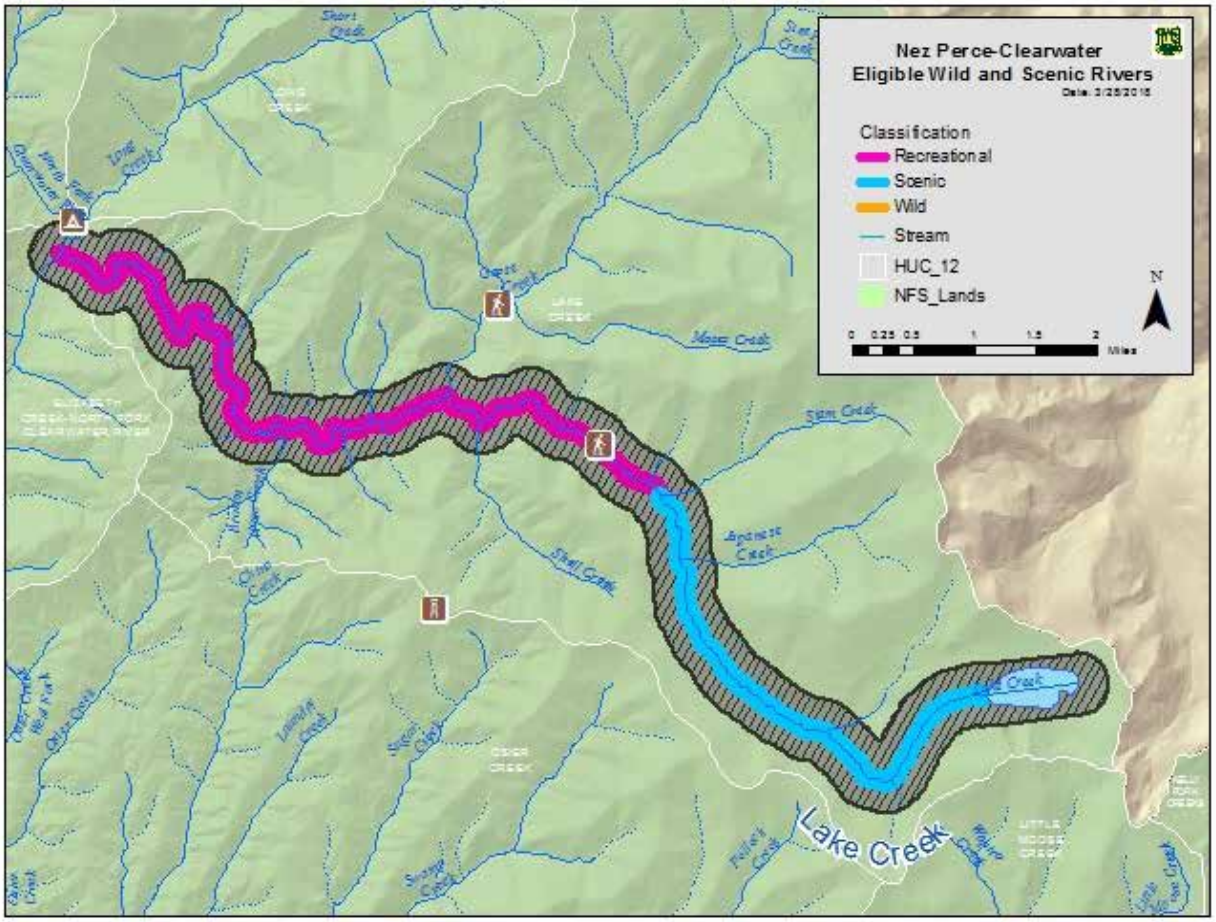

Figure 12. Lake Creek (North Fork Clearwater sub-basin)

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. **Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system**

The fish outstandingly remarkable value in Lake Creek is based on natural reproduction and habitat quality. Lake Creek supports one of just two known adfluvial bull trout populations within the region of comparison. Bull trout migrate to and from Fish Lake for spawning and rearing. Lake Creek contains

designated critical habitat, provides high quality habitat for spawning and rearing, and is free of non-native aquatic species. In addition to the lake-based spawning population, Lake Creek supports moderate to high numbers of fluvial bull trout migrating from the North Fork Clearwater River.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. Lake Creek exits Fish Lake in the Hoodoo Idaho Roadless Area and continues across the roadless area boundary to its confluence with the North Fork Clearwater River near the Cedars Campground. Areas within the wild land recreation theme Idaho Roadless Area are treated similarly or are recommended wilderness. Areas outside the Idaho Roadless Area are available for timber harvest.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

A portion of Lake Creek is in the suitable timber base of Land Management Plan Management Area 3 where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and provide products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed on 1,665 acres of the segments classified as recreational and scenic that overlap with Management Area 3.

The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within the wild land recreation theme areasunless pursuant to statute, treaty, reserved or outstanding rights, or other legal duty of the United States. The rule does not protect the creek from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 31. Lake Creek (North Fork Clearwater sub-basin) Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Middle Fork Clearwater River Basin

Clear Creek and South Fork Clear Creek

Table 32. Clear Creek and South Fork Clear Creek

Segment Description	Clear Creek: National Forest boundary to confluence with South Fork Clear Creek South Fork Clear Creek: confluence with Clear Creek to the confluence with the West Branch
Segment Length	7.9 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	2,528 acres (including 13 acres of private land within the Clear Creek corridor)
Preliminary Classification	Scenic
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Fish, Nez Perce cultural

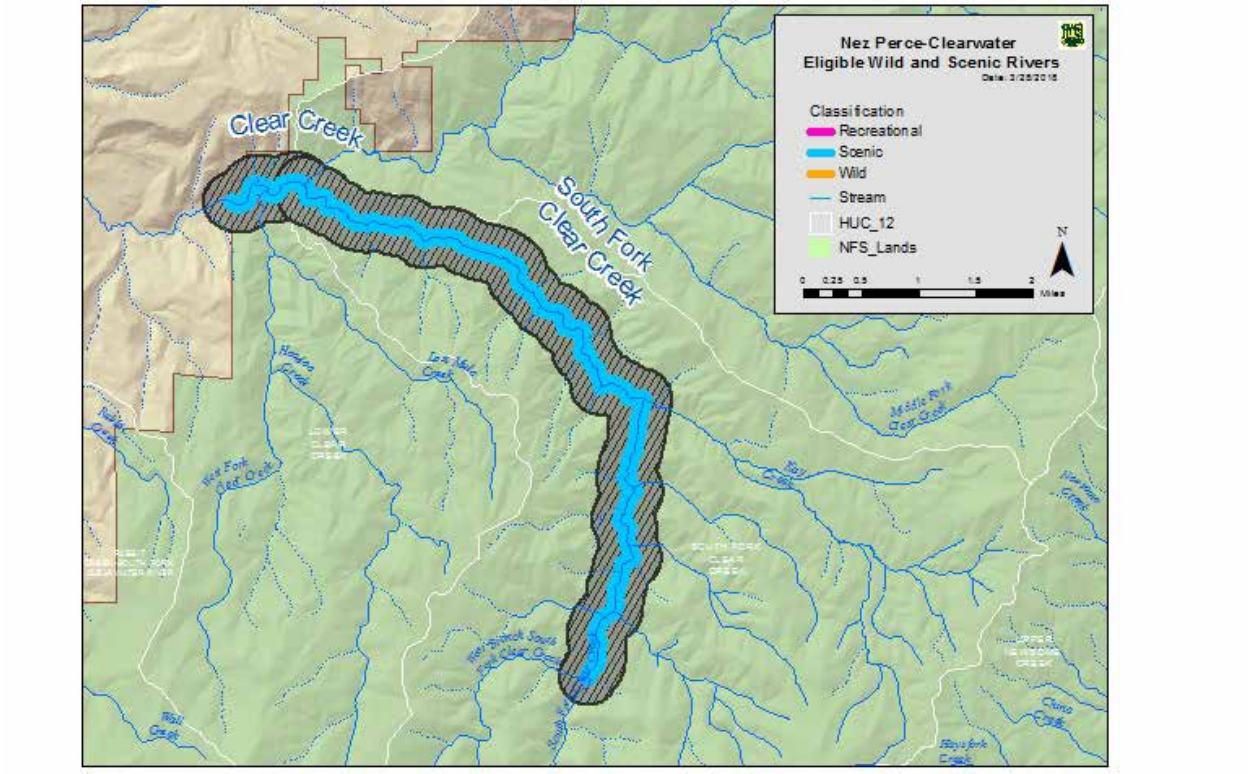

Figure 13. Clear Creek and South Fork Clear Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The fish outstandingly remarkable value includes diversity and abundance and natural reproduction. South Fork Clear Creek supports spawning and rearing of wild A-run steelhead trout in high densities relative to other streams in the region of comparison. Spring Chinook salmon are present in its lower reaches, and westslope cutthroat trout are present as well. The Clear Creek watershed, including South Fork Clear Creek, has been identified as a major spawning area (National Oceanographic and

Atmospheric Agency 2017). South Fork Clear Creek contains designated critical habitat for Snake River steelhead trout.

Nez Perce tribal staff identified these segments as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Clear Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting cold water aquatic life and secondary contact recreation beneficial uses. South Fork Clear Creek has not been assessed or there is insufficient data to determine if water quality standards are being met or if beneficial uses are supported.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

Most of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests; about 13 acres in the northwest corner of the Clear Creek corridor is in private ownership. The Clear Creek segment and the South Fork Clear Creek segment, from the mouth up to the first 5.5 miles, are within the Clear Creek Idaho Roadless Rule area's backcountry/restoration theme. After leaving the roadless area, the next mile of the South Fork Clear Creek has Management Area 3 on the west bank and the roadless area on the east bank. It veers away from the roadless area into Management Area 3 for the last 0.7 miles. Some timber harvest has occurred at the point where South Fork Clear Creek leaves the roadless area.

A small section of less than one-quarter mile of Forest Road9482B (ML 1) is within the buffered area of the South Fork Clear Creek. The non-motorized Clear Creek Trail and South Fork Clear Creek Trail cross the creeks in two locations.

The whole segment is within the Corral Hill active allotment.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

Some sections of South Fork of Clear Creek and Clear Creek are in the suitable timber base of the Land Management Plan Management Area 3, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and provide products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed or reduced on 2,589 acres of the segments classified as scenic that overlap with Management Area 3.

No changes are anticipated to the land use within the roadless areas. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If these river segments are found suitable, the scenic designation would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest and would likely foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration.

Areas along the Clear Creek and South Fork Clear Creek provide winter and summer habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

A variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, have habitat within the corridors and would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. Of particular note is the presence of high-quality habitat for fisher, which is distributed along substantial portions of these creeks. The watershed contains additional amounts of fisher habitat outside of the

corridors, but only the habitat within the corridors would be protected if these creeks are included in the national system.

4. The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system

5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies

6. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system

Should Clear Creek be added to the national system by Congress, Congress may or may not authorize or direct the Forest Service to pursue acquisition of lands or land interests, potentially affecting up to 13 acres of private land in the northwest corner of the Clear Creek corridor. As it is not reasonably foreseeable that Congress would direct the agency to acquire lands or land interests, the cost of such action is not being calculated at this time.

7. A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system

8. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development

Idaho County does not have local zoning or land use controls. Prevention of incompatible development on private land would depend on private property owner voluntary participation, education, and outreach.

9. State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives

11. Support or opposition to designation

The Nez Perce Tribe Executive Committee expressed support for the eligibility of Clear Creek for cultural, fish, and wildlife.

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 33. Clear Creek and South Fork Clear Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Lolo Creek

Table 34. Lolo Creek

Segment Description	National forest boundary to headwaters
Segment Length	19.8 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	6,336
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Recreation; Nez Perce Tribe cultural, fish, and wildlife

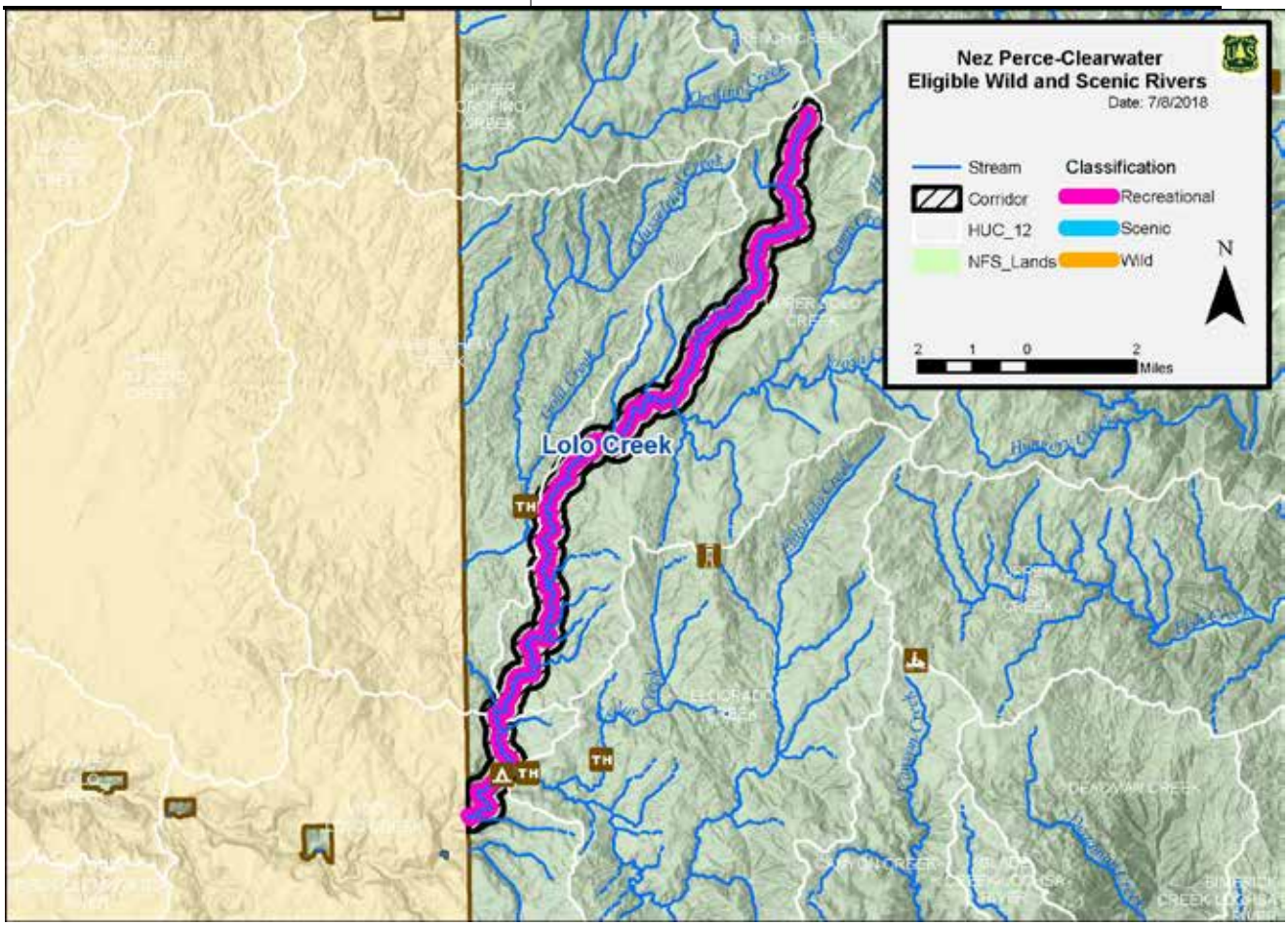

Figure 14. Lolo Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The recreation outstandingly remarkable value is for whitewater boating. A 12-mile run begins at the Lolo Creek Campground and provides a run through a deep cedar-filled canyon. The creek winds between steep cliffs mixed with wide open meadows. The rapids in this segment are classes one and two (Amaral 1990). The first 1.6 miles of the run is through National Forest System lands and the remainder is a mix of Bureau of Land Management, state, and private lands.

The Bureau of Land Management has found the section below the national forest boundary eligible with a recreation outstandingly remarkable value.

The eligible scenic determination by the Bureau of Land Management includes a 27.19-mile segment of the Lolo Creek mainstem, from the confluence with the Clearwater River upstream to the national forest boundary, of which 14.3 miles are on Bureau of Land Management administered lands. The Bureau of Land Management determined this segment contains the following outstandingly remarkable values: scenic, recreation, fish, and historic.

The Nez Perce tribal staff identified this segment as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The fish outstandingly remarkable value is based on fish diversity and abundance. Lolo Creek supports a population of native steelhead trout that is distinct from the rest of the lower Clearwater River (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017). Eligible river segments are included as designated critical habitat for Snake River steelhead trout, as well as a major spawning area for this species (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017) . Lolo Creek supports native and imperiled Pacific lamprey, and large numbers of juvenile lampreys have been observed in mainstem Lolo Creek in recent years, suggesting it provides important spawning and rearing habitat for this species. Strong populations of native western pearlshell mussels are also present in eligible river segments. Lolo Creek also supports spawning and early rearing for native spring Chinook salmon.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Lolo Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the cold-water aquatic life beneficial use.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The segment is in proposed Management Area 3 and Management Areas E1 and C4 under the 1987 Forest Plan. Management Area E1 emphasizes timber production and Management Area C4 emphasizes big game winter range and timber production. As a result of these designations, timber harvest has occurred along the length of this segment.

Within the segment area, Forest Road100 leads to Lolo Creek Campground, which consists of nine sites, at the confluence with Eldorado Creek. Lolo Trail Road (Forest Road 500 ML 4 road); ML 3 roads Forest Road 100-C; ML 2 roads Forest Road 5114, Forest Road 5112, Forest Road 5051; and ML 1 roads Forest Road 5512-A and Forest Road 5112-B are within the segment. Trails #852 and #854 – Bradford A and B Trails – allow for all-terrain vehicle and motorcycle use within the corridor.

There is one mining claim, Highlow 2, within the Lolo Creek corridor.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment receives a recreational designation, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

The proposed segment is in the suitable timber base of the Land Management Plan Management Area 3, where timber harvest is used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed, reduced, or modified on 5,836 acres of the recreational classified segment.

A wild and scenic designation would be consistent with the Bureau of Land Management's wild and scenic rivers suitability determination on the adjoining river segment downstream of the national forest boundary and would enhance protections and prohibit water developments.

A variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, that have habitat within the corridor would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. Of particular note is the presence of high-quality habitat for fisher, which is distributed along all of Lolo Creek. The watershed contains large amounts of fisher habitat outside of the river corridor, and only the habitat within the corridor would be protected if this river is included in the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 35. Lolo Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Musselshell Creek

Table 36. Musselshell Creek

Segment Description	National forest boundary upstream through Musselshell Meadows to its exit from the National Historic Landmark in Section 20
Segment Length	2.1 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	672 acres
Preliminary Classification	Recreation
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Cultural and Nez Perce Tribe cultural

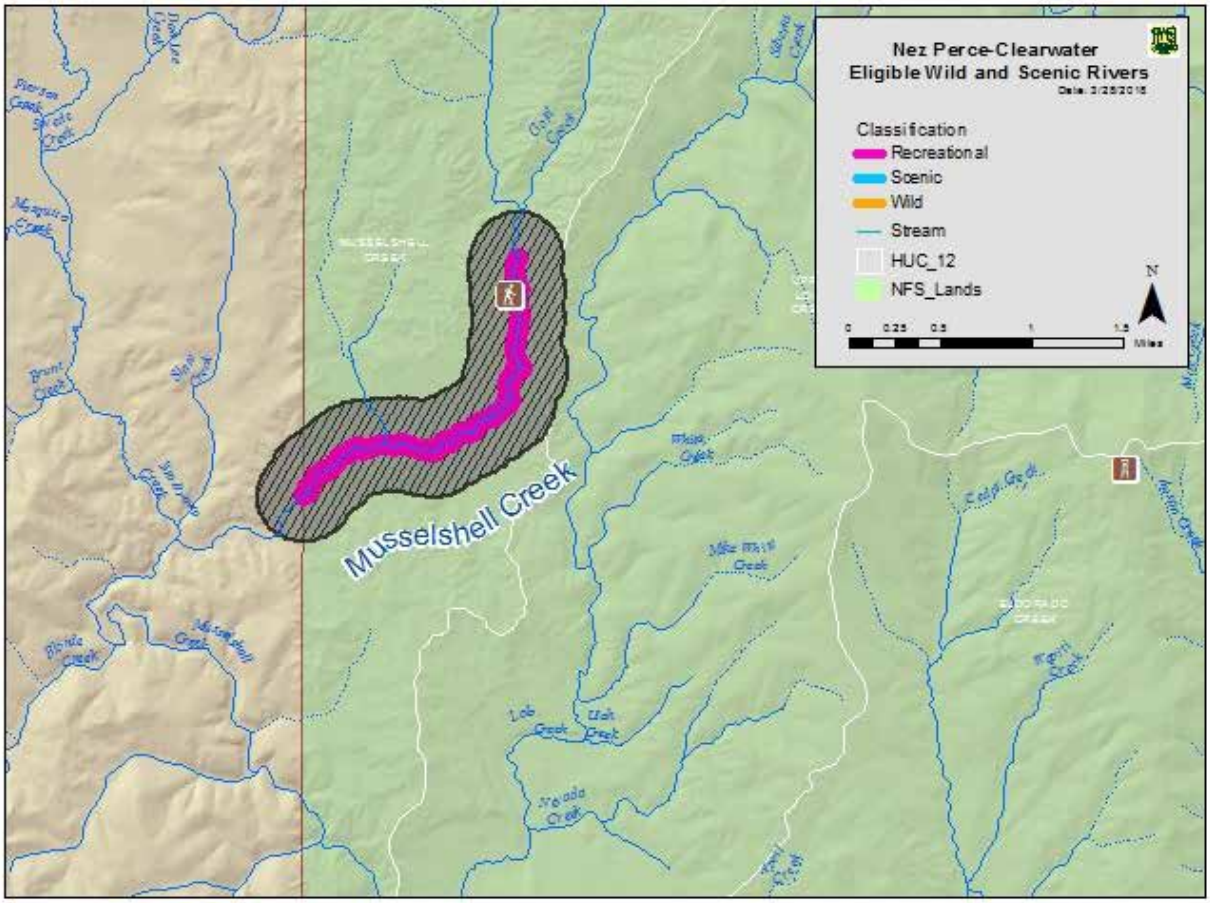

Figure 15. Musselshell Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. **Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system**

The cultural outstandingly remarkable value for Musselshell Meadows includes an important traditional camp and gathering place. The Nez Perce name Sew'issnime (Sa-w'ees-ne-ma), meaning mussel and tributary, or Musselshell Meadow drainage, is attributed to the stream and adjacent meadow. The entire Musselshell Meadow is listed on the national register. The Nee Mee Poo Trail also traverses the site.

Nez Perce tribal staff identified this segment as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

Musselshell Creek is listed as impaired (Class 4A) for water temperature and is not supporting cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning beneficial uses. It is fully supporting secondary contact recreation. Musselshell Creek is included in the Environmental Protection Agency approved Lolo Creek Tributaries Temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads Plan. A total maximum daily load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the total maximum daily load allocated to a stream.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The segment is within the suitable timber base of Management Area 3. The corridor runs through Management Area E1 (timber production emphasis) and Management Area C4 (big game winter range with timber production) under the 1987 Forest Plan. Timber harvest has occurred along portions of the stream. However, about half of the corridor is a part of the Non-Forested Land type, including Musselshell Meadow, and is not managed for timber production.

Within the corridor, Forest Road535 leads to the Musselshell Work Center (Forest Road 535-B) and the Nez Perce (Nee Me Poo) National Historic Trailhead. Also, Forest Road 100 (ML 4 road); ML 2 roads Forest Road 5102, Forest Road 5102-A, Forest Road 5141, Forest Road 5150, and Forest Road 73028; and ML 1 roads Forest Road 505 and Forest Road 5050 are within the corridor. The Shell Desert Trail, which allows for all-terrain vehicle and motorcycle use, is also within the corridor.

There is a basalt mineral material site at milepost four on Forest Road 100. The area is within the Musselshell livestock grazing allotment, which supports one permittee’s cattle subject to annual operating instructions and some restricted access to the stream through a number of miles of exclusion fencing.

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated. The proposed segment is in the suitable timber base of the Land Management Plan Management Area 3, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and provide products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed, reduced, or modified on 662 acres based on the recreational classification.

Areas along Musselshell Creek provide summer and calving habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

A wide variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, that have habitat within the river corridor would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. Of particular note is the presence of high-quality habitat for fisher, which is distributed along Musselshell Creek. Limited habitat for fisher occurs within this watershed.

3. **The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system**

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by state and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 37. Musselshell Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Lochsa River Basin

Canyon Creek, Glade Greek, Lowell Creek, and Rye Patch Creek

Table 38. Canyon Creek, Glade Greek, Lowell Creek, and Rye Patch Creek

Segment Description	Canyon Creek: confluence with Lochsa River to confluence with South Fork Canyon Creek Glade Greek: confluence with Lochsa River to 3.26 miles upstream Lowell Creek: confluence with Lochsa River to headwaters Rye Patch Creek: confluence with Lochsa River to headwaters
Segment Length	7.6 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	2,432 acres (includes 7.56 aces on private land within Lowell Creek corridor)
Preliminary Classification	Canyon Creek, Lowell Creek, and Rye Patch Creek: recreation Glade Creek: scenic
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Wildlife (Selway forest snail and salmon Oregonian)

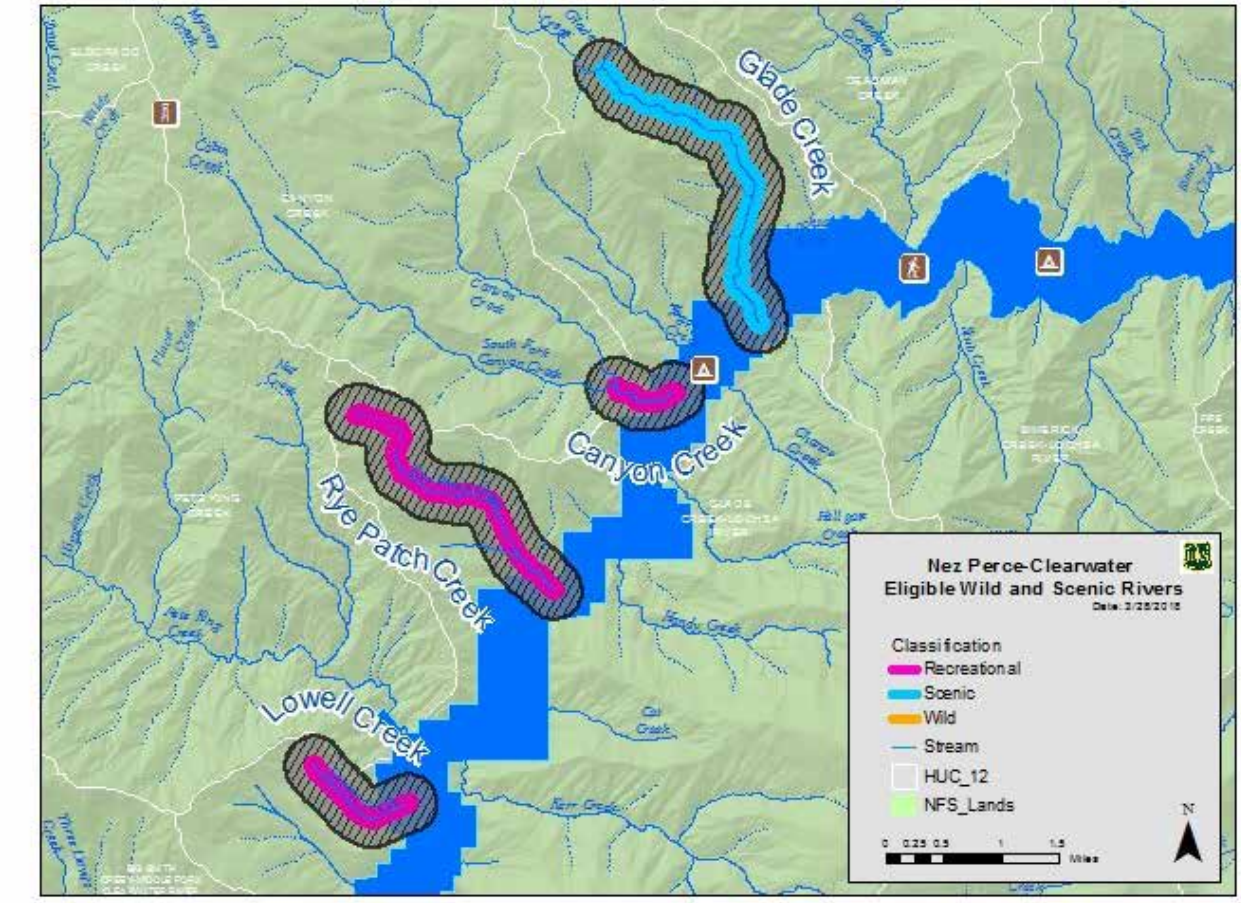

Figure 16. Canyon Creek, Glade Greek, Lowell Creek, and Rye Patch Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The presence of the Selway forestsnail is a wildlife outstandingly remarkable value for all four creeks. This Idaho endemic snail occurs in Idaho County in isolated colonies along the lower Lochsa River, the Selway River, the South Fork of the Clearwater River, and the lower Salmon River. The species was verified as extent near these rivers as recently as 2010. This species is found in intact mixed coniferous forest, usually in low elevation, well-shaded, moist areas along medium to large streams. Sites usually have a diverse understory and a substantial duff layer (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b).

Lowell Creek also has an observation of the salmon Oregonian, an Idaho endemic, which occurs within a limited reach in the lower Salmon River Canyon and limited portions of the Clearwater drainage. This species is found in moderately xeric to somewhat mesic habitats and is associated with talus or boulder fields often at the base of slopes or in riparian areas. Dominant plants include netleaf hackberry, grasses, willow, and dogwood. Although not aquatic nor river dependent, all known observations of this species in Idaho have been observed within river corridors. Lowell Creek is the only river with observations of this species within the plan area. This observation was made in 1960 by Munroe Walton, a snail researcher who published studies on snail longevity. It has not been verified extent since that time. Most other observations have been recorded along the lower Salmon River between Race Creek and Woodruff Gul or along lower elevation tributaries of the Salmon River off of National Forest System lands.

Canyon Creek, Glade Creek, Lowell Creek, and Rye Patch Creek are listed on the 303(d) list and designated as impaired (Class 5) for water temperature and are not supporting cold water aquatic life beneficial use. Usually an Environmental Protection Agency approved total maximum daily load is needed to address the pollutant of concern. According to the Lochsa River Subbasin Temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads: Addendum to the Lochsa River Subbasin Assessment (State Technical Services Office 2012) document, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality will rely on the Lochsa wild and scenic river protections and Forest Service management practices to protect canopy and restore the vegetation in areas of past harvest.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridors are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The river mouths are within the designated recreation corridor of the wild and scenic Lochsa River. U.S. Highway 12 runs along the Lochsa River in this area. Some habitat for the Selway forest snail and salmon Oregonian at the mouth of these streams fall within the existing designated Lochsa Wild and Scenic River.

Glade Creek crosses a number of management areas, including the Lochsa Research Natural Area, the North Lochsa Slope Idaho Roadless Area, which passes through both a special area of historic and tribal significance and a backcountry/restoration theme area, and the last mile is in the Land Management Plan Management Area 3. Under the 1987 Forest Plan, Glade Creek flows through Management Area E1 (timber production emphasis) and Management Area C4 (big game winter range with timber production) before flowing into the research natural area and Lochsa River. Timber harvest has occurred in the upper portion of the stream, where it flows through Management Area E1. Developments and roads in the corridor include Glade Creek Campground, Deadman Ridge Motorized Trail (T142), ML 3 Forest Road 5542, and ML 1 Forest Roads 5542M, 75269, and 75268.

Rye Patch Creek is in the Land Management Plan Management Area 3 and the 1987 Forest Plan Management Areas E1 and C4. Timber harvest has occurred along the upper third of the eligible portion

of the stream. The Higgins Hump Motorized Trail (T 46), Rye Patch J Motorized Trail (T 460J), and ML 1 roads associated with these trails are within the corridor. The Chitwood #9 mining claim is within the Rye Patch Creek corridor.

Canyon Creek north side is in the North Lochsa Slope Idaho Roadless Area and the south side is in Management Area 3. The Canyon Creek Motorized Trail (T 107), Forest Road 458 (ML 2), and ML 1 roads associated with this trail are within the corridor.

Lowell Creek is in the Land Management Plan Management Area 3 and has a small area of private land that is already part of the recreation corridor of the wild and scenic Lochsa River. Under the 1987 Forest Plan, the eligible segment runs through Management Area C4. Timber harvest has occurred along most of the eligible segment. Forest Road5162 (ML 1) and Big Hill Motorized Trail (T 65) are within the corridor.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

The proposed segment is in the suitable timber base of the Land Management Plan Management Area 3 where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed or reduced on 2,448 acres if the segments are classified as scenic or recreational.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the roadless areas. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If these segments are found suitable, the recreational and scenic designations would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest and may further curtail timber harvest for vegetation restoration. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry/restoration theme areas; however, for backcountry/restoration areas, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction and surface occupancy in special areas of historic and tribal significance theme areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

Areas along these creeks provide important winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

A variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, that have habitat within the segment corridor would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. Of particular note is the presence of high-quality habitat for fisher, which is distributed along these creeks. The watershed contains large amounts of fisher habitat outside of the corridors, and only the habitat within these creek corridors would be protected if this river is included in the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

Designation may be consistent with the Nez Perce Tribe Traditional Cultural Property study of the Lochsa River area. Additional input from the Nez Perce Tribe executive committee is needed.

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 39. Canyon Creek, Glade Greek, Lowell Creek, and Rye Patch Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Upper Lochsa River, Colt Killed Creek (formally known as “White Sand Creek”), Big Sand Creek, Storm Creek, North Fork Storm Creek, and South Fork Storm Creek

Table 40. Upper Lochsa River, Colt Killed Creek (formally known as “White Sand Creek”), Big Sand Creek, Storm Creek, North Fork Storm Creek, and South Fork Storm Creek

Segment Description	**Upper Lochsa River: existing wild and scenic to Colt Killed Creek Colt Killed Creek: confluence with Lochsa River to headwaters Big Sand Creek: confluence with Colt Killed Creek to headwaters Storm Creek: confluence with Lochsa River to South Fork Storm Creek North Fork Storm Creek: confluence with Storm Creek to headwaters South Fork Storm Creek: confluence with Storm Creek to headwaters**
Segment Length	62.7 miles (including 2.32 miles on private land)
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	20,064 acres (including 592.23 acres of private land on the Lochsa River and Colt Killed Creek segments)
Preliminary Classification	South Fork Storm Creek, North Fork Storm Creek, Storm Creek, Big Sand Creek(headwaters to confluence with Colt Killed Creek): wild Colt Killed Creek (headwaters to Dan Creek): wild Colt Killed Creek (Dan Creek to confluence with Lochsa River): scenic Upper Lochsa River: recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Recreation, scenic, fish, and wildlife (harlequin duck),

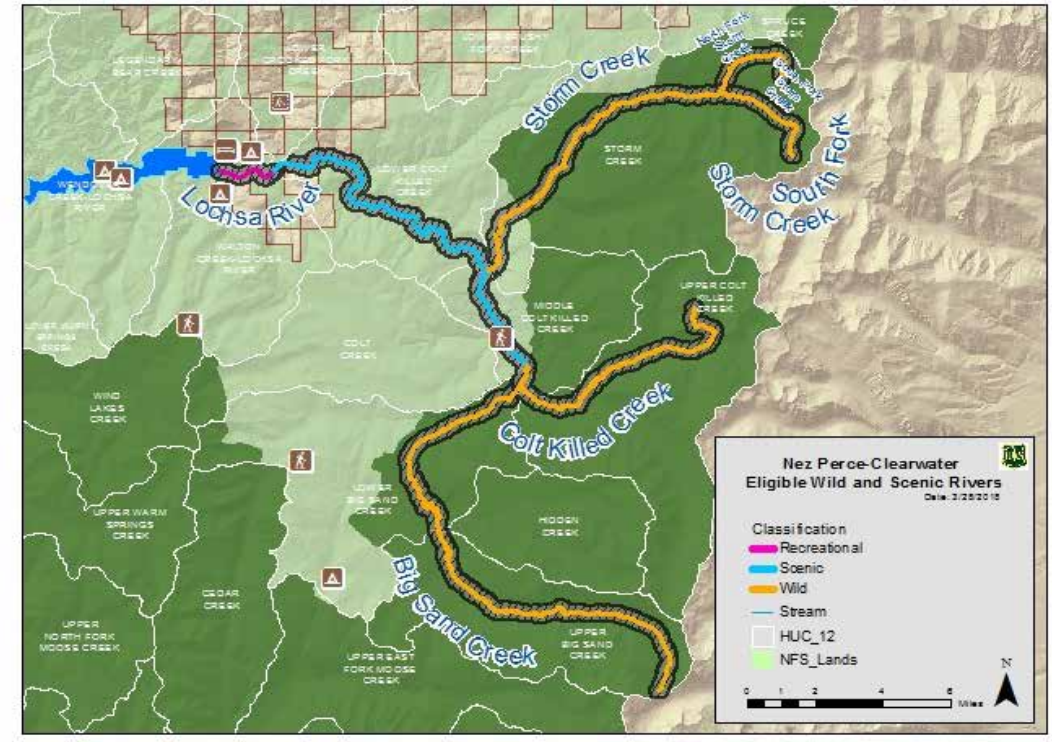

Figure 17. Upper Lochsa River, Colt Killed Creek (formally known as “White Sand Creek”), Big Sand Creek, Storm Creek, North Fork Storm Creek, and South Fork Storm Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The recreational outstandingly remarkable value for the Upper Lochsa River and Colt Killed Creek is their exceptional trout fishing. Although there are various fishing opportunities throughout the national forest, the unique fishing opportunities are steelhead trout and fly-fishing opportunities for cutthroat trout. The Upper Lochsa River, from the Wilderness Gateway Bridge upstream to its confluence, provides a catch-and-release fishing opportunity. Most of the stream reach is within the designated portion of the Lochsa Wild and Scenic River, with the upper two miles included in providing exceptional quality fly fishing. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game website describes the Upper Lochsa River as being "known for excellent trout fishing on an easily accessible river." Although not a national recreation trail, the popular Trail 50 parallels Colt Killed Creek and provides fishing access and is an integral part of stream use. Although extreme kayakers may hike two miles in to the wilderness area to kayak a seven-mile stretch of this creek from Swamp Creek Trail to Colt Creek Cabin, this is not a common activity that warrants an outstandingly remarkable value for recreation.

The Upper Lochsa River, Colt Killed Creek, and Big Sand Creek have fish outstandingly remarkable values of diversity and abundance, habitat quality, and natural reproduction. Fish diversity and abundance is defined as the presence of two or more native fish species with high known genetic integrity, known high numbers of juvenile fish and adult fish, multiple life history strategies present, and higher fish densities than others in the region of comparison. Habitat quality is the presence of designated critical habitat for one or more Endangered Species Act listed fish species across a majority of the reaches evaluated or the presence of stream reaches with a very high potential to produce and support anadromous and resident fish. Stream reaches were modeled for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout and would provide cold water refugia in 2040 with moderate to high probability. Natural reproduction is defined by one or more native fish species being known to occur at high levels.

The Upper Lochsa River, Colt Killed Creek, and portions of Big Sand Creek are identified as major spawning areas for native steelhead trout in the Snake River Recovery Plan (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017). Storm Creek supports high densities of fluvial and resident bull trout when compared to others in the region of comparison. A bull trout local population has been identified in Colt Killed Creek, including Storm Creek (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). In addition, Colt Killed and Big Sand Creeks support high densities of fluvial and resident westslope cutthroat trout within the region of comparison. Native spring Chinook salmon spawn and rear in the upper portions of the Lochsa River and the mid-to-lower reaches of Colt Killed and Big Sand Creeks. Non-native aquatic species are not known to exist within the eligible segments.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. The Upper Lochsa River is listed on the 303(d) list and is designated as impaired (Class 5) for water temperature and is not supporting the cold-water aquatic life beneficial use. It is supporting primary contact recreation and salmonid spawning beneficial uses. Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to develop water quality improvement plans, called total maximum daily loads, for water bodies that are not meeting their beneficial uses. The goal of a total maximum daily load is to set limits on pollutant levels to correct water quality impairments and achieve beneficial uses of water bodies by attaining water quality standards.

The Environmental Protection Agency must approve each total maximum daily load, after which an implementation plan is written. In October 2012, the Lochsa River Subbasin Temperature Total Maximum

Daily Loads: Addendum to the Lochsa River Subbasin Assessment was published (State Technical Services Office 2012). This report has not yet been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency and no total maximum daily load implementation plan has been established. Colt Killed Creek has portions that have not been assessed and other sections that are meeting water quality standards and fully supporting beneficial uses. Beneficial uses are aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and wildlife habitat. Big Sand Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, wildlife habitat, and agricultural/industrial water supply. Storm Creek, South Fork Storm Creek, and North Fork Storm Creek are meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, wildlife habitat, and agricultural/industrial water supply.

A scenic outstandingly remarkable value was not determined for Upper Lochsa River. There are scenic outstandingly remarkable values for Colt Killed Creek, Big Sand Creek, Storm Creek, North Fork Storm Creek, and South Fork Storm Creek. Colt Killed Creek includes fast moving rapids. Storm Creek and its forks are wilderness streams beginning in high cirque basins near the Bitterroot Divide, one of the most scenic areas on the national forest. Big Sand Creek is also noted in whitewater publications as truly stunning, with talus fields and vertical granite walls, in addition to fast moving water with severe drops.

A wildlife outstandingly remarkable value for the Upper Lochsa River and Colt Killed Creek exists due to populations of harlequin ducks. Harlequin ducks are known along the area of the Upper Lochsa River not currently designated as a wild and scenic river and in the lower section of Colt Killed Creek between the confluence with Beaver Creek downstream to the confluence with the Lochsa River. The harlequin duck has been considered rare in Idaho for over 100 years. In Idaho, approximately 50 pairs breed along a limited number of high quality streams within the Priest River, Kootenai River, Clark Fork, Lake Pend Oreille, St. Joe River, Clearwater River, and the South Fork Snake River watersheds (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b). Approximately 38 percent of all harlequin duck observations in Idaho Species Diversity Database[2] have been observed within the Land Management Plan area. Prominent among the rivers in the region of comparison for populations of harlequin ducks is the Lochsa River, including the upper section not currently designated as wild and scenic, and the lower four miles of Colt Killed Creek. Harlequin ducks breed along relatively large, fast-moving, mountain streams with gradients of one to seven percent. Breeding streams are characterized by rocky substrates that support the benthic macro-invertebrates upon which the ducks feed, as well as large numbers of rapids and riffle areas interspersed with eddies. Water quality appears to be very important for successful foraging, with clear, low-acid water being optimal. Relative to other species of ducks, harlequin ducks occur at low population densities and exhibit high breeding site fidelity, low reproductive rates, and delayed reproduction. All of these traits contribute to making harlequin duck populations particularly slow to recover from habitat degradation or loss or other factors that may lower duck survival. Harlequin ducks have disappeared from former breeding sites in Idaho and Montana (Wiggins 2005).

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

The Upper Lochsa River is in the Land Management Plan Management Area 3. Developments and roads in the corridor include White Sand Campground, Powell Campground, Powell Ranger District Office and facilities, Historic Lochsa Lodge, Forest Road 102 (Forest Road 102 A-F), Forest Road 111, Forest Road 368, and ML 1 roads Forest Road 362 and Forest Road 5646. The segment is in the checkerboard area of ownership and about one-half mile of the river is on private land.

Colt Killed Creek runs through private ownership, the Land Management Plan Management Area 3, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area, and the North Fork Spruce-White Sand Idaho Roadless Area

[2] Idaho Species Diversity Database: https://idfg.idaho.gov/species/ [accessed April 2017]

(backcountry/restoration, primitive, and wild land recreation themes). ML 4 roads Forest Road 111 and Forest Road 368, ML 3 road Forest Road 102, ML 2 roads Forest Road 359 and Forest Road 362, and a number of ML 1 roads are all within the corridor. The corridor also contains the White Sands Campground, Colt Creek Trailhead, and a couple of non-motorized trails.

Big Sand Creek, North Fork Storm Creek, and South Fork Storm Creek are in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area. Only non-motorized trails occur in this area.

Storm Creek runs through the North Fork Spruce-White Sand Idaho Roadless Area (backcountry/restoration and wild land recreation themes) and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area. Only non-motorized trails occur in this area. Over-the-snow motorized travel is authorized within the lower Colt Killed Creek drainage, bottom of Storm Creek, and upper Lochsa River.

The corridors on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the Land Management Plan Management Area 3, have been managed for timber production under the 1987 Forest Plan. This area has been managed for big game winter range and timber production, and timber harvest has occurred along the lower portion of Colt Killed Creek and along the Upper Lochsa River.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

A wild designation would curtail motorized use in this area.

Some of the proposed segments are in the suitable timber base of the Land Management Plan Management Area 3, where timber harvests are to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed or reduced on 20,121 acres of the segments classified as recreational or scenic that overlap with Management Area 3.

Portions of the eligible segments run through Idaho Roadless Areas. In the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If these segments are found suitable, the scenic and recreational designations would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest and may further curtail timber harvest for vegetation restoration.

Additional segments of these rivers are classified as wild. If these river segments are found suitable, the wild designation would cause timber harvest to be foreclosed as an option for vegetation restoration.

Harlequin ducks breed in habitats that are particularly susceptible to forest management activities, water development projects, and human recreational use (Wiggins 2005). If these segments are included in the national system, the streams would maintain the integrity of water quality, quantity, vegetation composition, and structure and natural flow regimes of montane riparian habitats within the corridors and protect factors that influence stream occupancy of harlequin duck reproduction and survival. These protections would enhance or protect habitat for harlequin duck.

Areas along the Upper Lochsa River and Colt Killed Creek provide both summer and winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

A wide variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, have habitat within the segment corridor and would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic

River Act. Of particular note is the presence of high-quality habitat for fisher, which is distributed along Colt Killed Creek, the lower half of Storm Creek, and portions of the Upper Lochsa River. The watershed contains large amounts of fisher habitat outside the corridors and only the habitat within the corridors would be protected if included in the national system. Lynx habitat occurs along Storm Creek, as well as North Fork and South Fork Storm Creeks and the upper half of Colt Killed Creek. Conservation of these habitats within the corridors would be enhanced should these rivers be included in the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

Many do not realize the Upper Lochsa River is not already designated. Support is broader for that segment than for others.

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

These rivers were identified as being an important contributor to river system and basin integrity. Multiple outstandingly remarkable values have been identified, including a fish outstandingly remarkable value corresponding to the potential to support recovery goals of Endangered Species Act listed aquatic species. These segments are some of the larger tributaries in the subbasin or basin. As such, they play an important ecological role in providing clean, free-flowing water and habitat for fish and wildlife species. They also are often critically important culturally in the present day, historically, and prehistorically.

13. **The potential for water resources development**

No potential dam sites have been identified. Water resources development is unlikely.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 41. Upper Lochsa River, Colt Killed Creek (formally known as "White Sand Creek"), Big Sand Creek, Storm Creek, North Fork Storm Creek, and South Fork Storm Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable Colt Killed Creek - Suitable

Crooked Fork Creek, Brushy Fork Creek, and Hopeful Creek

Table 42. Crooked Fork Creek, Brushy Fork Creek, and Hopeful Creek

Segment Description	**Crooked Fork Creek: confluence with Lochsa River to headwaters Brushy Creek: confluence with Crooked Fork Creek to Twin Creek Hopeful Creek: confluence with Crooked Fork Creek to headwaters**
Segment Length	32.8 miles (including 9.1 miles of private land in the checkerboard area of ownership)
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	10,496 acres (including 2,831.27 acres of private land on the Crooked Fork Creek and Brushy Creek segments)
Preliminary Classification	Hopeful Creek and Crooked Fork Creek (upper portion from headwaters to Hopeful Creek): wild Crooked Fork Creek (lower portion from Hopeful Creek to Lochsa River) and Brushy Fork Creek: recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Fish, wildlife (harlequin duck), Nez Perce Tribe cultural

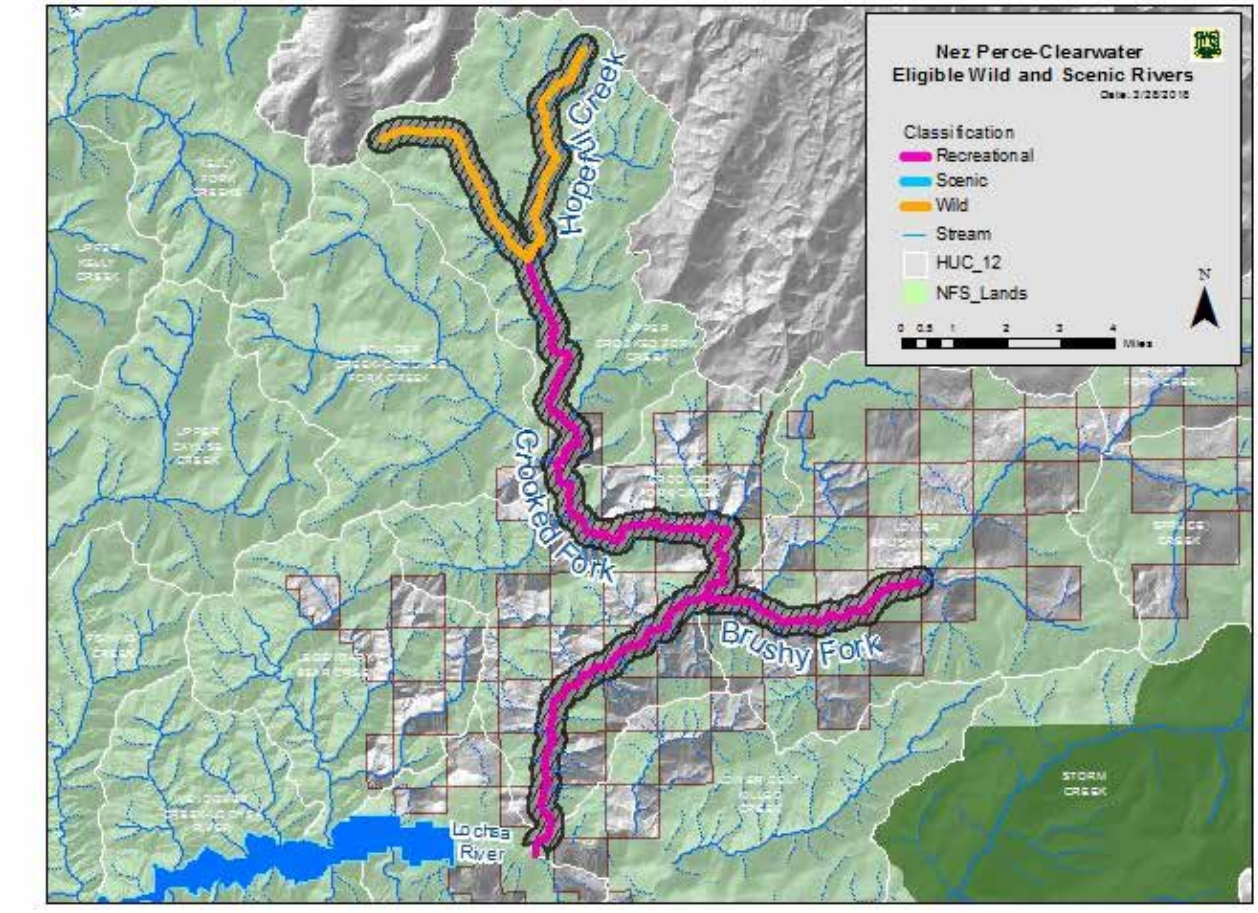

Figure 18. Crooked Fork Creek, Brushy Fork Creek, and Hopeful Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The fish outstandingly remarkable values for Crooked Fork and Hopeful Creeks include diversity and abundance, habitat quality, and natural reproduction. Fish diversity and abundance is defined as the presence of two or more native fish species with high known genetic integrity, known high numbers of juvenile fish and adult fish, multiple life history strategies present, and higher fish densities than others in the region of comparison. Habitat quality is the presence of designated critical habitat for one or more Endangered Species Act listed fish species across a majority of the reaches evaluated or the presence of stream reaches with a very high potential to produce and support anadromous and resident fish. Stream reaches were modeled for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout and would provide cold water refugia in 2040 with moderate to high probability. Natural reproduction is defined by one or more native fish species known to occur at high levels.

The outstandingly remarkable value for wildlife on Crooked Fork and Brushy Fork creeks is the population of harlequin ducks. Harlequin ducks occur from the mouth of Crooked Fork Creek upstream to the confluence of Brushy Fork Creek. They are also found along Brushy Fork Creek from the mouth up to the confluence of Twin Creek. The harlequin duck has been considered rare in Idaho for over 100 years. In Idaho, approximately 50 pairs breed along a limited number of high-quality streams within the Priest River, Kootenai River, Clark Fork, Lake Pend Oreille, St. Joe River, Clearwater River, and the South Fork Snake River watersheds. Approximately 38 percent of all harlequin duck observations in Idaho Species Diversity Database[3] have been observed within the Land Management Plan area (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b). Harlequin ducks breed along relatively large, fast-moving, mountain streams with gradients of one to seven percent. Breeding streams are characterized by rocky substrates that support the benthic macro-invertebrates upon which the ducks feed, as well as large numbers of rapids and riffle areas interspersed with eddies. Water quality appears to be very important for successful foraging, with clear, low-acid water being optimal. Relative to other species of ducks, harlequin ducks occur at low population densities and exhibit high breeding site fidelity, low reproductive rates, and delayed reproduction. All of these traits contribute to making harlequin duck populations particularly slow to recover from habitat degradation, loss, or other factors that may lower duck survival. Harlequin ducks have disappeared from former breeding sites in Idaho and Montana (Wiggins 2005).

The outstandingly remarkable values for fish are based on habitat quality, natural reproduction, and diversity and abundance. Multiple high elevation streams in the Crooked Fork and Hopeful Creek watersheds are identified as part of the climate shield for cold stream temperatures modeled for bull trout in 2040 (Isaak et al. 2015). Eligible river segments support bull trout spawning and early rearing. They contain designated critical habitat for bull trout and Snake River steelhead trout and are included as a major spawning area for steelhead (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017). These streams support spawning and early rearing habitat for native spring Chinook salmon. They support both fluvial and resident westslope cutthroat trout populations, with high densities within the region of comparison. Non-native aquatic species are not known to exist within eligible segments.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Crooked Fork and Brushy Fork Creeks have portions that have not been assessed and other sections that are meeting water quality standards and fully supporting beneficial uses. Beneficial uses are cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning. Hopeful Creek is meeting

[3] Idaho Species Diversity Database: https://idfg.idaho.gov/species/ [accessed April 2017]

water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, wildlife habitat, and agricultural and industrial water supply.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

Brushy Fork Creek runs through the checkerboard area where every other section is National Forest System lands or private ownership. All National Forest System lands are in the Land Management Plan Management Area 3. Within the corridor are ML 3 roads Forest Road 369 and Forest Road 5670 and ML 1 road Forest Road 112. The corridor contains the Brushy Fork Motorized Trail (Trail 34) and the Lewis and Clark non-motorized trail, with the lower end in the National Historic Landmark. Route 5670 and 369 are groomed snowmobile and winter sports access routes.

Crooked Creek runs through the checkerboard ownership area; National Forest System lands are in the Land Management Plan Management Area 3. After the confluence with Hopeful Creek, it enters the Hoodoo Idaho Roadless Area with a wild land recreation theme. The checkerboard area is heavily roaded with more than 30 roads. Developments and roads in the corridor include White Sand Campground, Devoto Cedar Grove Picnic Area, U.S. Highway 12, Forest Road 111, and Forest Road 368. Routes 111, 368, and 595 are groomed snowmobile and winter sports access routes.

Hopeful Creek runs through the Hoodoo Idaho Roadless Area with a wild land recreation theme.

The corridors on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in Management Area 3 have been managed for timber production under the 1987 Forest Plan. This area has been managed for big game winter range. Timber production and timber harvest have occurred along many parts of the corridors.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

A wild designation would curtail motorized use in this area.

Some sections of Crooked Fork and Brushy Fork Creeks are in the suitable timber base of Management Area 3, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and provide products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. If found suitable, timber harvest may be curtailed or reduced on 10,486 acres of the segment classified as recreational that overlaps with Management Area 3.

No changes are anticipated to the land use within the roadless area. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction and surface occupancy in wild land recreation theme areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

Harlequin ducks breed in habitats that are particularly susceptible to forest management activities, water development projects, and human recreational use (Wiggins 2005). If these creeks are included in the national system, these streams would maintain the integrity (water quality, quantity, vegetation composition, and structure) and natural flow regimes of montane riparian habitats within the corridors and protect factors that influence stream occupancy of harlequin duck reproduction and survival.

For other wildlife, areas along Crooked Fork, Brushy Fork, and Hopeful Creeks provide both summer and winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to

manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

A wide variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, have habitat within the river corridor and would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. Conservation of these habitats within the corridors would be preserved or enhanced should these creeks be included in the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

Crooked and Brushy Fork Creeks have private land within their corridors. The Crooked Fork Creek corridor is nearly 29 percent private ownership and the Brushy Fork Creek corridor is about 49 percent private ownership.

The Forest Service's authority for finding a river eligible or suitable applies only to National Forest System lands. Only the Forest Service administered portions of the creeks would be managed as eligible or suitable. At this time, the Forest Service is not pursing acquisition of lands or interests in lands on the basis of wild and scenic rivers. However, should Crooked and Brushy Fork Creeks be added to the national system by Congress, Congress may or may not authorize or direct the Forest Service to pursue acquisition of lands or land interests, potentially affecting up to 2,831 acres of private land within the corridors. As it is not reasonably foreseeable that Congress would direct the agency to acquire lands or land interests, the cost of such action is not being calculated at this time.

No land acquisition or partial land interests would be needed for Hopeful Creek since all lands in the corridor are National Forest System lands.

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

Crooked Fork Creek was identified as being an important contributor to the river system and to basin integrity. Multiple outstandingly remarkable values have been identified, including a fish outstandingly remarkable value corresponding to the potential to support recovery goals of Endangered Species Act

listed aquatic species. These creeks are some of the larger tributaries in the subbasin or basin. As such, they play an important ecological role in providing clean, free-flowing water and habitat for fish and wildlife species. They also are often critically important culturally in the present day, historically, and prehistorically.

All segments on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate the important contributions Brushy Fork and Hopeful Creeks provide to the system.

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 43. Crooked Fork Creek, Brushy Fork Creek, and Hopeful Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Crooked Fork: Suitable Brushy Fork Creek and Hopeful Creek: Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Fish Creek and Hungery Creek

Table 44. Fish Creek and Hungery Creek

Segment Description	Fish Creek: confluence with Lochsa River to headwaters Hungery Creek: confluence with Fish Creek to headwaters
Segment Length	34.9 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	11,168 acres
Preliminary Classification	Hungery Creek (lower portion from Yew Creek to confluence with Fish Creek): wild Fish Creek (upper portion) and Hungery Creek (upper portion): scenic Fish Creek (lower portion): recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Fish and wildlife (harlequin duck)

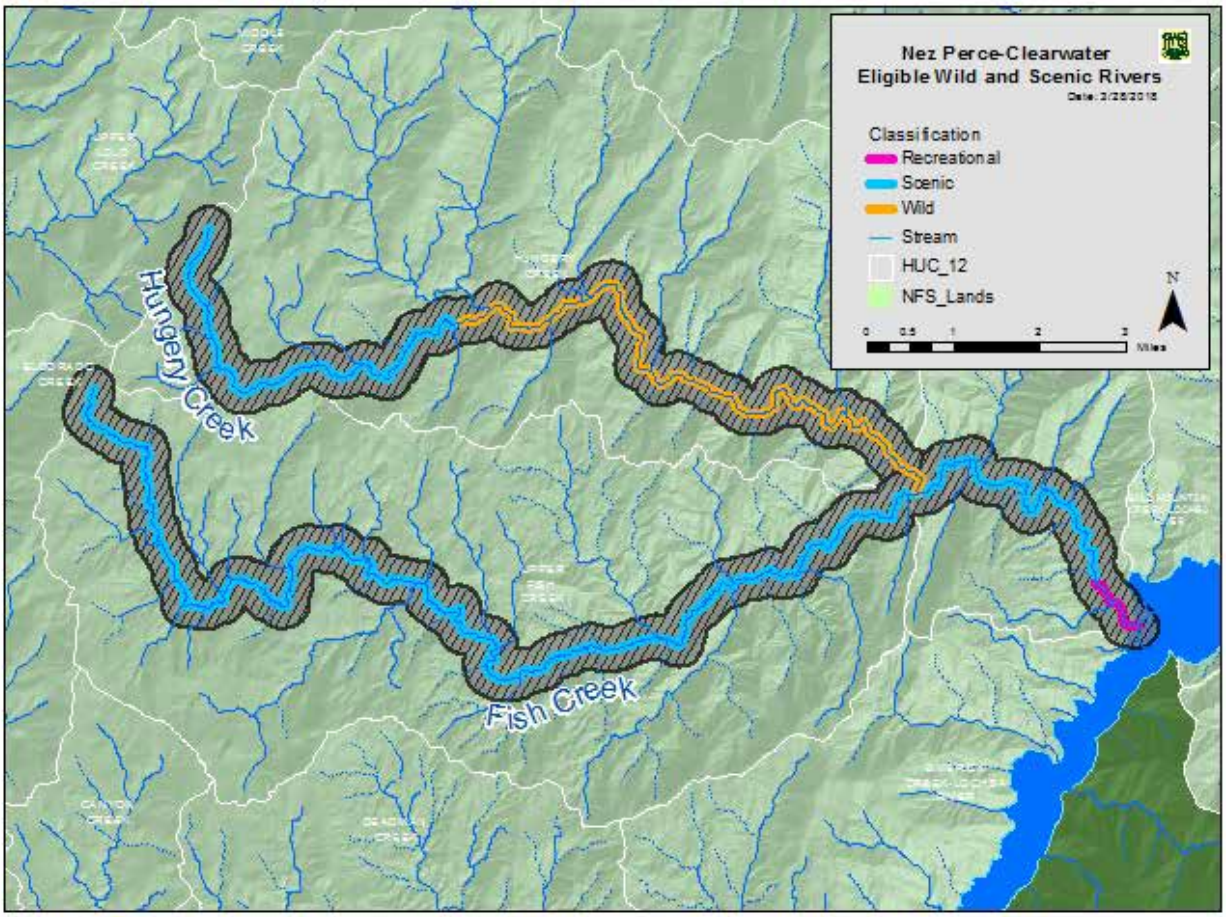

Figure 19. Fish Creek and Hungery Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. **Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system**

The outstandingly remarkable value for wildlife on Fish Creek includes the populations of harlequin ducks. Harlequin ducks occur from the mouth of Fish Creek upstream to the confluence with Hungery

Creek. There have not been any observations above this section. The harlequin duck has been considered rare in Idaho for over 100 years. In Idaho, approximately 50 pairs breed along a limited number of high-quality streams within the Priest River, Kootenai River, Clark Fork, Lake Pend Oreille, St. Joe River, Clearwater River, and the South Fork Snake River watersheds. Approximately 38 percent of all harlequin duck observations in the Idaho Species Diversity Database[4] have been observed within the Land Management Plan area (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b). Harlequin ducks breed along relatively large, fast-moving mountain streams with gradients of one to seven percent. Breeding streams are characterized by rocky substrates that support the benthic macro-invertebrates upon which the ducks feed, as well as large numbers of rapids and riffle areas interspersed with eddies. Water quality appears to be very important for successful foraging, with clear, low-acid water being optimal. Relative to other species of ducks, harlequin ducks occur at low population densities and exhibit high breeding site fidelity, low reproductive rates, and delayed reproduction. All of these traits contribute to making harlequin duck populations particularly slow to recover from habitat degradation, loss, or other factors that may lower duck survival. Harlequin ducks have disappeared from former breeding sites in Idaho and Montana (Wiggins 2005).

The fish outstandingly remarkable values are based on diversity and abundance, natural reproduction, and habitat quality. Fish and Hungery Creek have been included as a minor spawning area for the native Snake River steelhead trout (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017) and support some of the highest densities of juvenile steelhead trout in the region of comparison. In particular, the eligible segments are known to support significant spawning and early rearing of Clearwater River B-run steelhead trout. Eligible segments are included as designated critical habitat for both Snake River steelhead trout and Columbia River bull trout. Eligible segments in Fish and Hungery Creek exhibit extensive areas of high-quality habitat that has been minimally affected by human disturbance. Native westslope cutthroat trout are known to occur at high densities, particularly in higher elevation reaches. Native spring Chinook salmon are known to spawn and rear in eligible segments.

Hungery Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, wildlife habitat, and agricultural/industrial water supply. Fish Creek is listed on the 303(d) list and designated as impaired (Class 5) for water temperature and is not supporting the cold-water aquatic life beneficial use. Usually an Environmental Protection Agency approved Total Maximum Daily Load is needed to address the pollutant of concern but, according to the Lochsa River Subbasin Temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads: Addendum to the Lochsa River Subbasin Assessment (State Technical Services Office 2012) document, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality will rely on the Lochsa wild and scenic river protections and Forest Service management practices to protect canopy and restore vegetation in areas of past harvest. Fish Creek is fully supporting the primary contact recreation and salmonid spawning beneficial uses.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The mouth of Fish Creek is within the designated recreation corridor of the Wild and Scenic Lochsa River. U.S. Highway 12 runs along the Lochsa River in this area.

Fish Creek is within the North Lochsa Slope Idaho Roadless Area, with the majority of the creek falling within the primitive themed area and its headwaters lying in a special area of historic and tribal significance themed area. The northern edge of the one-quarter mile buffer is within the Eldorado Creek Idaho Roadless Area, within a special area of historic and tribal significance theme. Developments and

[4] Idaho Species Diversity Database: https://idfg.idaho.gov/species/ [accessed April 2017]

roads in the corridor include the Fish Creek Trailhead, three motorized trails (Fish Butte Saddle, Fish Butte, and Ant Hill), the Lolo Trail (Forest Road 500), and Forest Road 462 (ML 2).

Hungery Creek is within the North Lochsa Slope Idaho Roadless Area, with the majority falling within a special area of historic and tribal significance theme, and the mouth and headwaters are in the primitive themed area. Developments and roads in the corridor include the Fish Creek motorized trails, the Lolo Trail (Forest Road 500), and Forest Road 485 (ML 2).

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

A small portion of Hungery Creek, classified as scenic, runs through the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are one management tool used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed or restricted on approximately 1,000 acres of these segments classified scenic that overlaps with the proposed Management Area 3.

A wild designation would curtail motorized use in this area.

No changes are anticipated to the land use since the area surrounding the creeks has been managed to protect the Idaho Roadless Areas. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If these segments are found suitable, the recreational and scenic designations would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest and would likely foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration.

Additional acres within the Hungery Creek corridor would be categorized as wild if found suitable. Forest vegetation restoration activities would be further curtailed or restricted within the wild segments due to further limitations on tools available for restoration.

The Idaho Roadless Area Rule limits road construction or reconstruction and surface occupancy in primitive and special area of historic and tribal significance theme areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

Harlequin ducks breed in habitats that are particularly susceptible to Forest Service management activities, water development projects, and human recreational use (Wiggins 2005). If these creeks are included in the national system, these streams would maintain the integrity (water quality, quantity, vegetation composition, and structure) and natural flow regimes of montane riparian habitats within the corridor and would protect factors that influence stream occupancy of harlequin duck reproduction and survival. From the mouth of Fish Creek to upstream approximately one-half mile is currently protected by the wild and scenic designation of the Lochsa River. The additional areas along the corridor would be protected from water developments and mining activities.

A wide variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, have habitat within the river corridor and would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. High quality habitat for fisher occurs along the entire length of these creeks. Conservation of these habitats within the corridors would be preserved or enhanced should these creeks be included in the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

These creeks were identified as being important contributors to the river system and to the basin integrity. Two outstandingly remarkable values have been identified, including a fish outstandingly remarkable value corresponding to the creeks' potential to support recovery goals of Endangered Species Act listed aquatic species. These creeks are some of the larger tributaries in the subbasin or basin. As such, they play an important ecological role in providing clean, free-flowing water and habitat for fish and wildlife species. They also are often critically important culturally in the present day, historically, and prehistorically.

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 45. Fish Creek and Hungery Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable

Huckleberry Creek

Table 46. Huckleberry Creek

Segment Description	Boulder Creek to Rock Lake Creek
Segment Length	0.8 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	256 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Recreation (hot springs)

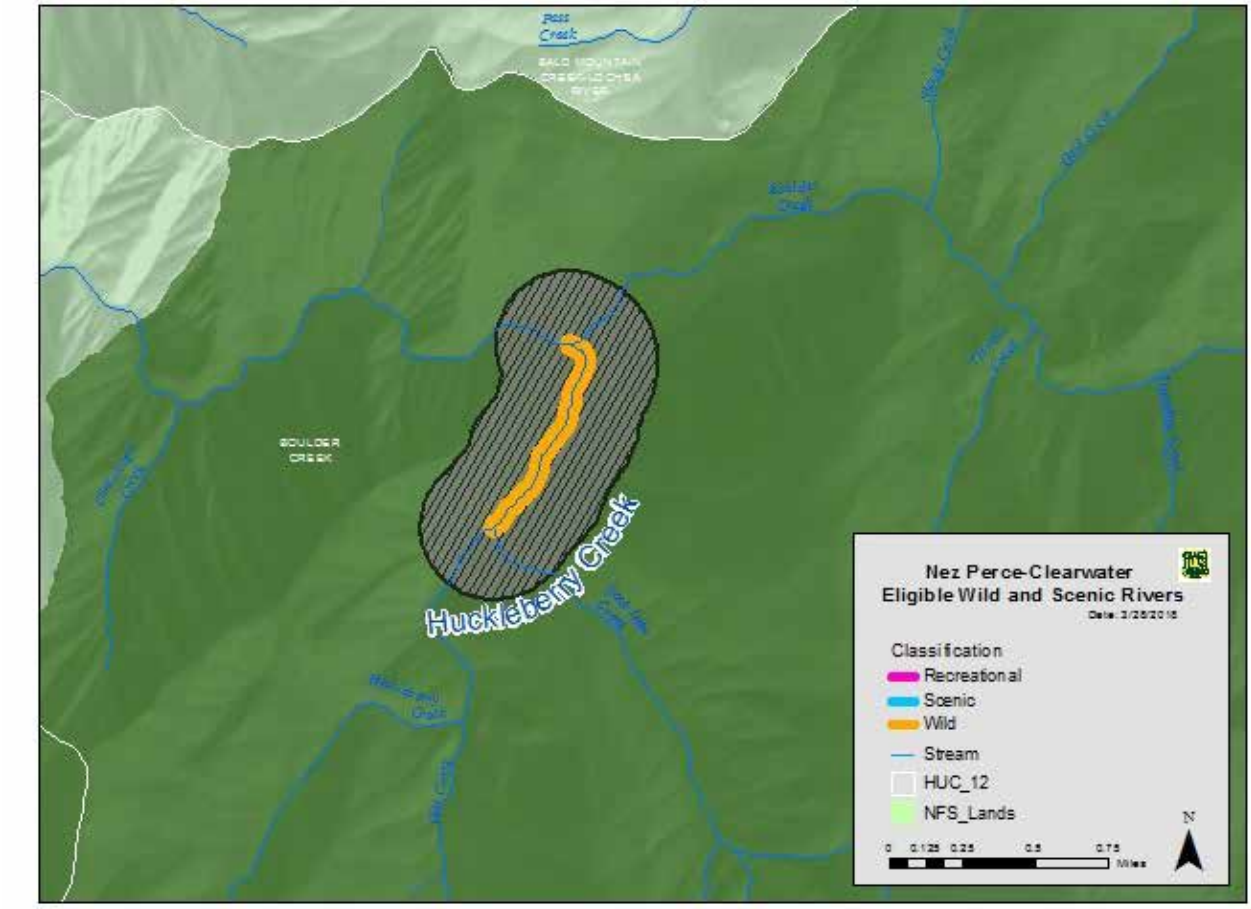

Figure 20. Huckleberry Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The recreational outstandingly remarkable value for Huckleberry Creek is the hot springs. Although there are numerous hot springs in the region of comparison, most have various levels of development, especially those on private land, such as Red River Hot Springs and Lolo Hot Springs. Others, such as Barth Hot Springs, have mortared rocks or other man-made structures. Others are very remote, very small, or do not provide a soaking opportunity. Undeveloped hot springs do not have permanent man-made structures, although they may have loose rock or stacked logs. The two that stand out as unique or

exemplary are Jerry Johnson Hot Springs in Warm Springs Creek and Stanley Hot Springs in Huckleberry Creek. Stanley Hot Springs is accessible by a non-motorized, non-mechanized trail, generally by foot or horse, by following Trail 211 from the Wilderness Gateway Recreation Site up Boulder Creek approximately five miles from the trailhead and crossing Boulder Creek.

Figure 21. Huckleberry Creek Hot Springs

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Huckleberry Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the cold-water aquatic life beneficial use.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The Huckleberry Creek segment is within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area. The surrounding area is used for hiking and horseback riding.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

No changes are anticipated to the land use within the wilderness area. The area is already withdrawn from mineral entry due to wilderness area designation. The likelihood for geothermal development or other water development is minimal since Huckleberry Creek is several miles within the wilderness area with no private land for miles in any direction. Water developments in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

The recreation outstandingly remarkable value for Huckleberry Creek is based entirely on the unique hot springs near the mouth of the creek. There are no hot springs along Boulder Creek or other area streams, so it does not contribute to river system or basin integrity.

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Although hot springs attract interest for geothermal development, the location of this hot springs deep in the wilderness area makes development highly unlikely. User built temporary dams occur when people want to control the water for soaking.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 47. Huckleberry Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Warm Springs Creek

Table 48. Warm Springs Creek

Segment Description	Confluence with Lochsa River to confluence with Wind Lakes Creek
Segment Length	6.4 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	2,048 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Recreation (hot springs), scenic, and geology

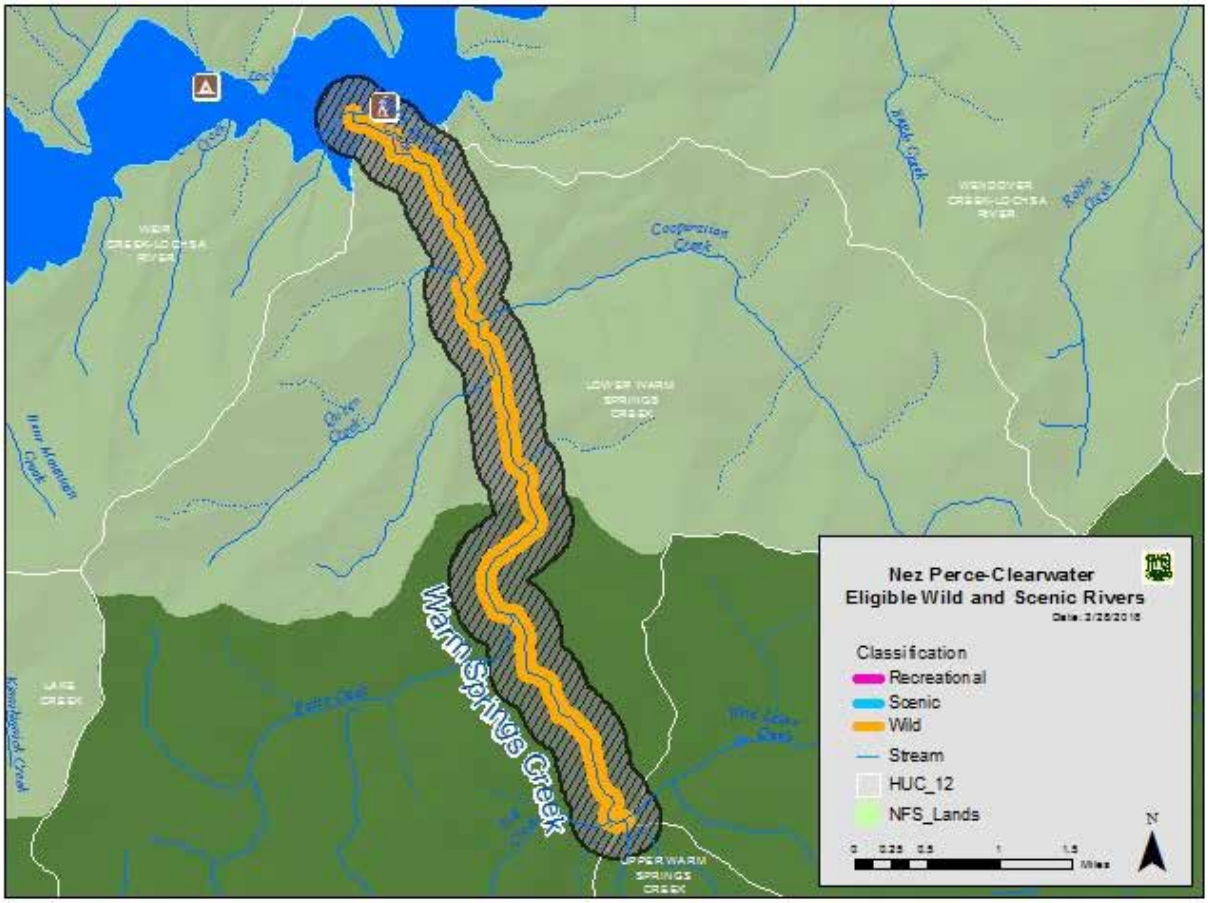

Figure 22. Warm Springs Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. **Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system**

The recreational outstandingly remarkable value for Warm Springs Creek is Jerry Johnson Hot Springs, which is known throughout and beyond the region of comparison. Hot springs books and websites recommend these springs, and they are visited throughout the year. The hot springs surface along a relatively short section of Warm Springs Creek, and they are easily accessible via a trail open to non-motorized use and a hike of less than a mile to the first springs. Although there are numerous hot springs in the region of comparison, some are developed, such as Red River Hot Springs and Lolo Hot Springs.

Some, such as Barth Hot Springs, have mortared rocks or other man-made structures. Others are very remote, very small, or do not provide a soaking opportunity. Undeveloped hot springs do not have permanent man-made structures, although they may have loose rock or stacked logs. The two that stand out as unique or exemplary are Jerry Johnson Hot Springs in Warm Springs Creek and Stanley Hot Springs in Huckleberry Creek.

Figure 23. Jerry Johnson Falls

The scenic outstandingly remarkable value for Warm Springs Creek is a spectacular waterfall drop of 60 feet of the entire stream into a “punchbowl” formation, one that is noted in the Waterfall Lovers Guide, Pacific Northwest. Elk Creek Falls is the other notable “punchbowl” type waterfall on the national forest. The geology outstandingly remarkable value is associated with two hot springs in Warm Springs Creek known as Jerry Johnson Hot Springs and is one of the best examples of hot springs found in the region of comparison.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho’s waters. Warm Springs Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

Warm Springs Creek enters the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area after crossing the Lochsa Face Idaho Roadless Area, passing through both a Land Management Plan special area and a backcountry/restoration themed area. Developments across the Lochsa River include U.S. Highway 12 and the Warm Springs Trailhead. A bridge allows access to non-motorized trails within the Warm Springs Creek corridor and beyond.

There are no roads, motorized trails, mining claims, mapped rock sources, or allotments in this area.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

The Warm Springs Creek segment is within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area and the Lochsa Face Idaho Roadless Area special area Lochsa Wild and Scenic River corridor and backcountry/restoration themed areas.

The Jerry Johnson Waterfall is within the wilderness area boundary and the hot springs are within the roadless area. From the mouth of Warm Springs Creek to upstream approximately one-quarter mile lies within the Lochsa River Wild and Scenic River Corridor. No changes are anticipated to land use within the wilderness area. Wilderness area designation withdraws the area from mineral entry, and water developments in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

A stock bridge across the Lochsa River provides access via Trail 49 to the hot springs and continues on to a view of the waterfall. This trail is open to non-motorized travel with a parallel stock trail that routes around the hot springs and rejoins the main trail above the hot springs. The area surrounding the hot springs is currently closed to camping, with use allowed from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

No changes are anticipated to the land use and trail maintenance to the waterfall view. The remainder of the area is managed under the backcountry/restoration theme of the Idaho Roadless Rule. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If this segment is found suitable, the wild designation would foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration. This option would be foreclosed on 121 acres within the warm dry potential vegetation type group and 563 acres within the warm moist potential vegetation type group.

Currently, there is no road access to Warm Springs Creek. Although road construction is possible under very limited circumstances, it is highly unlikely since it would require constructing an extensive bridge to span the Lochsa River. Land use is unlikely to change whether or not Warm Springs Creek is found suitable.

If Warm Springs is designated wild, its corridor would be withdrawn from mineral entry. Under the current management, mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872 are allowed under the Idaho Roadless Rule.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

All segments on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate this creek's important contributions to the system.

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Theoretical low head and small hydro-electric potential exists within many of the rivers and streams within the Nez Perce-Clearwater. However, when considering other ecologic, social, and economic factors analyzed in studies, the feasibility of hydrologic development is highly unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 49. Warm Springs Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

‘Imnamatnoon Creek and Waw’aalamnime Creek

Table 50. Imnamatnoon Creek and Waw’aalamnime Creek

Segment Description	‘Imnamatnoon Creek: confluence with Lochsa River to West Fork ‘Imnamatnoon Creek Waw’ aalamnime Creek: confluence with Lochsa River to 1.26 miles upstream of mouth
Segment Length	3.4 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	1,088 acres
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Wildlife (harlequin duck), fish

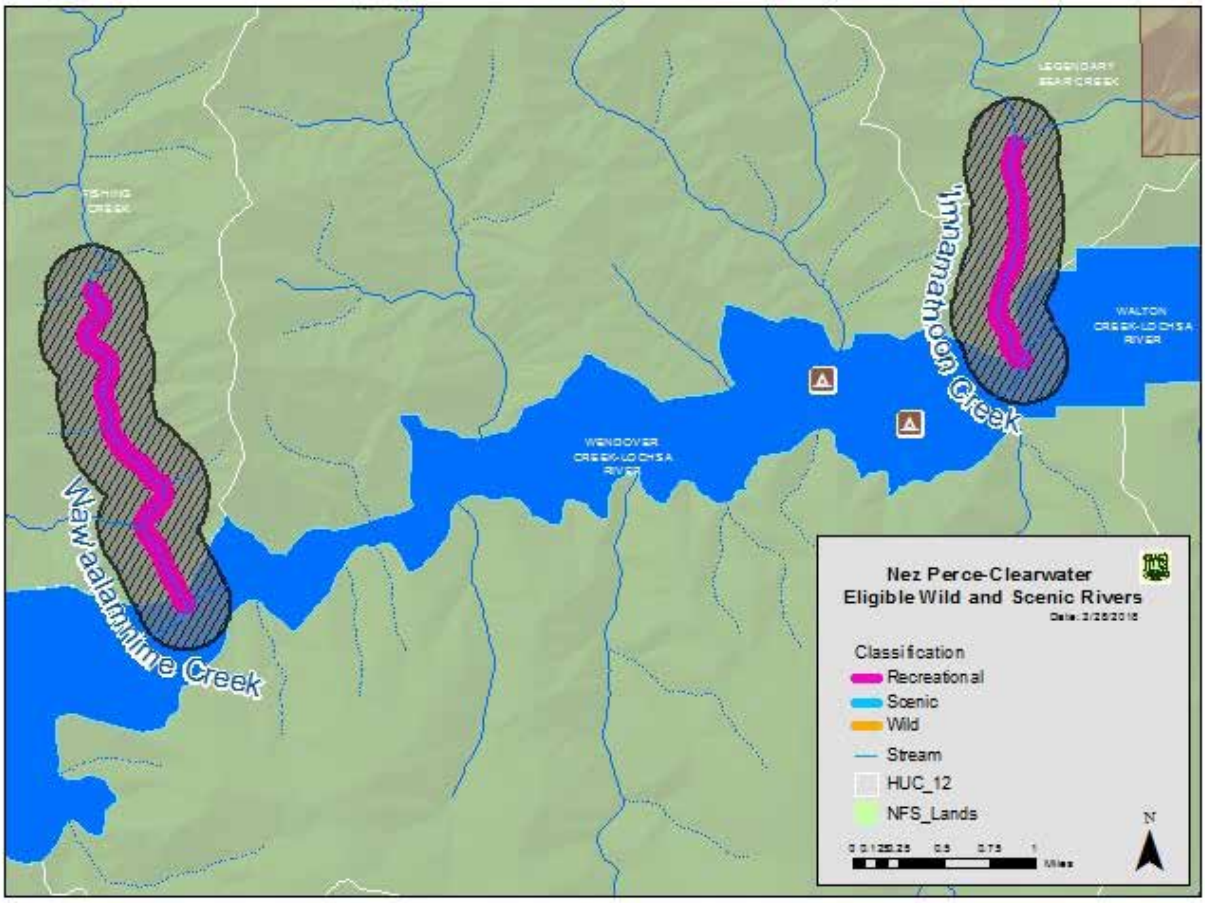

Figure 24. Imnamatnoon Creek and Waw’aalamnime Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The outstandingly remarkable value for Waw’ aalamine Creek and ‘Imnamatnoon Creek includes the populations of the harlequin duck. Harlequin ducks occur from the mouth of ‘Imnamatnoon Creek upstream to the confluence of the east fork and west fork of this creek. Populations of harlequin ducks

occur on Waw'aalamine Creek from the mouth to approximately two miles upstream. There have not been any observations upstream from these sections.

The harlequin duck has been considered rare in Idaho for over 100 years. In Idaho, approximately 50 pairs breed statewide along a limited number of high-quality streams within the Priest River, Kootenai River, Clark Fork, Lake Pend Oreille, St. Joe River, Clearwater River, and the South Fork Snake River watersheds. Approximately 38 percent of all harlequin duck observations in Idaho Species Diversity Database[5] have been observed within the Land Management Plan area. Harlequin ducks breed along relatively large, fast-moving mountain streams with gradients of one to seven percent. Breeding streams are characterized by rocky substrates that support the benthic macro-invertebrates upon which the ducks feed, as well as large numbers of rapids and riffle areas interspersed with eddies. Water quality appears to be very important for successful foraging, with clear, low-acid water being optimal. Relative to other species of ducks, harlequin ducks occur at low population densities and exhibit high breeding site fidelity, low reproductive rates, and delayed reproduction. All of these traits contribute to making harlequin duck populations particularly slow to recover from habitat degradation, loss, or other factors that may lower duck survival. Harlequin ducks have disappeared from former breeding sites in Idaho and Montana (Wiggins 2005).

The fisheries outstandingly remarkable values for Waw'aa'limnine Creek are based on diversity, abundance, and natural reproduction. The eligible segments support spawning and early rearing habitat for native steelhead trout, bull trout, spring Chinook salmon, and westslope cutthroat trout. The eligible segments are included as designated critical habitat for Snake River steelhead and Columbia River bull trout. A bull trout local population has been identified in the watershed (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015), and Forest Service data (redd surveys) indicate eligible segments are used extensively for spawning. Waw'aa'limnine Creek is identified as a minor spawning area for steelhead trout (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017). There are no known non-native aquatic species present in the watershed.

A fish outstandingly remarkable value has not been identified in Imnatmat'noon Creek.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Imnamatnoon Creek and Waw'aalamnime Creek are meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

Waw' aalamnime Creek runs through the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3. Forest Road 108 (ML 3) runs along the creek and roads in the corridor include U. S. Highway 12, Forest Road 566 (ML 3), Forest Road 1680 (ML 2), and Forest Road 5613.

'Imnamatnoon Creek runs through the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3. Forest Road 568 (ML 3) runs along the creek and roads in the corridor include U. S. Highway 12, Forest Road 563 (ML 1), and ML 1 roads Forest Road 5621 A, B, and E. There are a more than a dozen mining claims upstream of the 'Imnamatnoon Creek segment on 'Imnamatnoon Creek and West Fork 'Imnamatnoon Creek.

[5] Idaho Species Diversity Database: https://idfg.idaho.gov/species/ [accessed April 2017]

The segments on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the proposed Management Area 3 have been managed for timber production under the 1987 Forest Plan, and timber harvest has occurred along both segments.

There are no motorized trails, mining claims, mapped rock sources, or allotments along these segments.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

Some of the segments of the creeks are in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are one management tool used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed or restricted on 1,062 acres of the segment classified as recreational that overlaps with proposed Management Area 3.

Harlequin ducks breed in habitats that are particularly susceptible to Forest Service management activities, water development projects, and human recreational use (Wiggins 2005). If these creeks are included in the national system, they would maintain the integrity (water quality, quantity, vegetation composition, and structure) and natural flow regimes of montane riparian habitats within the corridor and protect factors that influence stream occupancy of harlequin duck reproduction and survival. The mouths of both of these creeks fall within already designated areas of the Lochsa Wild and Scenic River.

For wildlife of economic and social importance, areas along ‘Wawaalamnime Creek provide both high quality summer and winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. ‘Imnamatnoon Creek possesses potential for a highly nutritious vegetation response for big game if it is to be treated. Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

A wide variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, have habitat within the river corridor and would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. For example, high quality habitat for fisher occurs along both of these creeks. Conservation of these habitats within the corridors would improve for fisher should these rivers be included in the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 51. Imnamatnoon Creek and Waw'aalamnime Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Old Man Creek

Table 52. Old Man Creek

Segment Description	Confluence with Chimney Creek to headwaters
Segment Length	8.3 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	2,656 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Scenic

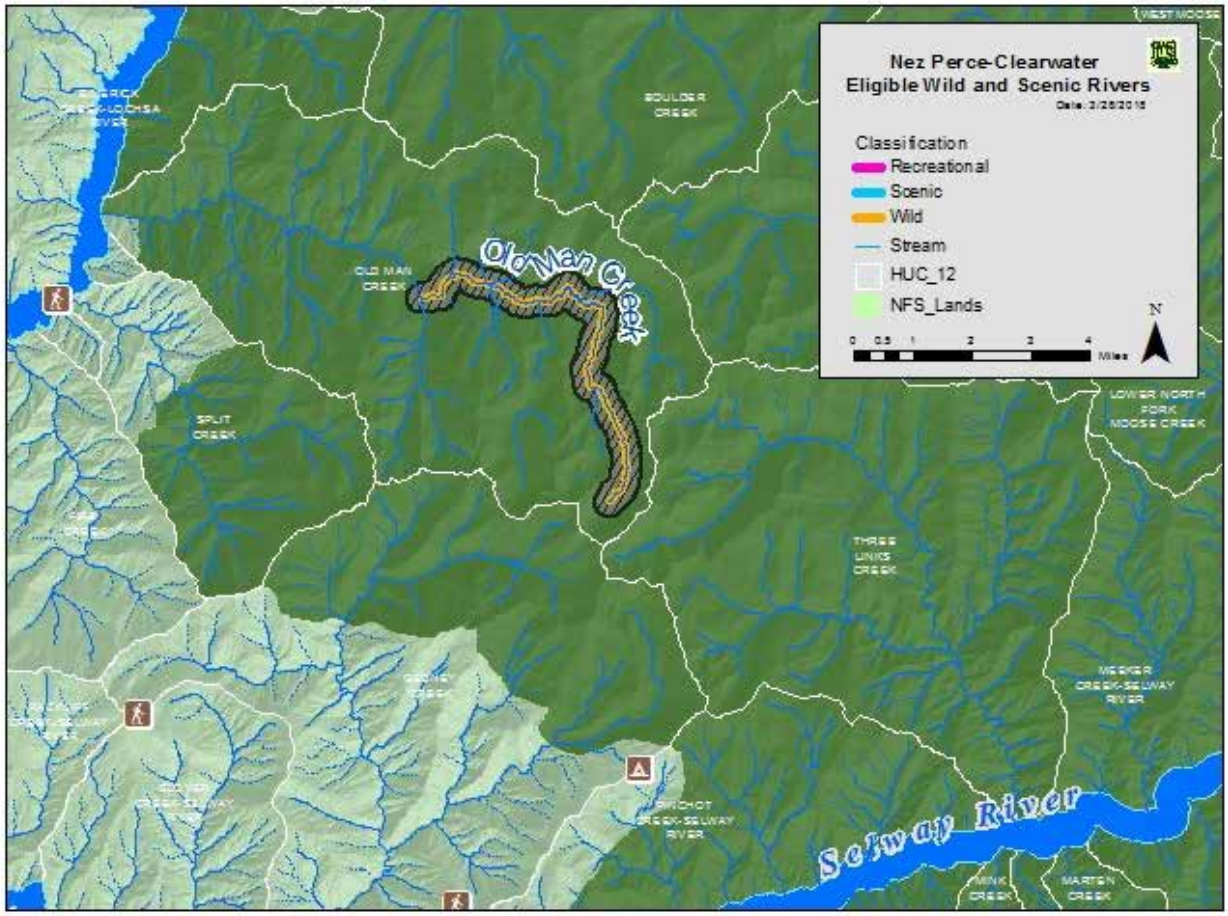

Figure 25. Old Man Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

Old Man Creek begins on the north side of Fenn Mountain, part of the Selway Crags area and one of the few places in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area with truly dramatic scenery. The stream begins with Florence Lake. There are a variety of cliffs, rocks, and brush, which provides seasonal color. Downstream of the lake, the creek winds through large meadows and a forested area to Chimney Creek, where the scenic outstandingly remarkable value ends. Below this point, the stream drops continuously through a steep narrow canyon to the Lochsa River. This segment does not include distinctive scenic features, such

as cliffs, lakes, or waterfalls, and does not have the visual variety of the upper segment. The headwaters are within the proposed Fenn Mountain Research Natural Area for the unique vegetation.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Old Man Creek has not been assessed or there is insufficient data to determine if water quality standards are being met or if beneficial uses are supported.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. This segment is within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

No changes are anticipated to land use within the wilderness area. Wilderness area designation withdraws the area from mineral entry and dams in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

4. The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system.

5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies.

6. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system.

7. A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system

8. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development

9. State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives.

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

The scenic value is the only outstandingly remarkable value for Old Man Creek. It is not a major contributor to river system or basin integrity for its scenic value. The scenic outstandingly remarkable value is only found in the headwater's portion of the stream and not in the six-mile canyon that connects it to the Lochsa Wild and Scenic River.

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 53. Old Man Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Lake Creek (Lochsa Subbasin)

Table 54. Lake Creek (Lochsa Subbasin)

Segment Description	Confluence with Fish Lake Creek to Lochsa River
Segment Length	5.6 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	1,792 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Fish

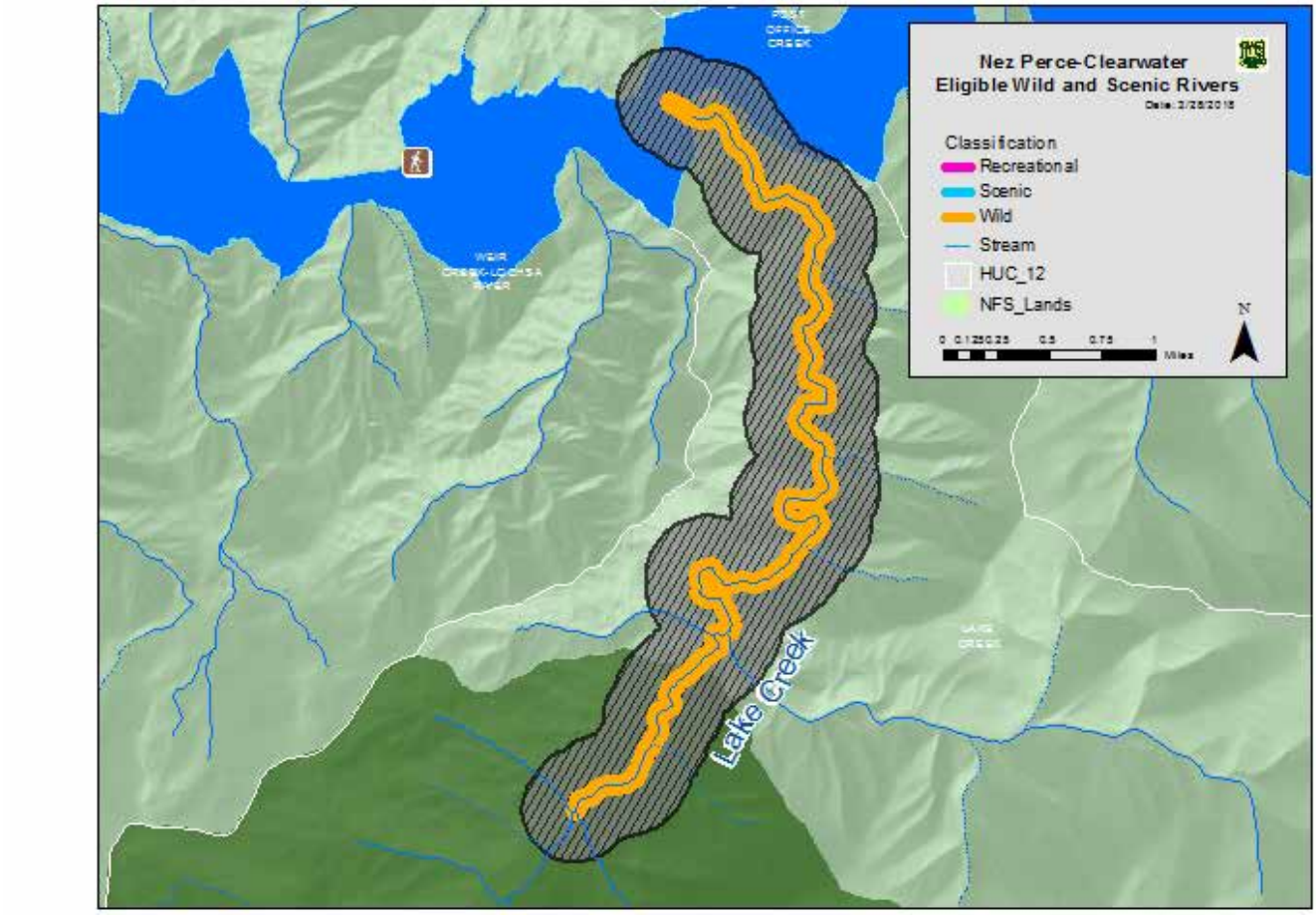

Figure 26. Lake Creek (Lochsa Subbasin)

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The fish outstandingly remarkable value is based on diversity, abundance, habitat quality, and natural reproduction. The eligible segment is included as a major spawning area for Snake River steelhead trout (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017) and is designated critical habitat for both steelhead and Columbia River bull trout. A bull trout local population has been identified in Lake Creek (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Fish Lake contains an adfluvial population of bull trout, which is one of only two within the region of comparison. Spawning and early rearing occurs both up and

downstream of the lake. The lake also supports a native and self-sustaining population of westslope cutthroat trout. Lake Creek supports spawning and early rearing of spring Chinook salmon in its mid to lower reaches. Non-native species are not known to be present in the Lake Creek watershed.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

Lake Creek is on lands administered by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. Lake Creek begins at the confluence of Spongeand Fish Lake creeks in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. It leaves wilderness and continues through the Lochsa Face Idaho Roadless Area with a backcountry restoration theme. Although timber harvest, road building, and discretionary minerals activity is not precluded in the backcountry restoration theme, this area has had very little active management in the past due to limited access.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

A wild designation would curtail motorized use in this area.

The Idaho Roadless Area Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry restoration theme areas; however, for backcountry restoration areas, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872. Timber harvest is not currently a major activity within the eligible corridor. However, in the backcountry restoration theme of the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If this segment is found suitable, the wild designation would curtail or restrict timber harvest on 1,670 acres as an option for vegetation restoration.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system.**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies.**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system.**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 55. Lake Creek (Lochsa Subbasin) Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Selway River Basin

Bear Creek, Cub Creek, and Brushy Fork Creek

Table 56. Bear Creek, Cub Creek, and Brushy Fork Creek

Segment Description	Bear Creek: confluence with Selway River to headwaters Cub Creek: confluence with Bear Creek to headwaters Brushy Fork Creek: confluence with Cub Creek to headwaters
Segment Length	47.4 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	15,168 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Bear Creek: scenic, Nez Perce Tribe cultural, fish, and wildlife Cub Creek and Brushy Fork Creek: scenic

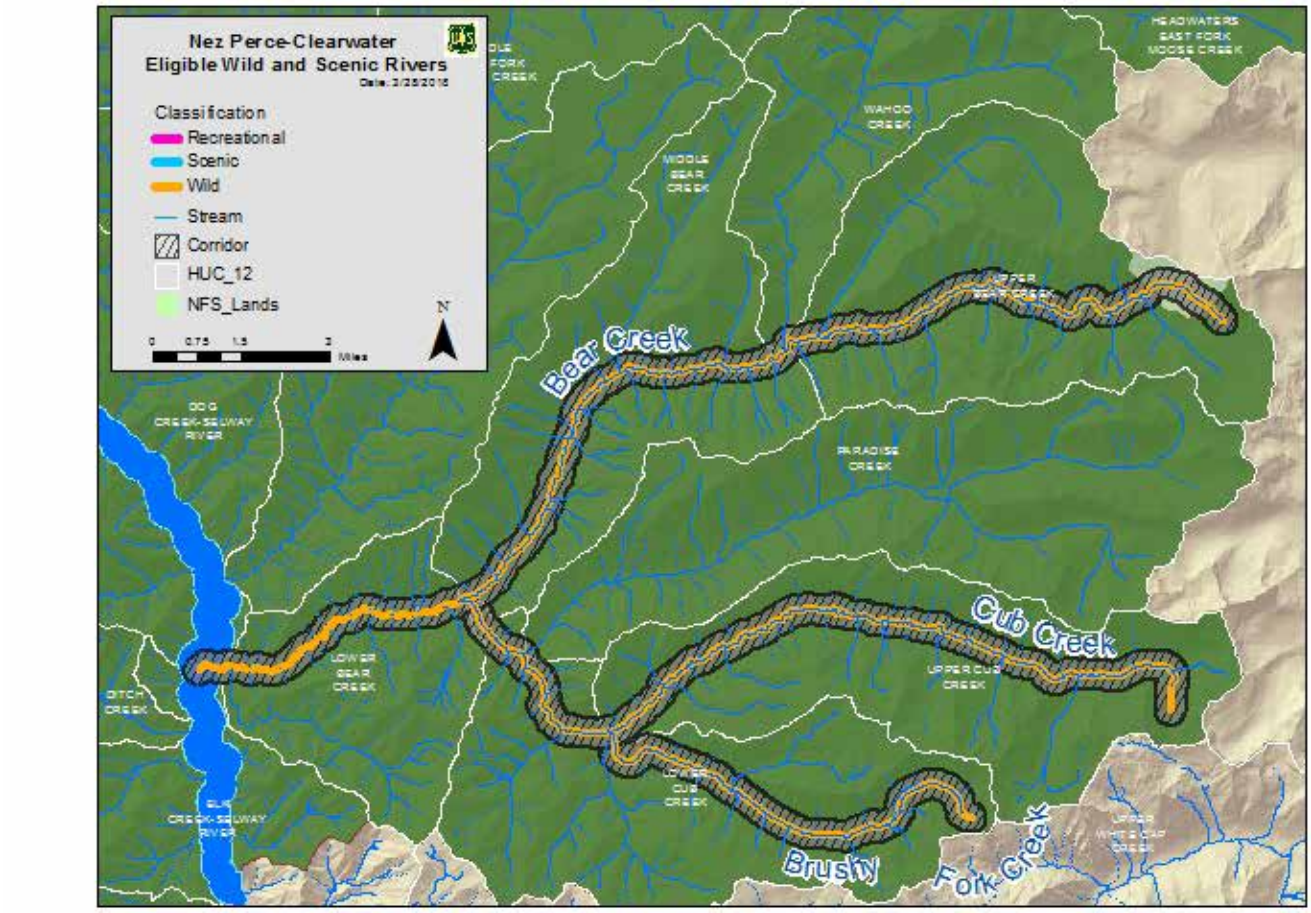

Figure 27. Bear Creek, Cub Creek, and Brushy Fork Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. **Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system**

High visual variety contributes to the scenic outstandingly remarkable value for segments of Bear Creek, along with the headwaters of Cub and Brushy Fork Creeks. The headwaters portions of Bear, Cub, and

Brushy Fork Creeks along the Bitterroot Divide exhibit high scenic quality with distinctive craggy peaks and high cirque lakes in addition to a variety of rock, water, and vegetation.

Since the national forest includes 1.2 million acres of some of the most spectacular wilderness areas in the country, it is not surprising that many of the segments with high scenic quality occur in a wilderness area. The designated Wild and Scenic Selway River flows through the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area and many of its tributaries have high scenic quality, particularly those with high cirque lakes and craggy peaks in their headwaters.

The fish outstandingly remarkable value for Bear Creek is based on diversity, abundance, habitat quality, natural reproduction, and cultural/historical significance. Bear Creek supports spawning and early rearing by native spring Chinook salmon in high numbers and contains large areas of excellent habitat. The "Salmon Hole" is a natural channel feature just downstream of the exemplary spawning habitat for salmon and provides a large, deep space for adult salmon to rest and hold safely during low summer flows prior to spawning in August. This resource has significant cultural and historic significance to native people. Bear Creek also supports spawning and rearing for native steelhead trout and is designated critical habitat for Snake River steelhead and Columbia River bull trout. It is a major spawning area for steelhead (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017), and a local bull trout population has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). The eligible segment also supports a large population of fluvial westslope cutthroat trout. Stream habitat is unaffected by human disturbances. A series of natural disturbances (wildfires), starting in the mid-1980s and continuing to the present, have affected the eligible segment, resulting in accumulations of large wood and formation of debris jams, which have created highly complex habitat preferred by resident, fluvial, and anadromous salmonids. Small landslides have resulted in delivery of spawning gravels, as well as large wood, to the channel. Non-native aquatic species are not known to exist within the eligible creek segment.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Bear Creek, Cub Creek, and Brushy Fork Creek are meeting water quality standards and fully support the following beneficial uses: aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, wildlife habitat, and agricultural/industrial water supply.

Nez Perce tribal staff identified the Bear Creek segment as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The cultural outstandingly remarkable value for Bear Creek is that it is one of three places Nimi'ipuu oral history indicates the Nez Perce Tribe originated from in addition to the archaeological significance of the drainage.

The outstandingly remarkable value for wildlife on Bear Creek includes populations of harlequin ducks. These ducks are renowned for their beauty, being one of the most attractive sea ducks. Harlequin ducks occur from the mouth of Bear Creek upstream to the confluence of Bear Creek and Cub Creek. The harlequin duck has been considered rare in Idaho for over 100 years. In Idaho, approximately 50 pairs breed along a limited number of high-quality streams within the Priest River, Kootenai River, Clark Fork, Lake Pend Oreille, St. Joe River, Clearwater River, and the South Fork Snake River watersheds. Approximately 38 percent of all harlequin duck observations in Idaho Species Diversity Database[6] have been observed within the Land Management Plan area (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b). Harlequin ducks breed along relatively large, fast-moving mountain streams with gradients of one to

[6] Idaho Species Diversity Database: https://idfg.idaho.gov/species/ [accessed April 2017]

seven percent. Breeding streams are characterized by rocky substrates that support the benthic macro-invertebrates upon which the ducks feed, as well as large numbers of rapids and riffle areas interspersed with eddies. Water quality appears to be very important for successful foraging, with clear, low-acid water being optimal. Relative to other species of ducks, harlequin ducks occur at low population densities and exhibit high breeding site fidelity, low reproductive rates, and delayed reproduction. All of these traits contribute to making harlequin duck populations particularly slow to recover from habitat degradation or loss or other factors that may lower duck survival. Harlequin ducks have disappeared from former breeding sites in Idaho and Montana (Wiggins 2005).

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

Bear Creek enters the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area after its headwaters leave the Selway Bitterroot Idaho Roadless Area primitive theme area. The only motorized access is to the headwaters through the Bitterroot National Forest; Bear Lake Motorized Trail (T 613) is within the corridor for about three-quarters of a mile near Bear Creek Pass.

Cub Creek and Brushy Fork Creek corridors are entirely within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area.

There are no roads, motorized trails (other than T 613), mining claims, mapped rock sources, or allotments in this area.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

The segments are within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area and the Selway Bitterroot Idaho Roadless Area primitive theme area. No changes are anticipated to land use in the Idaho Roadless Area. However, in the primitive theme of the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If the Bear Creek segment within the Idaho Roadless Area is found suitable, the wild designation would restrict or curtail timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration.

The Idaho Roadless Area Rule limits road construction, reconstruction, and surface occupancy in primitive theme areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the wilderness area. Wilderness area designation withdraws the area from mineral entry, and water developments in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

Bear Creek is a major tributary to the Selway River, a designated wild and scenic river with both recreational and wild classifications on different segments. Bear Creek and its tributaries contribute to river system integrity.

These creeks were identified as important contributors to the river system and to basin integrity. Multiple outstandingly remarkable values have been identified, including a fish outstandingly remarkable value corresponding to the creeks' potential to support recovery goals of Endangered Species Act listed aquatic species. These creeks are some of the larger tributaries in the Selway Basin. As such, they play an important ecological role in providing clean, free-flowing water and habitat for fish and wildlife species. They also are often critically important culturally in the present day, historically, and prehistorically.

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 57. Bear Creek, Cub Creek, and Brushy Fork Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable

Gedney Creek and West Fork Gedney Creek

Table 58. Gedney Creek and West Fork Gedney Creek

Segment Description	Gedney Creek: confluence with Selway River to headwaters West Fork Gedney Creek: confluence with Gedney Creek to headwaters
Segment Length	19.21 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	6,112acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Gedney Creek: fish West Fork Gedney Creek: scenic

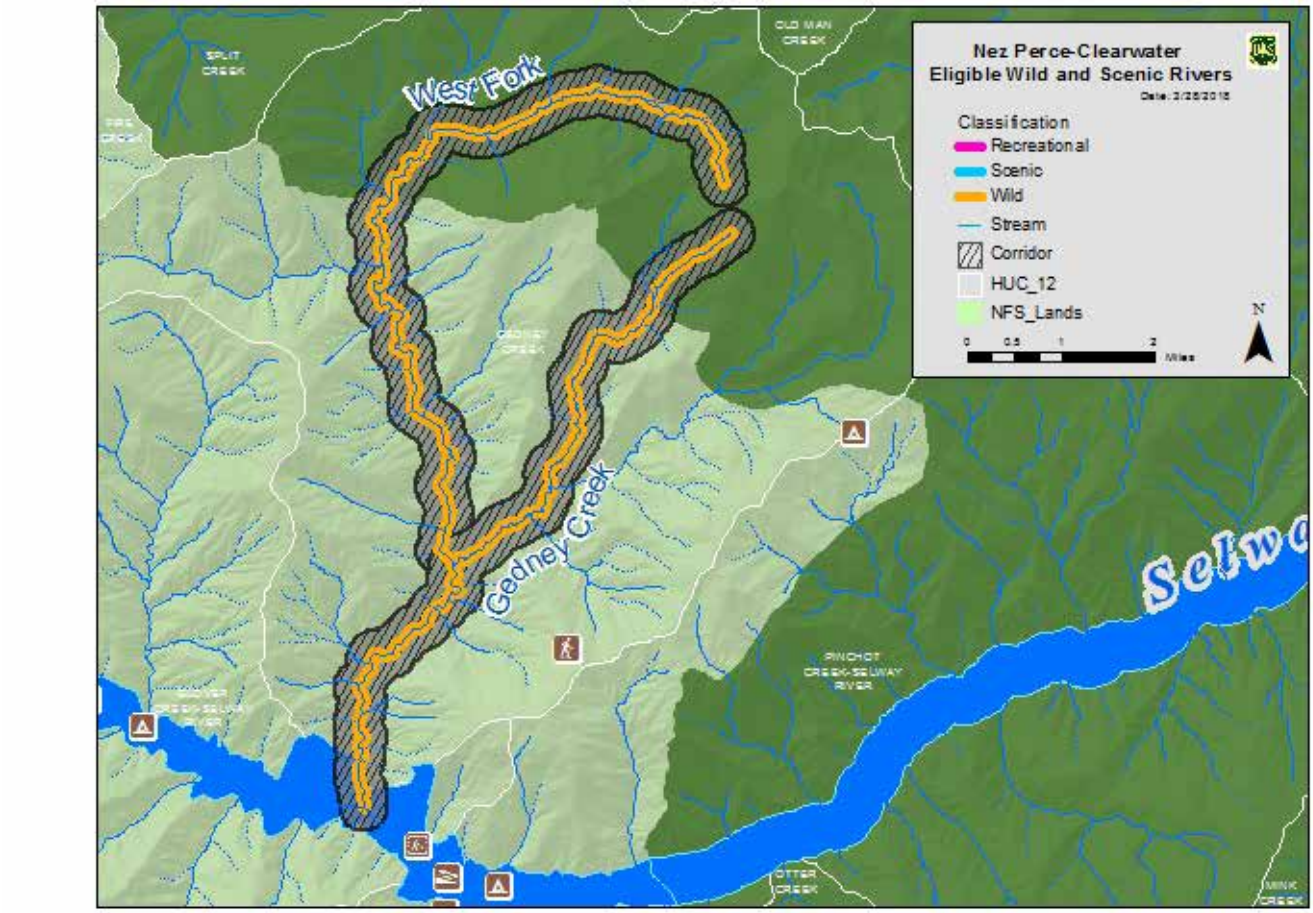

Figure 28. Gedney Creek and West Fork Gedney Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. **Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system**

The initial determination was that West Fork Gedney Creek had a scenic outstandingly remarkable value. The Nationwide River Inventory noted that West Fork Gedney Creek is also part of spectacular visual quality with outstanding vegetation and lakes.

The fish outstandingly remarkable value for Gedney Creek includes diversity, abundance, habitat quality, and natural reproduction. Gedney Creek supports high densities of native steelhead trout and provides some of the most important spawning and rearing habitat available below Selway Falls. Steelhead trout in the Selway River and tributaries are B-run and make a significant contribution to the steelhead population within the region of comparison. Eligible segments in Gedney Creek are included as designated critical habitat for Snake River steelhead and Columbia River bull trout. They have been identified as a minor spawning area for steelhead (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017) and a potential local population of bull trout has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Eligible segments provide important spawning and rearing areas for westslope cutthroat trout. The habitat is very high quality and has been minimally affected by human disturbance. There are no known non-native species in eligible segments, although non-native brook trout are present upstream.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Gedney Creek has portions that have not been assessed and other sections that are meeting water quality standards and fully supporting beneficial uses. Beneficial uses are cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning. West Fork Gedney Creek has not been assessed or there is insufficient data to determine if water quality standards are being met or if beneficial uses are supported.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

The segments enter the Rackliff-Gedney Idaho Roadless Area backcountry/restoration themed area after their headwaters leave the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area.

The Gedney Trailhead is at the mouth of Gedney Creek. Motorized Trail (T 708) is within the corridor for both creeks. Gedney Creek also has Forest Road 223 at its mouth and Fog Mountain Road (Forest Road 319 – ML 2) within its corridor.

There are no other roads, motorized trails, mining claims, mapped rock sources, or allotments in this area.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

A wild designation would curtail motorized use in this area.

The segments are within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area and the Selway Bitterroot Idaho Roadless Area's backcountry/restoration themed area. No changes are anticipated to land use within the wilderness area and roadless area. However, in the backcountry/restoration theme of the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If this segment is found suitable, the wild designation would restrict or curtail timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration.

The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within the backcountry/restoration theme areas; however, for backcountry/restoration areas, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

Wilderness designation withdraws the area from mineral entry, and water developments in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

For other wildlife, areas along Gedney Creek and West Fork Gedney Creek provide crucial winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Some areas along these streams also provide summer habitat. This area has high potential to produce high quality forage for big game when treated. Opportunities to enhance

habitat for big game must follow provisions in the Idaho Roadless Rule. Any measures required to protect outstandingly remarkable values may affect the ability to restore or enhance wildlife habitats.

A wide variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, have habitat within the river corridor and would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. The headwaters of these creeks contain lynx habitat. The lower portion of Gedney Creek contains high quality habitat for fisher. These habitats within the corridor would be preserved or enhanced should these rivers be included in the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 59. Gedney Creek and West Fork Gedney Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

O’Hara Creek

Table 60. O’Hara Creek

Segment Description	O’Hara Creek: confluence with Selway River to confluence with Stillman Creek
Segment Length	2.3 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	736 acres
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Wildlife (Selway forestsnail)

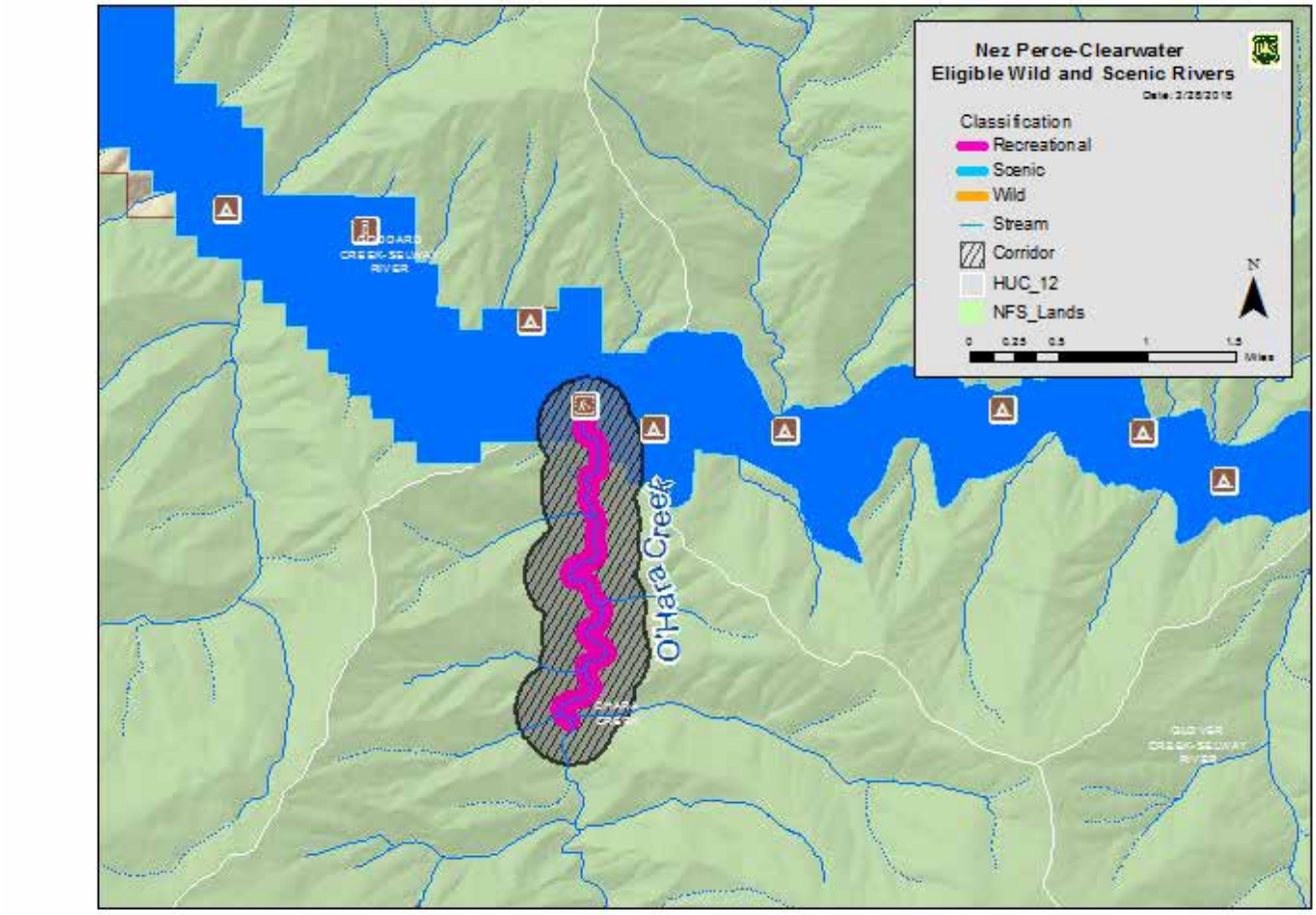

Figure 29. O’Hara Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

O’Hara Creek contains populations of the Selway forest snail, which is an outstandingly remarkable value for this river. The Selway forest snail is an Idaho endemic with a global range that is only known to occur in isolated colonies at lower elevations along the lower Lochsa River, the Selway River, the South Fork of the Clearwater River, and the lower Salmon River (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b). The most recent records have all been along the Lochsa and Selway Rivers (Idaho Department of Fish and Game

2017b). This species is found in intact mixed coniferous forests, usually in low elevation, well-shaded, moist areas along medium to large streams. Sites usually have a diverse understory and a substantial duff layer. It is known only from about a dozen sites across its entire range, including near O'Hara Creek.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. O'Hara Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

The mouth is within the designated recreation corridor of the Wild and Scenic Lochsa River. U.S. Highway 12 runs along the Lochsa River in this area.

O'Hara Creek corridor includes the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 on the west side and the O'Hara-Falls Creek Idaho Roadless Area on the east side, passing through both a special area of historic and tribal significance and a backcountry/restoration themed area. Developments and roads in the corridor include the O'Hara Campground, the O'Hara Quarry, a self-guided tour along the first mile of the creek, the Stillman Ridge Motorized Trail (T 225), ML 3 Forest Road 651, and ML 1 Forest Roads 9701 and 9701F. The self-guided tour highlights restoration projects that started in the late 1980s to repair damage done by logging and road building.

The corridor on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in proposed Management Area 3 have been managed for timber production under the 1987 Forest Plan, and timber harvest has occurred along this segment.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

Some sections of O'Hara Creek are in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed or restricted on 220 acres of the segment classified as recreational that overlaps with the proposed Management Area 3.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the roadless areas. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If these segments are found suitable, the scenic designation would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest and would likely foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration.

The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry/restoration themed areas; however, for backcountry/restoration areas, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction and surface occupancy in special areas of historic and tribal significance theme areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872. The backcountry/restoration theme of the Idaho Roadless Rule allows vegetation management and restoration activities.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 61. O'Hara Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Meadow Creek, East Fork Meadow Creek, and Buck Lake Creek

Table 62. Meadow Creek, East Fork Meadow Creek, and Buck Lake Creek

Segment Description	**Meadow Creek: confluence with Selway River to headwaters East Fork Meadow Creek: confluence with Meadow Creek to headwaters Buck Lake Creek: confluence with Meadow Creek to headwaters**
Segment Length	63.3 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	20,256 acres
Preliminary Classification	Meadow Creek (Middle Portion) And Buck Lake Creek: wild Meadow Creek (Upper Portion) And East Fork Meadow Creek: scenic Meadow Creek (Lower Portion): recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Meadow Creek: recreational, cultural, Nez Perce Tribe cultural, fish, and wildlife East Fork Meadow Creek and Buck Lake Creek: fish

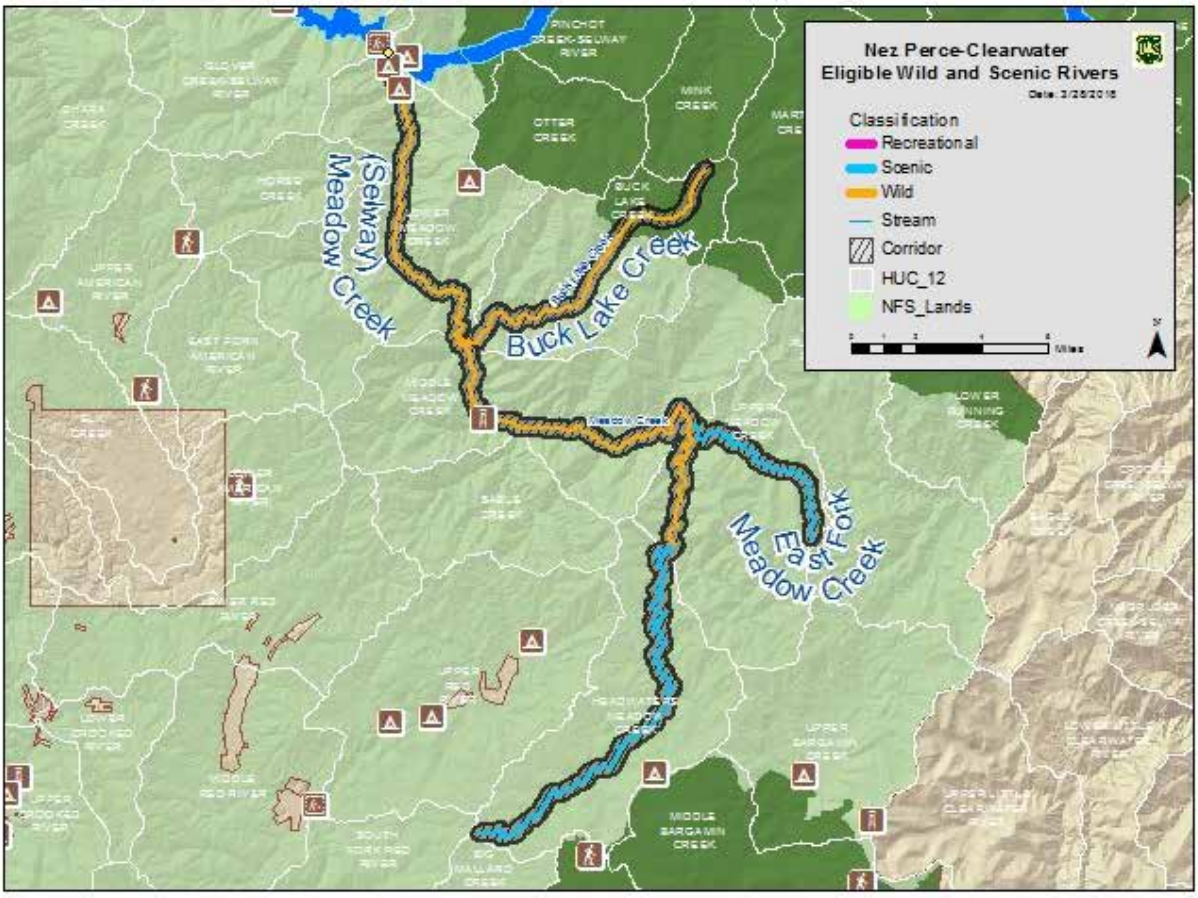

Figure 30. Meadow Creek, East Fork Meadow Creek, and Buck Lake Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The recreational outstandingly remarkable value for the segment of Meadow Creek, a tributary to the Selway River, is the National Recreation Trail that is focused on the interaction with the river. The Meadow Creek National Recreation Trail is a popular trail that provides an extensive opportunity to interact with the creek from the mouth upstream to Butte Creek near the old Meadow Creek Ranger Station.

The fish outstandingly remarkable value for Meadow Creek includes diversity, abundance, habitat quality, natural reproduction, and cultural/historical. Eligible segments within Meadow Creek have been identified as a major spawning area for Snake River steelhead trout (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017), and a local bull trout population has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Eligible segments within Meadow Creek, East Fork Meadow Creek, and Buck Lake Creek are included as designated critical habitat for steelhead and Columbia River bull trout. Meadow Creek also supports substantial spawning and early rearing for native spring Chinook salmon. Buck Lake Creek supports very high densities of juvenile steelhead trout, when compared to other streams in the region of comparison. Steelhead trout in Meadow Creek are wild B-run fish that are critical to the overall population within the region of comparison, as there is no record that hatchery supplementation has ever occurred. It is likely the population has high genetic integrity. East Fork Meadow Creek supports very high densities of westslope cutthroat trout and juvenile bull trout when compared to other streams in the region of comparison. The higher elevation eligible segments in Meadow Creek support a unique assemblage of native salmonids, including interior redband trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and a resident bull trout population. Genetic analysis that has been conducted on westslope cutthroat trout in upper Meadow Creek indicates extremely high genetic diversity when compared to other populations within the region of comparison and across the range of the species. The westslope cutthroat trout population in higher elevation reaches exhibits high genetic integrity with no evidence of introgression. Habitat in the eligible segments has been affected minimally by human disturbance. Meadow Creek and its fishery resources are of high cultural importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Meadow Creek has portions that have not been assessed and other sections that are meeting water quality standards and fully supporting beneficial uses. Beneficial uses are cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning. East Fork Meadow Creek has portions that have not been assessed and other sections that are meeting water quality standards and fully supporting beneficial uses. Beneficial uses are aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, wildlife habitat, and agricultural/industrial water supply. Buck Lake Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: aesthetic, wildlife habitat, and agricultural/industrial water supply.

The Nez Perce tribal staff identified the Meadow Creek segment as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The cultural outstandingly remarkable value for Meadow Creek is that the stream has an assemblage of archaeological sites situated along the entirety of the drainage. This level of prehistoric usage for a fifth order stream is an outstanding example of prehistoric land use not found elsewhere.

The lower portions of Meadow Creek, from the mouth upstream to approximately the confluence with Squirrel Creek, contains populations of the Selway forestsnail, which is an outstandingly remarkable

value for this river. The Selway forestsnail is an Idaho endemic with a global range that is only known to occur in isolated colonies at lower elevations along the lower Lochsa River, the Selway River, the South Fork Clearwater River, and the lower Salmon River and their tributaries (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b). The most recent records have all been along the Lochsa and Selway Rivers (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b). This species is found in intact mixed coniferous forest, usually in low elevation, well-shaded, moist areas along medium to large streams. Sites usually have a diverse understory and a substantial duff layer. It is known only from about a dozen sites across its entire range, including Meadow Creek.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

The Meadow Creek headwaters are within the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 and then it enters the West Meadow Creek Idaho Roadless Area, passing through a backcountry/restoration themed area. The east side of the corridor also includes a part of the East Meadow Creek Idaho Roadless Area, a primitive themed area. Developments in the corridor include 7 sites in the Selway Falls Campground and 2 sites within the Slims Camp Campground; the Meadow Creek National Recreation Trail, which is open the first three miles to motorized vehicles; the Meadow Creek Rental Cabin; and the Meadow Creek Workstation. A number of motorized trails are within the corridor, including Green Mountain (T 541), Butte Creek (T 809), Meadow Creek (T 726), Sable Hill (T 611), and West Fork Sable Creek (T 672). The corridor also includes ML 3 roads Forest Road 290F, Forest Road 443D, and Forest Road 468 and ML 2 roads Forest Road 290 and Forest Road 443. The upper portion of Meadow Creek has also been managed for timber production, and timber harvest has occurred along the upper portion of Meadow Creek under the 1987 Forest Plan.

The Buck Lake Creek headwaters are within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area then it enters the East Meadow Creek Idaho Roadless Area, a primitive themed area. There are no roads, motorized trails, mining claims, mapped rock sources, or allotments in this area.

East Fork Meadow Creek is entirely within the East Meadow Creek Idaho Roadless Area, a primitive themed area. The corridor includes ML 2 roads Forest Road 285 and Forest Road 357.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

A wild designation would curtail motorized use in this area.

No changes are anticipated to the land use for much of the area since the majority of the area surrounding the creeks has been managed to protect the Idaho Roadless Area. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If these segments are found suitable, the scenic and recreational designations would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest and would likely foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration.

Within Idaho Roadless Areas that allow timber harvest, some segments would be designated wild if found suitable. Timber harvest is not used extensively in this area. However, if these segments are found suitable, timber harvest would be foreclosed as an option for forest vegetation restoration.

The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry/restoration themed areas; however, for backcountry/restoration areas, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction and surface occupancy in primitive and special area of historic and tribal significance theme areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

However, some sections of Meadow Creek are in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are one use to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed on 511 acres of the segments classified as recreational or scenic that overlap with the proposed Management Area 3.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the wilderness area. Wilderness area designation withdraws the area from mineral entry, and water developments in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

Meadow Creek is a very important tributary to the Selway River, a designated wild and scenic river that flows through two wilderness areas—the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness Area at its headwaters and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area.

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 63. Meadow Creek, East Fork Meadow Creek, and Buck Lake Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Meadow Creek: Eligible West Fork Meadow Creek	Meadow Creek: Suitable East Fork Meadow Creek	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Meadow Creek: Suitable Not Suitable

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Buck Lake Creek: Not Eligible	and Buck Lake Creek: Not suitable				

Moose Creek, North Fork Moose Creek, West Moose Creek, East Fork Moose Creek, Rhoda Creek, and Wounded Doe Creek

Table 64. Moose Creek, North Fork Moose Creek, West Moose Creek, East Fork Moose Creek, Rhoda Creek, and Wounded Doe Creek

Segment Description	**Moose Creek: confluence with Selway River to East Fork Moose Creek North Fork Moose Creek: confluence with Moose Creek to headwaters West Moose Creek: confluence with North Fork Moose Creek to headwaters East Fork Moose Creek: confluence with Moose Creek to headwaters Rhoda Creek: Confluence with North Fork Moose Creek to headwaters Wounded Doe Creek: Confluence with Rhoda Creek to headwaters**
Segment Length	93.8 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	30,016 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Moose Creek, North Fork Moose Creek, and East Fork Moose Creek: scenic, cultural, and fish Rhoda Creek and West Moose Creek: scenic and fish Wounded Doe Creek: fish

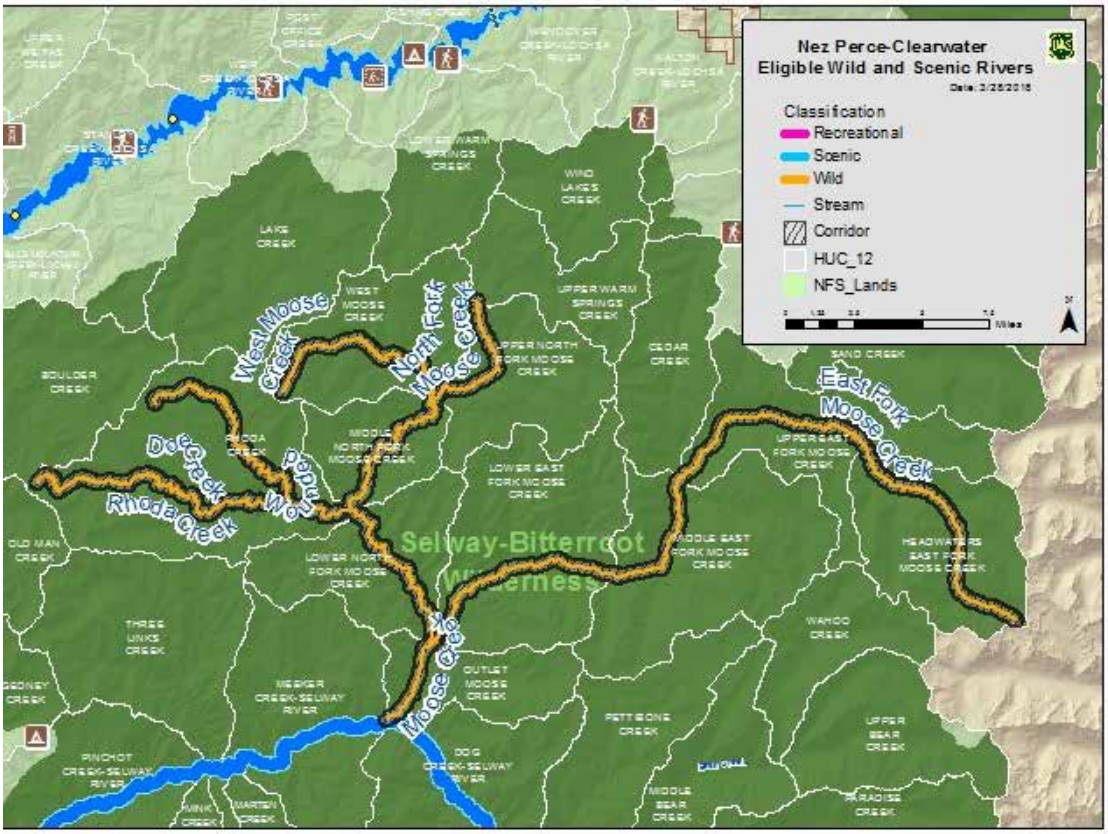

Figure 31. Moose Creek, North Fork Moose Creek, West Moose Creek, East Fork Moose Creek, Rhoda Creek, and Wounded Doe Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

High visual variety contributes to the scenic outstandingly remarkable value for the segments of Moose Creek, North Fork Moose Creek, East Fork Moose, and Rhoda Creek. Rhoda Creek has stunning lakes and cliffs in its headwaters in the Selway Crags. The Moose Creek tributaries also have a high visual variety of rocks, fast- and slow-moving water, and a variety of vegetation in their headwaters. Since the national forest includes 1.2 million acres of some of the most spectacular wilderness areas in the country, it is not surprising that many of the rivers with high scenic quality are found in a wilderness area. The designated Selway Wild and Scenic River flows through the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area and many of its tributaries have high scenic quality, particularly those with high cirque lakes and craggy peaks in their headwaters. West Moose Creek was originally found not eligible for a scenic outstandingly remarkable value but was added based on public comment that West Moose Creek had similar scenery to the upper North Fork Moose Creek.

The fish outstandingly remarkable value includes diversity, abundance, habitat quality, and natural reproduction. Rhoda Creek, below its confluence with Wounded Doe Creek, and Wounded Doe Creek support very high densities of fluvial bull trout. Wounded Doe Creek supports the highest known numbers of spawning fluvial bull trout in the Selway Basin and is among the highest in the region of comparison. Wounded Doe Creek also supports very high numbers of genetically unique westslope cutthroat trout with high genetic integrity. Rhoda and Wounded Doe Creeks are designated critical habitat for bull trout, and a local population has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Eligible segments in Rhoda and Wounded Doe Creeks are designated critical habitat for Snake River steelhead trout, and both are included as a major spawning area (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017). Native spring Chinook salmon spawn and rear in the lower reaches of Rhoda Creek. Stream habitat is unaffected by human disturbances. Non-native aquatic species are not known to exist within eligible fish outstandingly remarkable value segments in Wounded Doe and Rhoda Creeks, although brook trout are present in Rhoda Creek upstream of the fish outstandingly remarkable value segment.

West Fork Moose Creek is upstream from the range of anadromous fish and supports a large westslope cutthroat trout population with high genetic integrity. Stream habitat remains unaffected by human disturbance, and habitat is among the most pristine in the region of comparison, given its extreme remoteness and lack of trails. Multiple eligible segments within this watershed are included in the 2040 climate shield for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout (Isaak et al. 2015). A local bull trout population has been identified in the Upper North Fork Moose Creek HUC12 (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015), of which the eligible segments in West Fork Moose Creek are a part. They are also included as designated critical habitat for Columbia River bull trout. Non-native aquatic species are not known to occur in eligible segments.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Moose Creek, North Fork Moose Creek, West Moose Creek, East Fork Moose Creek, Rhoda Creek, and Wounded Doe Creek are meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, wildlife habitat, and agricultural/industrial water supply.

The cultural outstandingly remarkable value for Moose Creek is Forest Service administrative history. The Moose Creek Ranger Station is nationally known as a working historic ranger station deep within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area. East and North Fork Moose Creeks also have early Forest Service

history associated with the Three Forks Ranger Station and the embodiment of early outdoor recreation at the Moose Creek Ranch's locale.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

Moose Creek and all of its tributaries in this segment are within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area. There are no roads, motorized trails, mining claims, mapped rock sources, or allotments in this area. The Moose Creek Airstrip is within the Moose Creek corridor.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

The segments are within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area. No changes are anticipated to the land use within the wilderness area. Wilderness area designation withdraws the area from mineral entry, and water developments in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

4. The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system

5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies

6. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system

7. A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system

8. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development

9. State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

Moose Creek is one of the largest tributaries to the Selway River, a designated wild and scenic river. Moose Creek and its tributaries, East Fork Moose Creek and North Fork Moose Creek, as well as North Fork Moose Creek's tributaries, West Moose Creek, Rhoda Creek, and Wounded Doe Creek, are very important fish habitat as part of the larger system of the Selway River. These streams contribute to river system integrity by providing important fish diversity, abundance, habitat quality, and natural reproduction primarily in a wilderness setting.

13. The potential for water resources development

Potential dam locations were identified on East Fork Moose Creek and West Fork Moose Creek. A dam used to generate power was at the former Moose Creek Ranch property at the forks of Moose Creek and the remains are visible. A smaller dam was in a tributary to Moose Creek at the former Seminole, or Freeman, Ranch. Both properties were transferred to the Forest Service.

There is no longer private land along Moose Creek, so it is unlikely that any water diversion would be requested. The Forest Service has water rights for its uses at the Moose Creek Ranger Station.

Theoretical low head and small hydro-electric potential exists within many of the rivers and streams within the Nez Perce-Clearwater. However, when considering other ecologic, social, and economic factors analyzed in studies, the feasibility of hydrologic development is highly unlikely in the foreseeable future.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 65. Moose Creek, North Fork Moose Creek, West Moose Creek, East Fork Moose Creek, Rhoda Creek, and Wounded Doe Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable

Running Creek

Table 66. Running Creek

Segment Description	Headwaters to national forest boundary
Segment Length	16.9 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	5,408 acres
Preliminary Classification	Upper and lower portions: wild Middle segment: scenic
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Nez Perce Tribe cultural

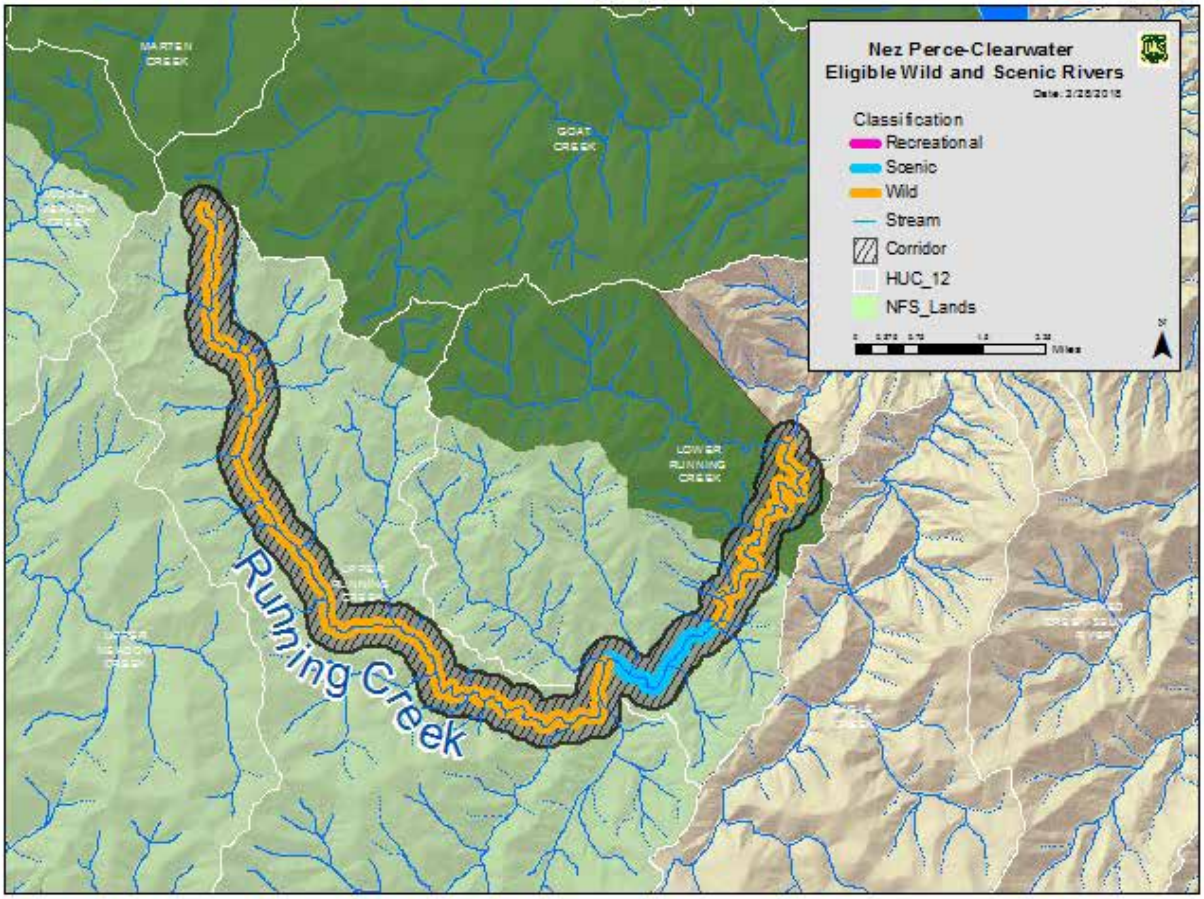

Figure 32. Running Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The Nez Perce tribal staff identified this segment as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Running Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial

uses: aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, secondary contact recreation, wildlife habitat, and agricultural/industrial water supply.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

Running Creek's headwaters are within the East Meadow Creek Idaho Roadless Area and lie within the primitive themed area, then passes through the Warm Springs Research Natural Area before reentering the primitive themed area. It then flows into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area and into the Bitterroot National Forest.

Running Creek Road, Forest Road 357, is the only road within the corridor and it allows for seasonal ML 2 access to the creek east of the Research Natural Area.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

The area has been managed to protect the primitive theme of an Idaho Roadless Area. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If this segment is found suitable, the scenic designation would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest and would likely foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration.

A wild designation would curtail motorized use in this area.

No changes are anticipated to the land use within roadless areas. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction and surface occupancy in primitive and special area of historic and tribal significance theme areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

No changes are anticipated to the land use within the wilderness area. Wilderness area designation withdraws the area from mineral entry and water developments in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

This creek was identified as being an important contributor to the river system and to basin integrity. This creek is one of the larger tributaries in the subbasin or basin. As such, it plays an important ecological role in providing clean, free-flowing water and habitat for fish and wildlife species. It also is often critically important culturally in the present day, historically, and prehistorically.

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 67. Running Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable

Three Links Creek and West Fork Three Links Creek

Table 68. Three Links Creek and West Fork Three Links Creek

Segment Description	Three Links Creek: confluence with Selway River to headwaters West Fork Three Links Creek: confluence with Three Links Creek to headwaters
Segment Length	20.7 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	6,624 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Scenic

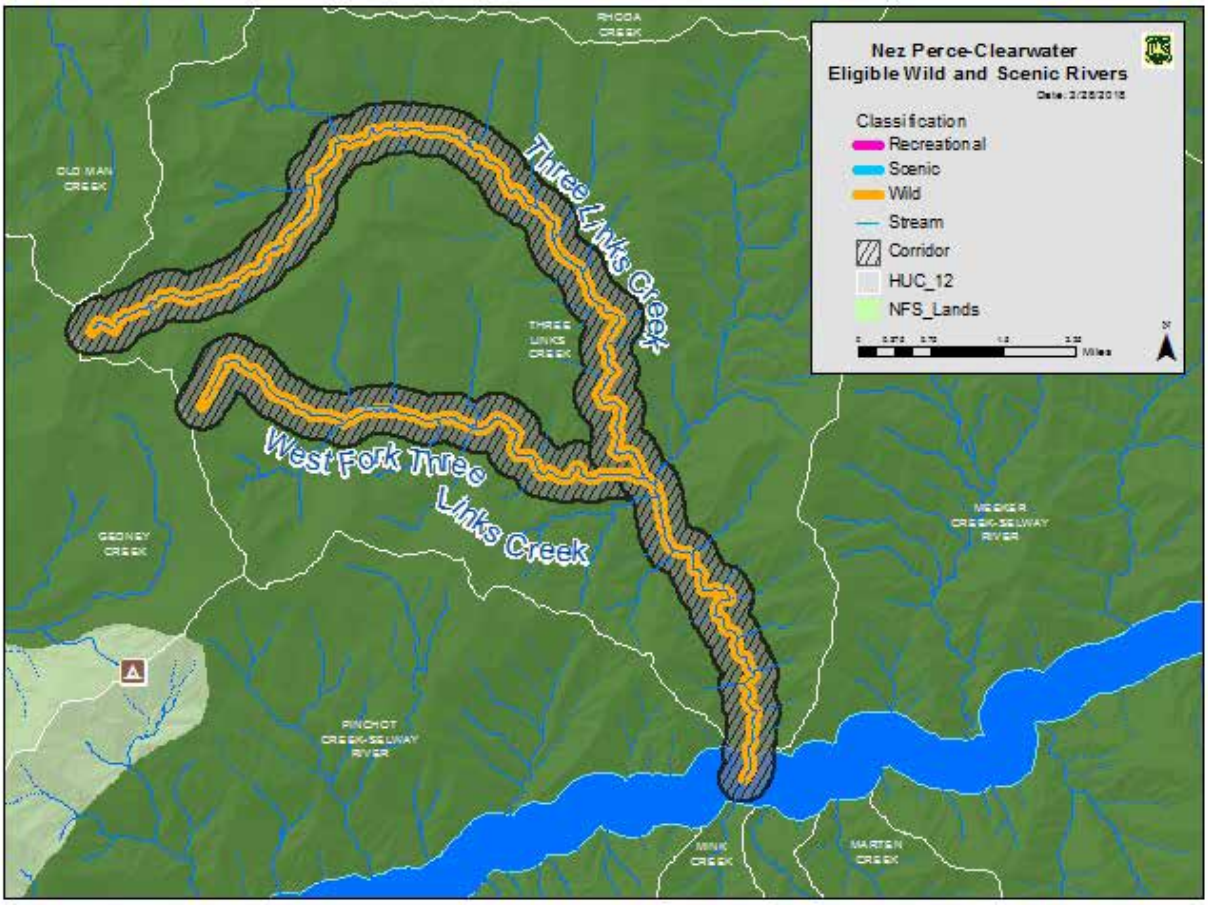

Figure 33. Three Links Creek and West Fork Three Links Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

Three Links Creek includes both specific features, such as waterfalls and lakes, in addition to a unique combination of fast- and slow-moving water, rocks, cliffs, and vegetation. The high visual variety contributes to the scenic outstandingly remarkable value for the segments of Three Links Creek and West Fork Three Links Creek. Three Links Creek also has a 400-foot waterfall comprised of a series of drops

and slides falls. Since the national forest includes 1.2 million acres of some of the most spectacular wilderness areas in the country, it is not surprising that many of the rivers with high scenic quality occur in a wilderness area. The designated Selway Wild and Scenic River flows through the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area and many of its tributaries have high scenic quality, particularly those with high cirque lakes and craggy peaks in their headwaters.

Figure 34. South Three Links Creek

Figure 35. South Three Links Creek Best Falls

Three Links Creek and West Fork Three Links Creek are meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, wildlife habitat, and agricultural/industrial water supply.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area.

These creeks are within the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system.

No changes are anticipated to the land use within the wilderness area. Wilderness area designation has withdrawn the area from mineral entry, and water developments in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

Three Links Creek and West Fork Three Links Creek have a scenic outstandingly remarkable value related primarily to waterfalls and lakes in the headwaters. Since the scenery is site-specific, it does not contribute to river system integrity. The surrounding landscape in the basin is protected as part of the wilderness area.

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 69. Three Links Creek and West Fork Three Links Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

South Fork Clearwater River Basin

American River

Table 70. American River

Segment Description	Upstream of the national forest boundary to private land boundary in Section 21, T.30N., R.8E
Segment Length	3.0 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	960 acres
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Wildlife (western pearlshell mussel)

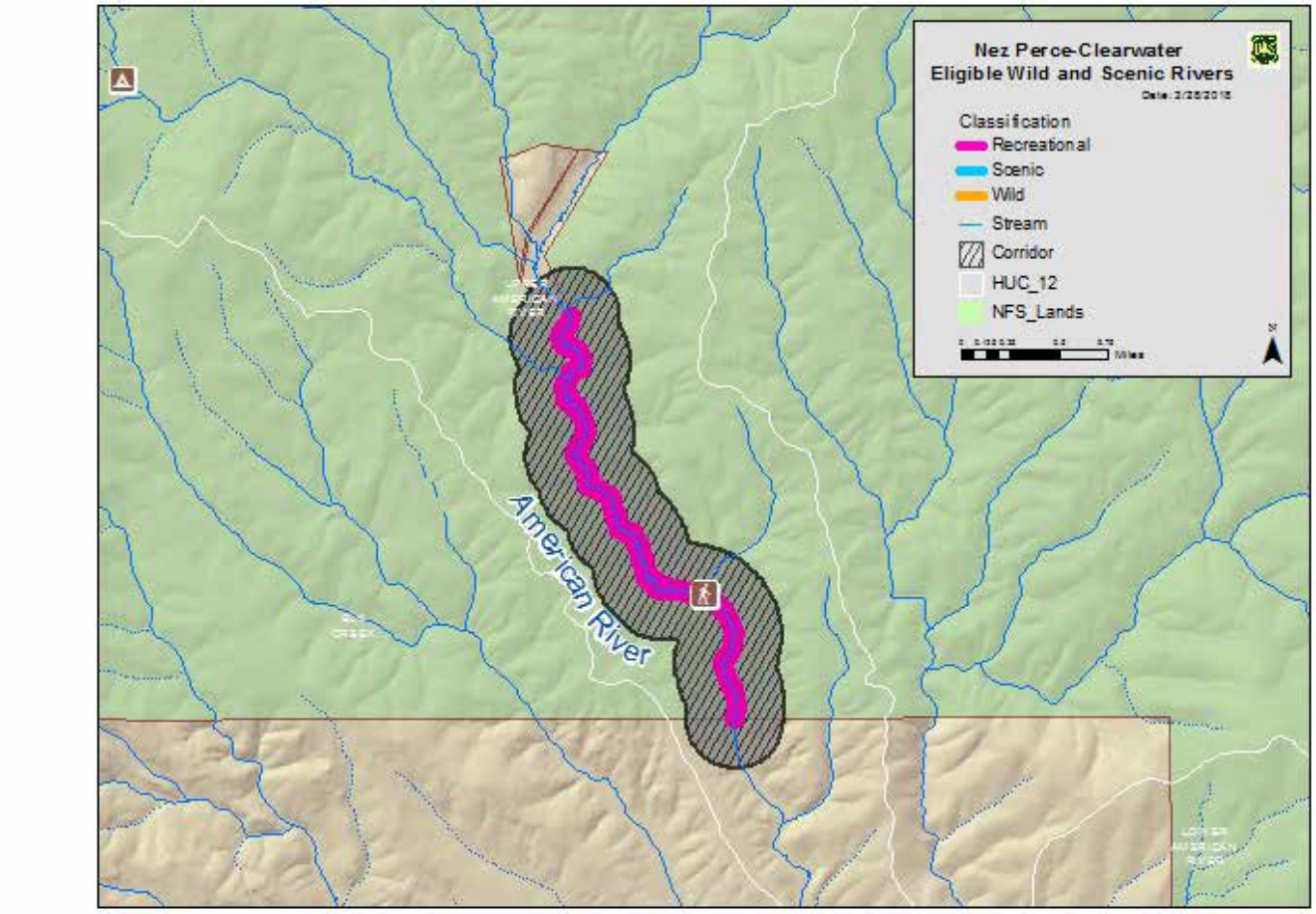

Figure 36. American River

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The wildlife outstandingly remarkable value is based on the known presence of western pearlshell mussels, an indigenous river dependent wildlife species. A large population has been identified throughout the eligible reaches, with multiple age classes, and abundance is among the highest known

within the region of comparison. The western pearlshell mussel is a species of conservation concern as of 2014, and the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is a stronghold for this species. Historically, the western pearlshell was widespread across western North America, including most of Idaho. Once the most common mussel in the Pacific Northwest, it is now increasingly rare. Although the species continues to persist in most forested streams across the state, it has been lost from large stretches of the Snake, Big Wood, Big Lost, Little Lost, Malad, Raft, Payette, Portneuf, Boise, Clearwater, and Bruneau Rivers. The population in the American River is particularly impressive with its high densities of mussels.

American River is listed as impaired (Class 4A) for water temperature, physical substrate habitat alterations, and sedimentation/siltation and is not supporting cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning beneficial uses. It is fully supporting primary contact recreation. It is included in the Environmental Protection Agency approved South Fork Clearwater River Total Maximum Daily Load Plan. A Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the Total Maximum Daily Load allocated to a stream.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests; however, the areas above the proposed segment are in private ownership and those below the proposed segment area are Bureau of Land Management administered land.

The American River corridor is within the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3. Developments and roads in the corridor include Flint Creek Trailhead, Forest Road 443 (ML 3), Forest Road 2541, and four ML 1 roads. Three Forest Service rock pit sites are within the corridor: American River, Flint Creek, and Rumpus Creek.

The corridor on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the proposed Management Area 3 has been managed for timber production under the 1987 Forest Plan and timber harvest has occurred along the segment.

About one mile of the segment is in the American River grazing allotment.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

The proposed segment is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed on 950 acres of the segment classified as recreational that overlaps with the proposed Management Area 3.

Areas along the river provide winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

A variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, that have habitat within the river corridor would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. Of particular note is the presence of high-quality habitat for the fisher, which is distributed along this river. The watershed contains large amounts of fisher habitat outside of the river corridor, and only the habitat within this river corridor would be protected if this river is included in the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

There are private lands upstream of the segment. If changes in water quality and sedimentation occur from land use on private land above and below the proposed section, habitat could be affected.

Idaho County does not have local zoning or land use controls. Prevention of incompatible development on private land would depend on private property owner voluntary participation, education, and outreach.

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

The American River was identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the South Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 2005). It is designated as a recreational river and may include some man-made development in the waterway or riparian area. The outstanding values recognized include recreational use, fish species of concern, salmonid spawning, and streamside montane meadows. The following activities are prohibited: alterations of the stream channel, except as allowed with specific provisions; construction of hydropower projects; construction of water diversion works; construction or expansion of dams or impoundments; dredge or placer mining; and mineral, sand, and gravel extraction within the stream channel. The following activities are allowed if they do not impede fish passage, spawning, rearing, and boat passage: 1) alterations of the stream channel for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and trails; public recreation facilities; fish and wildlife enhancement structures; and channel reconstruction projects approved by the Idaho Water Resources Board and 2) construction of water diversion works for domestic, municipal, and agricultural uses. All activities must comply with all state stream channel alterations rules and standards. All works must be constructed or maintained to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

All landowners—private, state, and federal—are encouraged to manage their lands consistent with the Idaho Water Resource Board's protection designations. The Idaho Water Resource Board also encourages federal resource management agencies to work within the comprehensive state water planning process rather than pursue federal protection of waters within Idaho.

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

All rivers and creeks on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate this river's important contributions to the system.

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 71. American River Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Johns Creek, Gospel Creek, and West Fork Gospel Creek

Table 72. Johns Creek, Gospel Creek, and West Fork Gospel Creek

Segment Description	Johns Creek: confluence with South Fork Clearwater River to Boundary Creek Gospel Creek: confluence with Johns Creek to headwaters West Fork Gospel Creek: confluence with Gospel Creek to headwaters
Segment Length	30.83 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	9,888 acres
Preliminary Classification	Wild
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Johns Creek: scenic and fish Gospel Creek and West Fork Gospel Creek: scenic

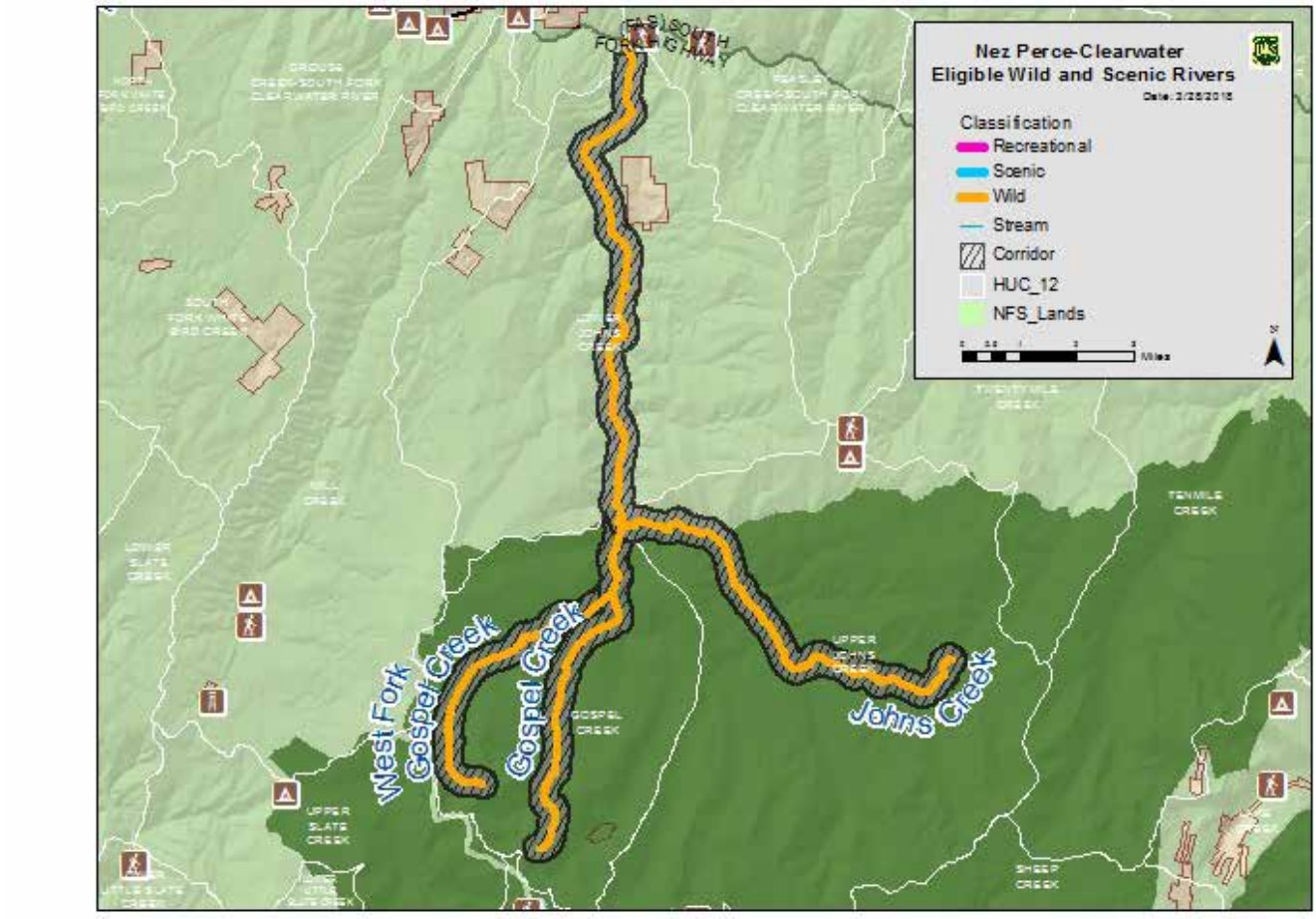

Figure 37. Johns Creek, Gospel Creek, and West Fork Gospel Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The fish outstandingly remarkable value for Johns Creek includes diversity, abundance, habitat quality, and natural reproduction. Johns Creek supports significant spawning and early rearing of wild B-run

steelhead trout within the lower South Fork Clearwater subbasin and the region of comparison. Eligible segments are included as designated critical habitat for Snake River steelhead and Columbia River bull trout. Segments are included as a minor spawning area for steelhead (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017), and a local population of bull trout has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Headwater tributaries in the higher elevation portions of Johns Creek are included in the modeled 2040 climate shield for bull and westslope cutthroat trout (Isaak et al. 2015) with moderate probability. Habitat in eligible segments supports spawning and early rearing for spring Chinook salmon. Fluvial and resident populations of westslope cutthroat trout are present in eligible segments. There are no known non-native aquatic species present in Johns Creek.

Johns Creek and Gospel Creek, from above the confluence of the West Fork Gospel Creek, are listed as impaired (Class 4A) for water temperature and are not supporting cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning beneficial uses. They are fully supporting secondary contact recreation. The creeks are included in the Environmental Protection Agency's approved South Fork Clearwater River Total Maximum Daily Load Plan. A Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the Total Maximum Daily Load allocated to a stream. Gospel Creek, from below the confluence with West Fork Gospel Creek, and West Fork Gospel Creek are meeting water quality standards and are fully supporting the following beneficial uses: aesthetic, cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, secondary contact recreation, wildlife habitat, and agricultural/industrial water supply.

The scenic outstandingly remarkable value for Johns Creek is a deeply incised, rugged canyon that provides distant views. The headwaters of Gospel Creek and West Fork Gospel Creek, including tributaries to Johns Creek, have high cirque lakes and dramatic cliffs within the Gospel Hump Wilderness Area.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

The headwaters of the Johns Creek segment are within the Gospel-Hump Wilderness Area. The east side of Johns Creek from the mouth to Gospel Creek is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 2. The west side of Johns Creek is in the proposed Management Area 3, which would be suitable for timber production. The only developments are non-motorized trails and State Highway 14 at the mouth of Johns Creek.

West Fork Gospel Creek and Gospel Creek are within the Gospel-Hump Wilderness Area. Only non-motorized trails are in this area.

Johns Creek is within a portion of the Sourdough Geographic Area. The Johns Creek Watershed portion of the geographic area is proposed to be within Management Area 2 and designated as non-motorized. Additionally, timber harvest would not be done for purposes of timber production.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

A portion of Johns Creek is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest would be foreclosed on 981 acres of the segment classified as wild that overlaps with the proposed Management Area 3.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the Gospel-Hump Geographic Area.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the wilderness area. Wilderness area designation withdraws the area from mineral entry, and water developments in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

Areas along these rivers provide important winter and summer habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

A variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, have habitat within the river corridor and would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. Of particular note is the presence of high-quality habitat for the fisher, which is distributed along Johns Creek. The watershed contains only limited amounts of fisher habitat outside of the creek corridor, but only the habitat within this corridor would be protected if this creek is included in the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

Gospel Creek, West Fork Gospel Creek, and Johns Creek were identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the South Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 2005). They are designated as natural rivers and are free of substantial impoundments, dams, or other structures, and the riparian area is largely undeveloped. The outstanding values recognized for Gospel Creek and West Fork Gospel Creek are recreational use and fish species of concern. The outstanding values recognized for Johns Creek are recreational use, fish species of concern, and salmonid spawning. The following activities are prohibited: alterations of the stream channel; construction of hydropower projects; construction of water diversion works; construction or expansion of dams or impoundments; dredge or placer mining; and mineral, sand, and gravel extraction within the stream channel.

All landowners—private, state, and federal—are encouraged to manage their lands consistent with the Idaho Water Resources Board's protection designations. The Idaho Water Resources Board also encourages federal resource management agencies to work within the comprehensive state water planning process rather than pursue federal protection for waters within Idaho.

11. Support or opposition to designation

None of these river segments were recommended by river advocacy groups. Additionally, local motorized recreation user groups and Idaho County would like to see a motorized trail cross John's Creek in the future. A finding of suitability or designation with a wild classification would prohibit such action from occurring.

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

Johns Creek supports significant spawning and early rearing of wild B run steelhead trout within the lower South Fork Clearwater subbasin and the region of comparison. Eligible segments are included as designated critical habitat for Snake River steelhead and Columbia River bull trout. Segments are included as a minor spawning area for steelhead (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017), and a local population of bull trout has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Headwater tributaries in the higher elevation portions of Johns Creek are include in the modeled 2040 climate shield for bull and westslope cutthroat trout (Isaak et al. 2015), with moderate probability. Habitat in eligible segments supports spawning and early rearing for spring Chinook salmon. Fluvial and resident populations of westslope cutthroat trout are present in eligible segments. There are no known non-native aquatic species present in Johns Creek.

These streams were identified as being important contributors to the river system and to the basin integrity. These streams are some of the larger tributaries in the subbasin or basin. As such, they play an important ecological role in providing clean, free-flowing water and habitat for fish and wildlife species.

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 73. Johns Creek, Gospel Creek, and West Fork Gospel Creek Segment Suitability Determination

Segment	No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Johns Creek	Eligible	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable
Gospel Creek	Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable
West Fork Gospel Creek	Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Meadow Creek (South Fork Clearwater River)

Table 74. Meadow Creek (South Fork Clearwater River)

Segment Description	Meadow Creek: confluence with South Fork Clearwater River to headwaters
Segment Length	14.7 miles (including about 0.17 miles on private land)
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	4,704 acres (including about 75 acres in private ownership)
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Nez Perce Tribe cultural

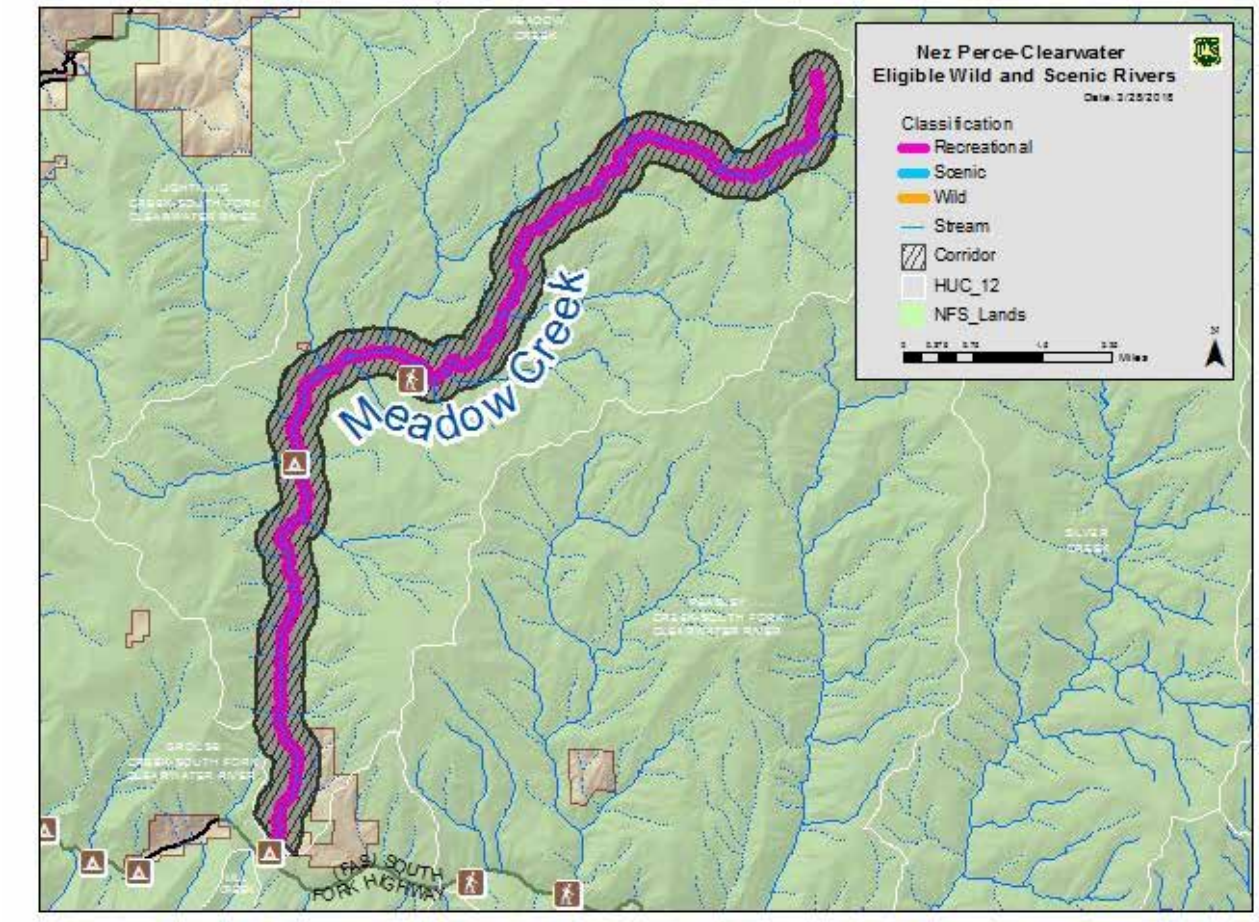

Figure 38. Meadow Creek (South Fork Clearwater River)

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The Nez Perce tribal staff identified this segment as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

Meadow Creek is listed as impaired (Class 4A) for water temperature, physical substrate habitat alterations, and sedimentation/siltation and is not supporting cold water aquatic life and salmonid

spawning beneficial uses. It is fully supporting secondary contact recreation. It is included in the Environmental Protection Agency approved South Fork Clearwater River Total Maximum Daily Load Plan. A Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the Total Maximum Daily Load allocated to a stream.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

A majority of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The segment is within Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base. Approximately 75 acres are included in the corridor are in private ownership.

Developments within the corridor include the three sites on the Meadow Creek Campground and the Swan Creek Trailhead. Also, ML 3 roads Forest Road 244, Forest Road 484, Forest Road 648, Forest Road 1852, Forest Road 1851, and Forest Road 1105 and ML 2 roads Forest Road 451 and Forest Road 1857 are within the corridor. Motorized trails, including the Swan Creek Trail and Yew Ridge, are also within the corridor. These trails allow for all-terrain vehicle and motorcycle use.

There are a number of Forest Service rock pit sites in the corridor, including Rock Creek, Storm Creek I, Meadow Creek, Meadow Rock, Storm Creek, and Orchard Creek.

Meadow Creek is within the Earthquake and Meadow-Lighting grazing allotments.

The corridors on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the proposed Management Area 3 have been managed for timber production under the 1987 Forest Plan, and timber harvest has occurred along the segments.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

A portion of the segments are in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions, and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest would be curtailed or restricted on approximately 3,000 acres if the segment is designated recreational.

Management activities near the creek would follow the direction of best management practices for riparian management zones. If included in the national system, management activities within the corridor would have additional restrictions. The corridor is wider than the riparian management zone.

Areas along the creek provide both summer and winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

The corridor provides habitat for mountain quail, the Lewis’s woodpecker, and the white-headed woodpecker. Habitats for some of these species were maintained by frequent fires. Because of fire suppression, these habitats may require active management to restore or maintain them. Methods available to restore or maintain these habitats may be restricted through mechanical vegetation manipulation and versus prescribed fire depending on measures required to protect these outstandingly remarkable values.

A wide variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, that have habitat within the corridor would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. For example, high quality habitat for fishers occurs along the upper reaches of the creek. Conservation of these habitats within the corridor would be improved should the creek be included in the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

The Forest Service's authority for finding a creek eligible or suitable only applies to National Forest System lands. Only the Forest Service administered portions of the creek would be managed as eligible or suitable. At this time, the Forest Service is not pursing acquisition of lands or interests in lands on the basis of wild and scenic rivers. However, should Meadow Creek be added to the national system by Congress, Congress may or may not authorize aor direct the Forest Service to pursue acquisition of lands or land interests, potentially affecting up to 75 acres of private land within the corridor. As it is not reasonably foreseeable that Congress would direct the agency to acquire lands or land interests, the cost of such action is not being calculated at this time.

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

Meadow Creek was identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the South Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 2005). It is designated a recreational river and may include some man-made development in the waterway or riparian area. The outstanding values recognized include recreational use, fish species of concern, salmonid spawning, and streamside montane meadows. The following activities are prohibited: alterations of the stream channel, except as allowed with specific provisions; construction of hydropower projects; construction of water diversion works; construction or expansion of dams or impoundments; dredge or placer mining; and mineral or sand and gravel extraction within the stream channel. The following activities are allowed if they do not impede fish passage, spawning, rearing and boat passage: 1) alterations of the stream channel for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and trails; public recreation facilities; fish and wildlife enhancement structures; and channel reconstruction projects approved by the Idaho Water Resources Board and 2) construction of water diversion works for domestic, municipal, and agricultural uses. All activities must comply with all state stream channel alterations rules and standards. All works must be constructed or maintained to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

All landowners—private, State, and Federal—are encouraged to manage their lands consistent with the Idaho Water Resources Board's protection designations. The Idaho Water Resources Board also encourages federal resource management agencies to work within the comprehensive state water planning process rather than pursue federal protection of waters within Idaho.

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

All rivers and creeks on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate this creek's important contributions to the system.

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 75. Meadow Creek (South Fork Clearwater River) Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Mill Creek

Table 76. Mill Creek

Segment Description	Confluence with South Fork Clearwater River to Big Canyon Creek
Segment Length	0.9 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	288 acres
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Wildlife (Selway forestsnail)

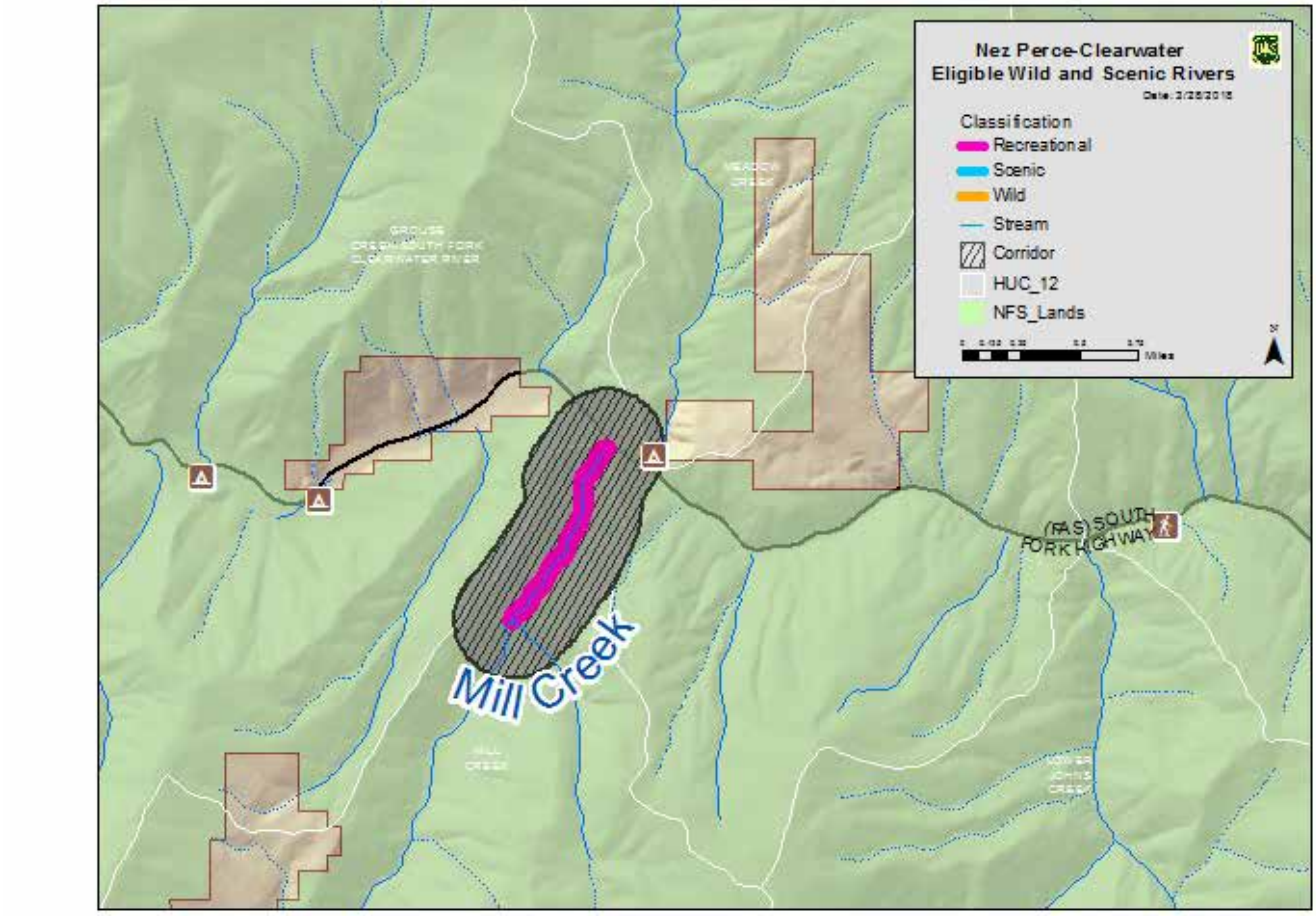

Figure 39. Mill Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The presence of the Selway forestsnail is a wildlife outstandingly remarkable value for Mill Creek. This Idaho endemic snail occurs in Idaho County in isolated colonies along the lower Lochsa River, the Selway River, the South Fork Clearwater River, the lower Salmon River, and their tributaries. The global extent of the species' known range occurs largely within the region of comparison with only limited observations just outside of this area. This species is found in intact mixed coniferous forest, usually in

low elevation, well-shaded, moist areas along medium to large streams. Sites usually have a diverse understory and a substantial duff layer (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b). Only the section of this river from its mouth at the confluence with the South Fork Clearwater River upstream to the confluence with Canyon Creek is identified as having an outstandingly remarkable value for the Selway forestsnail.

Mill Creek is listed as impaired (Class 4A) for water temperature and is not supporting cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning beneficial uses. It is included in the Environmental Protection Agency approved South Fork Clearwater River Total Maximum Daily Load Plan. A Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the Total Maximum Daily Load allocated to a stream.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

The Mill Creek corridor is within Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3. Roads in the corridor include Forest Road 309 (ML 3), Forest Road 279N (ML 1), and Forest Road 309O (ML 1).

The corridor on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the proposed Management Area 3 has been managed for elk habitat under the 1987 Forest Plan and timber harvest has been allowed and has occurred along the segment.

The segment is in the Hungry Ridge Allotment.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

A portion of the corridor is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions, and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed or restricted on 190 acres based on a recreational classification for the river segment.

Areas along Mill Creek provide both summer and winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Changes in vegetation succession have been cited as a factor contributing to declining elk populations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2014). Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

The river corridor provides habitat for mountain quail, the flammulated owl, and the white-headed woodpecker. Habitats for some of these species was maintained by frequent fires. Because of fire suppression, these habitats may require active management to restore or maintain them. Methods available to restore or maintain these habitats may be restricted through mechanical vegetation manipulation versus prescribed fire, depending on measures required to protect these outstandingly remarkable values.

A wide variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, have habitat within the river corridor and would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

Mill Creek was identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the South Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 2005). It is designated as a recreational river and may include some manmade development in the waterway or riparian area. The outstanding values recognized are recreational use, fish species of concern, salmonid spawning, and streamside montane meadows. The following activities are prohibited: alterations of the stream channel, except as allowed with specific provisions; construction of hydropower projects; construction of water diversion works; construction or expansion of dams or impoundments; dredge or placer mining; and mineral or sand and gravel extraction within the stream channel. The following activities are allowed if they do not impede fish passage, spawning, and rearing and boat passage: 1) alterations of the stream channel for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and trails; public recreation facilities; fish and wildlife enhancement structures; and channel reconstruction projects approved by the Idaho Water Resources Board and 2) construction of water diversion works for domestic, municipal, and agricultural uses. All activities must comply with all state stream channel alterations rules and standards. All works must be constructed or maintained to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

All landowners—private, state, and federal—are encouraged to manage their lands consistent with the Idaho Water Resources Board's protection designations. The Idaho Water Resources Board also encourages federal resource management agencies to work within the comprehensive state water planning process rather than pursue federal protection of waters within Idaho.

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 77. Mill Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Red River

Table 78. Red River

Segment Description	National forest boundary in Section 1, T.28N., R.8E., 08 to Shissler Creek
Segment Length	6.5 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	2,080 acres
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Recreation, fish, and wildlife

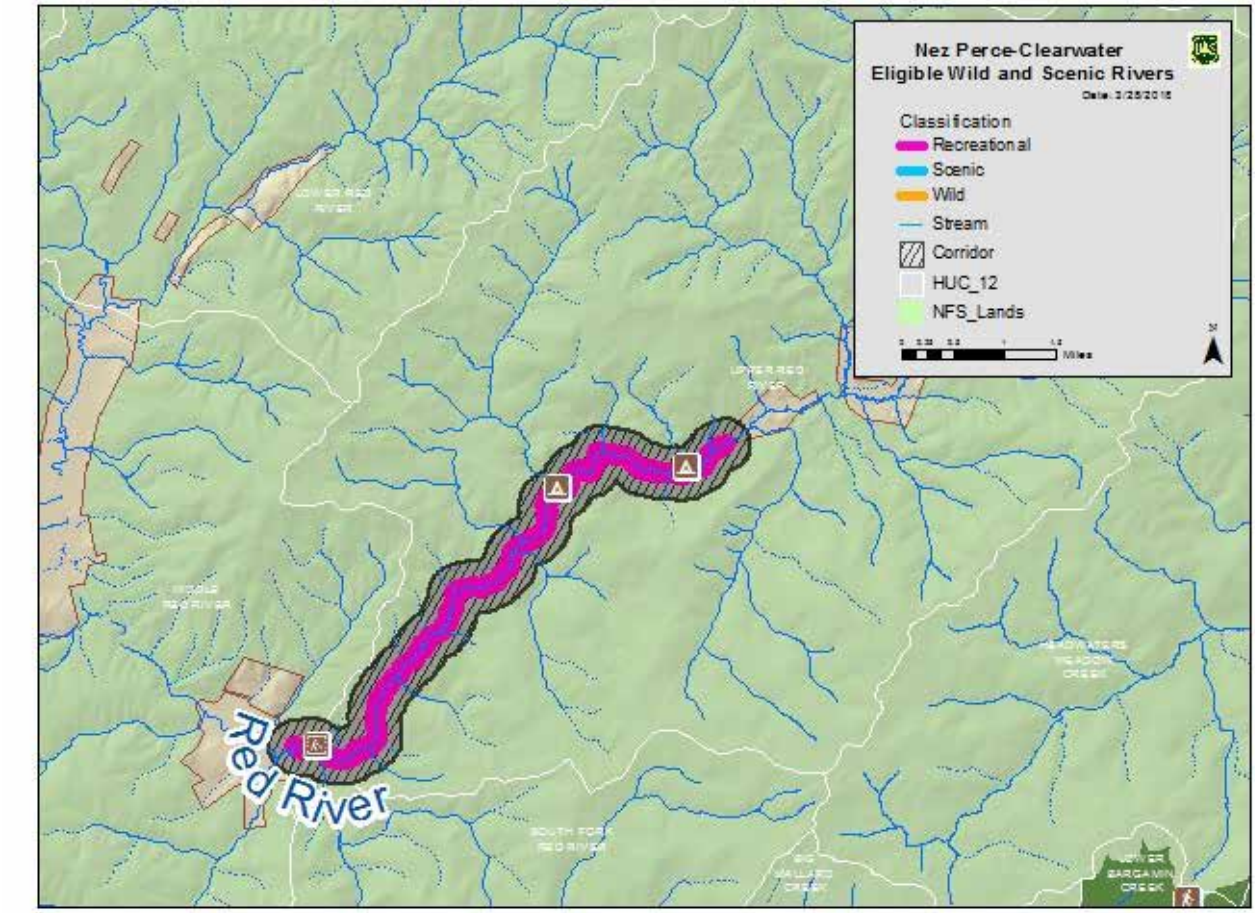

Figure 40. Red River

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

There is a recreational outstandingly remarkable value for the Red River for the subcategory of fish and wildlife watching because it is the most reliable place to watch salmon spawning within the region of comparison. Watching salmon spawn is a unique experience and a valuable interpretive opportunity in a short segment of stream less than one-half mile long.

The fish outstandingly remarkable value for Red River includes diversity, abundance, natural reproduction, and cultural and historical importance. The Red River supports substantial natural spawning and early rearing of native spring Chinook salmon that is among the highest in the region of comparison. It also supports spawning and early rearing of native B-run steelhead trout and is designated critical habitat for Snake River steelhead and Columbia River bull trout. It is a major spawning area for steelhead (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017), and a bull trout local population has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Fluvial and resident populations of westslope cutthroat trout are present. Western pearlshell mussels are present, and Pacific lamprey juveniles have been identified in the lower reaches of Red River.

In addition, the Nez Perce tribal staff identified the Red River segment as having a fish outstandingly remarkable value of cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The Red River is listed as impaired (Class 4A) for water temperature, physical substrate habitat alterations, and sedimentation/siltation and is not supporting cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning beneficial uses. It is included in the Environmental Protection Agency approved South Fork Clearwater River Total Maximum Daily Load Plan. A Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the Total Maximum Daily Load allocated to a stream.

Another outstandingly remarkable value for the Red River is the population of harlequin ducks. Harlequin ducks are known along the area of Red River from the confluence with Little Moose Creek downstream to the confluence with Loon Creek. This is below the eligible segment and includes private property. This river met criteria for inclusion as having a wildlife outstandingly remarkable value because it had two observations of harlequin ducks. Of the rivers and creeks evaluated for eligibility within the plan area, eleven had populations of harlequin ducks, including Red River.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

There is mixed ownership with National Forest System lands and private lands. However, only lands administered by the Forest Service are found to be suitable.

The Red River is within the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3. Developments in the corridor include the Red River Administrative Site, the recreational vehicle dump station; four sites on the Ditch Creek Campground; 40 sites on the Red River Campground; and the Chinook Viewing Interpretive site. Over two dozen Forest Service, county, and private roads are within the corridor, including Dixie Road (Forest Road 222), Mother Lode Road (Forest Road 1818), Red River Road (Forest Road 234), and Forest Road 468. The segment on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the proposed Management Area 3 has been managed for timber production and other objectives under the 1987 Forest Plan, and timber harvest has occurred along the segment.

The most western half-mile has the West Meadow Creek Idaho Roadless Area (backcountry/restoration theme area) on the north side of the river.

The Forest Service mapped rock sources in the corridor include Read River Quarry, Red River II, and Shissler Creek. There are no allotments in this area.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

The segment is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions, and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed on 1,408 acres of the segment due to the recreational classification.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the roadless area. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry/restoration theme areas; however, for this area, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

Areas along the Red River provide crucial winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Changes in vegetation succession have been cited as a factor contributing to declining elk populations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2014). Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

A wide variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, have habitat within the corridor and would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic River Act. For example, high quality habitat for fishers occurs along most of this river. Conservation of habitat within the corridor would be improved for should this river be included in the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

The Forest Service's authority for finding a river eligible or suitable only applies to National Forest System lands. Only the Forest Service administered portions of the river would be managed as eligible or suitable. At this time, the Forest Service is not pursing acquisition of lands or interests in lands on the basis of wild and scenic rivers. However, should the Red River be added to the national system by Congress, Congress may or may not authorize or direct the Forest Service to pursue acquisition of lands or land interests, potentially affecting up to 63 acres of private land within the corridor. As it is not reasonably foreseeable that Congress would direct the agency to acquire lands or land interests, the cost of such action is not being calculated at this time.

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

No non-federal lands would be affected by an agency finding that the river is suitable. Outstandingly remarkable values were determined based on their presence on Forest Service administered lands.

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives

The Red River was identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the South Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 2005). It is designated a recreational river and may include some man-made development in the waterway or riparian area. The outstanding values recognized are recreational use, fish species of concern, salmonid spawning, and streamside montane meadows. The following activities are prohibited: alterations of the stream channel, except as allowed with specific provisions; construction of hydropower projects; construction of water diversion works; construction or expansion of dams or impoundments; dredge or placer mining; and mineral or sand and gravel extraction within the stream channel. The following activities are allowed if they do not impede fish passage, spawning, rearing and boat passage: 1) alterations of the stream channel for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and trails; public recreation facilities; fish and wildlife enhancement structures; and channel reconstruction projects approved by the Idaho Water Resources Board and 2) construction of water diversion works for domestic, municipal, and agricultural uses. All activities must comply with all state stream channel alterations rules and standards. All works must be constructed or maintained to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

All landowners—private, state, and federal—are encouraged to manage their lands consistent with the Idaho Water Resources Board's protection designations. The Idaho Water Resources Board also encourages federal resource management agencies to work within the comprehensive state water planning process rather than pursue federal protection of waters within Idaho.

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 79. Red River Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Silver Creek

Table 80. Silver Creek

Segment Description	Silver Creek: confluence with South Fork Clearwater River to headwaters
Segment Length	12.2 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	Silver Creek: 3,904 acres
Preliminary Classification	Middle portion: wild Upper portion: scenic Lower portion: recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Nez Perce Tribe cultural

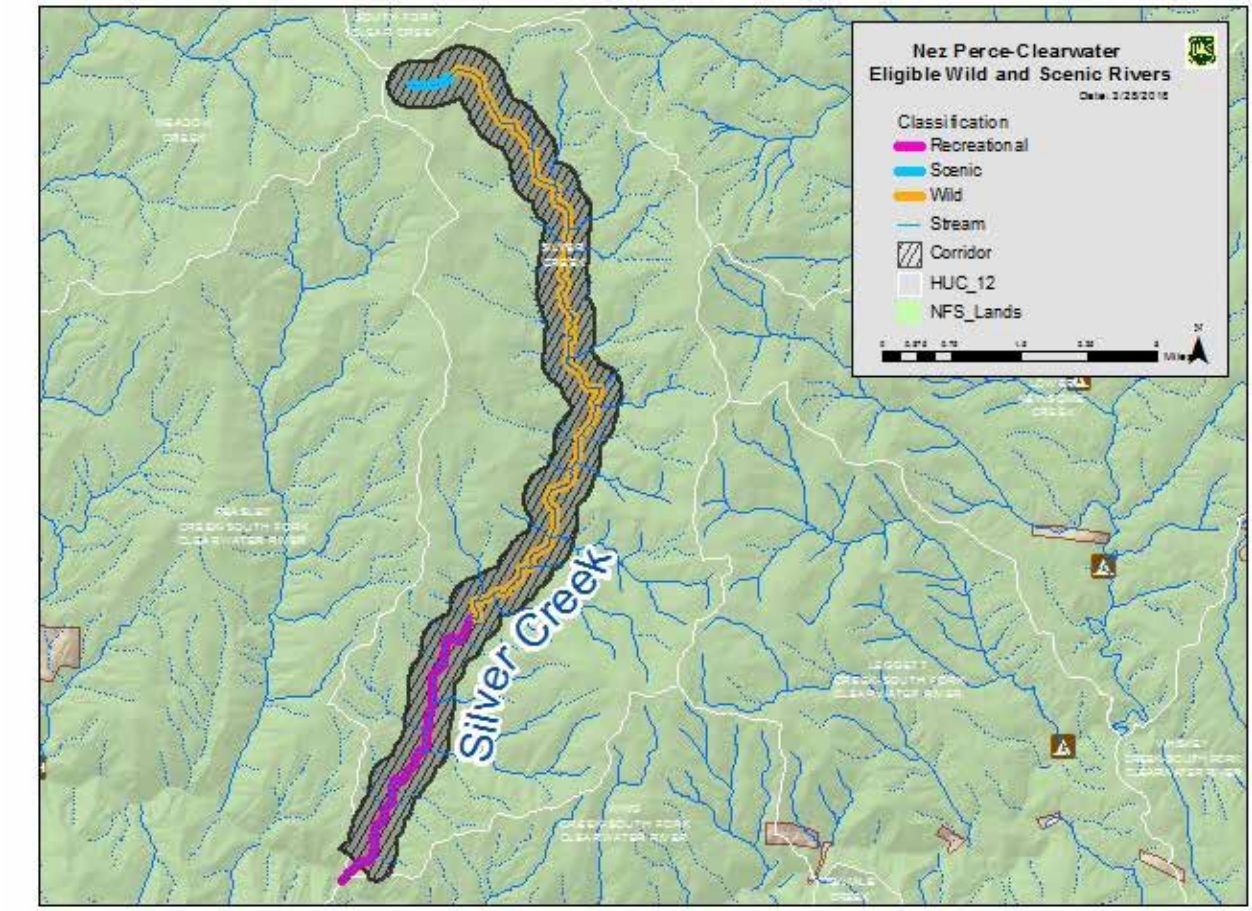

Figure 41. Silver Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The Nez Perce tribal staff identified this segment as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

Silver Creek is listed as impaired (Class 4A) for water temperature, physical substrate habitat alterations, and sedimentation/siltation and is not supporting cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning beneficial uses. It is fully supporting secondary contact recreation. It is included in the Environmental Protection Agency approved South Fork Clearwater River Total Maximum Daily Load Plan. A Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the Total Maximum Daily Load allocated to a stream.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

Silver Creek is within the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base and the Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Idaho Roadless Area (special area of historic and tribal significance theme). Pilot Knob is a proposed geographic area in the Land Management Plan that would restrict motorized access to the area.

The Elk City Wagon Road (Forest Road 284) and the Silver Ridge Motorized Trail (T 424) are in the headwaters area of Silver Creek for about a half mile. In Management Area 3, a number of ML 1 roads also provide administrative access to the area, including Forest Road 648, Forest Road 1866, Forest Road 1867, and Forest Road 9421.

Silver Creek flows within the Corral Hill and Meadow-Lighting allotments.

The segments on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the proposed Management Area 3 have been managed for timber production under the 1987 Forest Plan and timber harvest has occurred along the segments.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

A wild designation would curtail motorized use in this area.

Some sections of Silver Creek are in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed or restricted on 749 acres of the segments classified as recreational or scenic that overlap with proposed Management Area 3.

A portion of Silver Creek within proposed Management Area 3 would be classified wild if found suitable. If found suitable, timber harvest would be foreclosed as an option for forest vegetation restoration. Management activities near the river would follow the direction of best management practices for riparian management zones.

Part of the Silver Creek segment is within the Silver Creek-Pilot Knob Idaho Roadless Area (special area of historic and tribal significance theme). No changes are anticipated to land use in the roadless area. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If these segments are found suitable, the scenic and recreational designations would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest and would likely foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration.

Within Idaho Roadless Areas that allow timber harvest, some segments would be designated wild if found suitable. Timber harvest is not used extensively in this area. However, if these segments are found suitable, timber harvest would be foreclosed as an option for forest vegetation restoration.

The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction, reconstruction, and surface occupancy in this theme. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

Areas along these rivers provide both summer and winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Changes in vegetation succession have been cited as a factor contributing to declining elk populations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2014). This area also has high potential to produce high quality forage for big game when treated. Opportunities to enhance foraging habitat for elk may be affected along these rivers if they are included in the national system. Specifically, restrictions on timber harvest would require all habitat management to be performed by prescribed fire, which constrains implementation opportunities to limited burn windows and adds complexity because of the required containment measures. Other measures designed to protect a variety of outstandingly remarkable values may inhibit, or in some cases entirely prohibit, management of big game habitat along the river corridor.

The corridors provide habitat for mountain quail, the Lewis's woodpecker, and the white-headed woodpecker. Habitats for some of these species were maintained by frequent fires. Because of fire suppression, these habitats may require active management to restore or maintain into the future. Methods available to restore or maintain these habitats may be restricted through mechanical vegetation manipulation versus prescribed fire, depending on measures required to protect outstandingly remarkable values.

A wide variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and a those that are not, that have habitat within the corridor, would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. For example, high quality habitat for fishers occurs along the upper reaches of these rivers. Conservation of these habitats within the corridor would be improved for these species should these rivers be included in the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

Silver Creek was identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the South Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 2005). It is designated recreational and may include some man-made development in the waterway or riparian area. The outstanding values recognized are recreational use and

fish species of concern. The following activities are prohibited: alterations of the stream channel, except as allowed with specific provisions; construction of hydropower projects; construction of water diversion works; construction or expansion of dams or impoundments; dredge or placer mining; and mineral or sand and gravel extraction within the stream channel. The following activities are allowed if they do not impede fish passage, spawning, rearing, and boat passage: 1) alterations of the stream channel for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and trails; public recreation facilities; fish and wildlife enhancement structures; and channel reconstruction projects approved by the Idaho Water Resources Board and 2) construction of water diversion works for domestic, municipal, and agricultural uses. All activities must comply with all state stream channel alterations rules and standards. All works must be constructed or maintained to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

All landowners—private, state, and federal—are encouraged to manage their lands consistent with the Idaho Water Resources Board's protection designations. The Idaho Water Resources Board also encourages federal resource management agencies to work within the comprehensive state water planning process rather than pursue Federal protection of waters within Idaho.

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

This creek was identified as being an important contributor to the river system and to basin integrity. Silver Creek is one of the larger tributaries in the subbasin or basin. As such, it plays an important ecological role in providing clean, free-flowing water and habitat for fish and wildlife species. They also are often critically important culturally in the present day, historically, and prehistorically.

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 81. Silver Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable

South Fork Clearwater River

Table 82. South Fork Clearwater River

Segment Description	National forest boundary to national forest boundary
Segment Length	34.5 miles (including 1.47 miles on private land)
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	11,040 acres (including 330 acres of private land)
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Recreation, scenic, cultural, Nez Perce cultural, fish, and wildlife

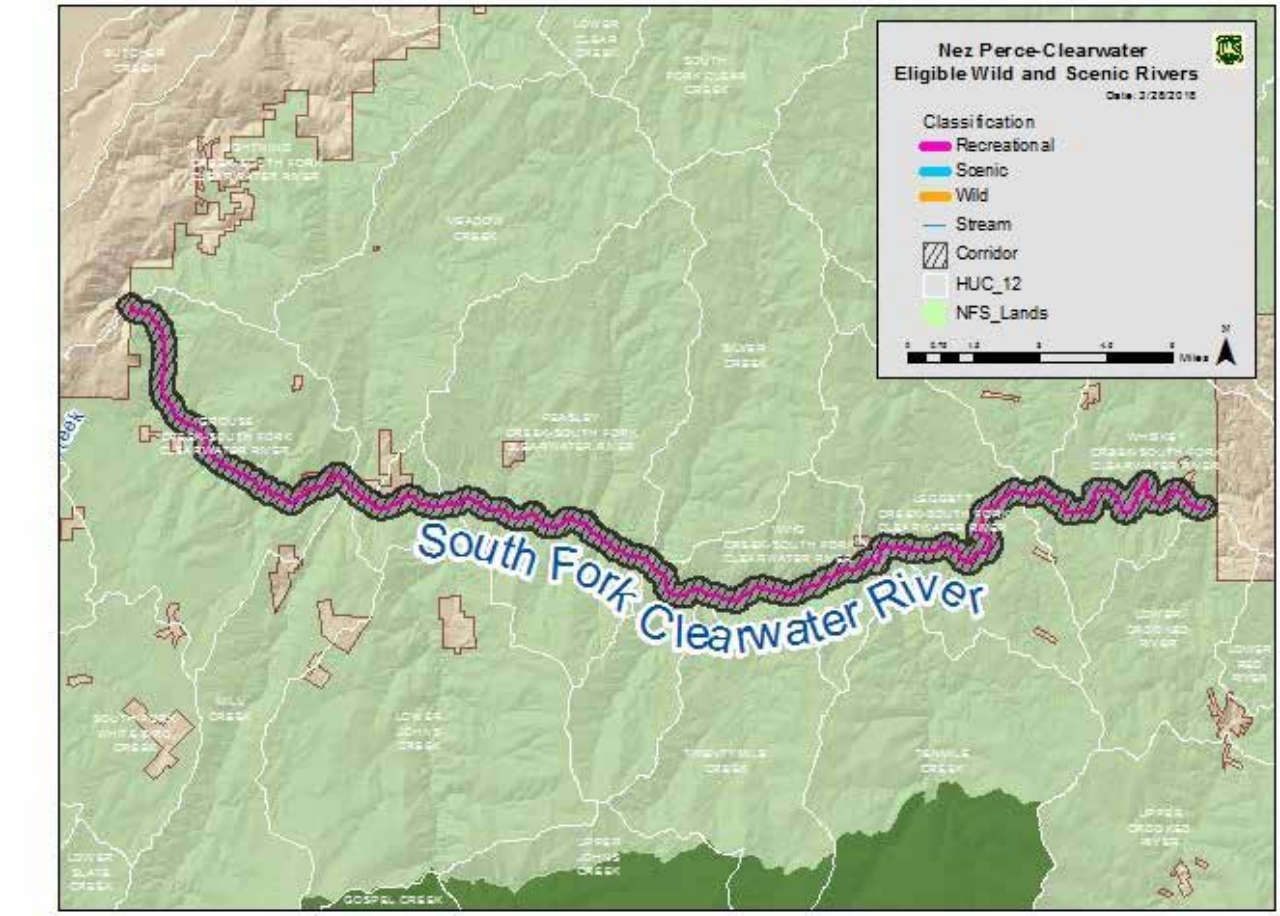

Figure 42. South Fork Clearwater River

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The lower South Fork Clearwater River upstream from the Blackerby day use site to Ten Mile Creek downstream of Golden forms a major distinctive river canyon on the national forest that provides a scenic outstandingly remarkable value. This segment has an outstandingly remarkable value for scenery even though there is a highway along the river, which affects its flow in places. This segment remains generally riverine in appearance. It has cliffs, large boulders forming rapids, the juxtaposition of white water and smooth, reflective water, and a variety of vegetation, tree, shrubs, and grasslands mixed with rock features

along the segment. Distinctive features include the Huddleston Bluff, a sheer cliff noted in several comment letters. Downstream of Blackerby, the river canyon opens up and appears more pastoral with intermixed private lands and calmer water. Upstream of Ten Mile Creek, just downstream of Golden, the stream is less riverine in appearance. The river is calmer, with fewer rocks and rapids and diversity of vegetation changes. The river downstream of Blackerby, or upstream of Ten Mile Creek, does not have an outstandingly remarkable value for scenery.

The recreational outstandingly remarkable value is for steelhead fishing, which provides local opportunities and draws people primarily from western Montana and parts of Oregon and Washington. Rivers of the Nez Perce-Clearwater are known regionallly for their outstanding steelhead fishing. Within the region of comparison, the Salmon River, Clearwater River, and Middle Fork Clearwater River also provide steelhead fishing, but the smaller size of the South Fork Clearwater River allows for more bank or walk and wade fishing than the larger rivers, thus providing a different type of opportunity. Although this segment includes boatable rapids with up to class five at highwater, described as the Golden Canyon run (Amaral 1990), it is more of an opportunistic run which does not draw people to the area. Within the region of comparison, the nearby Lochsa River provides extensive, challenging whitewater. The Salmon River to the south also provides readily accessible whitewater runs. Boaters are not likely to bypass the Lochsa River or the Salmon River to run the South Fork Clearwater River, so boating is not considered as contributing to the outstandingly remarkable value.

Swimming and soaking were originally considered as contributing to the outstandingly remarkable value, but this use was reviewed based on public comments and it was determined that swimming and soaking is a local use and is more prevalent and of better quality on other rivers in the region of comparison, such as on the Main Clearwater, Middle Fork Clearwater, Salmon, and Selway Rivers.

The South Fork Clearwater River’s mining history is its outstandingly remarkable value for cultural resources. The river features an outstanding collection of mining sites and features, along with the townsite of New Golden and its surrounding history.

The Nez Perce tribal staff identified the South Fork Clearwater River as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe associated with its fisheries and wildlife resources.

The fish outstandingly remarkable value includes diversity, abundance, natural reproduction, and cultural and historical importance. The South Fork Clearwater River functions as a migration corridor and provides winter and summer rearing habitat, as well as spawning habitat, for multiple native fish species. It is included as designated critical habitat for Snake River steelhead trout and Columbia River bull trout. The higher elevation eligible segments upstream of Ten Mile Creek are identified as a major spawning area, with very high intrinsic potential (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017). Spawning by fall Chinook salmon has been observed in eligible reaches in the vicinity of and downstream from Mill Creek. Native spring Chinook salmon are found throughout the eligible reaches, as are bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and steelhead trout. Juvenile Pacific lamprey have been documented in eligible segments, suggesting that spawning has occurred in these areas. B-run steelhead trout spawn throughout the eligible reaches.

In addition, the Nez Perce tribal staff identified the South Fork Clearwater River segment as having a fish outstandingly remarkable value of cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The South Fork Clearwater River is listed as impaired (Class 4A) for water temperature, physical substrate habitat alterations, and sedimentation/siltation and is not supporting cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning beneficial uses. It is fully supporting primary contact recreation. It is included in the Environmental Protection Agency approved South Fork Clearwater River Total Maximum Daily Load

Plan. A Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the Total Maximum Daily Load allocated to a stream.

The wildlife outstandingly remarkable value for the South Fork Clearwater River includes the populations of harlequin ducks. Harlequin ducks are known along the South Fork Clearwater River from the national forest boundary near Blackerby Picnic Area upstream to the confluence with Mill Creek. They are also known from the confluence with Dutch Oven Creek upstream to the confluence with Crooked River. Only four observations have been made on the South Fork Clearwater River. The harlequin duck has been considered rare in Idaho for over 100 years. In Idaho, approximately 50 pairs breed along a limited number of high-quality streams within the Priest River, Kootenai River, Clark Fork, Lake Pend Oreille, St. Joe River, Clearwater River, and the South Fork Snake River watersheds. Approximately 38 percent of all harlequin duck observations in Idaho are within the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. Breeding streams are characterized by rocky substrates that support the benthic macro-invertebrates upon which the ducks feed, as well as large numbers of rapids and riffle areas interspersed with eddies. Water quality appears to be very important for successful foraging, with clear, low-acid water being optimal. Relative to other species of ducks, harlequin ducks occur at low population densities and exhibit high breeding site fidelity, low reproductive rates, and delayed reproduction. All of these traits contribute to making harlequin duck populations particularly slow to recover from habitat degradation or loss or other factors that may lower duck survival. Harlequin ducks have disappeared from former breeding sites in Idaho and Montana (Wiggins 2005).

The Selway forestsnail is present on the South Fork Clearwater River. This Idaho endemic snail occurs in Idaho County in isolated colonies along the lower Lochsa River, the Selway River, the South Fork Clearwater River, the lower Salmon River, and their tributaries. The global extent of the species known range occurs largely within the region of comparison with only limited observations just outside of this area. This species is found in intact mixed coniferous forest, usually in low elevation, well-shaded, moist areas along medium to large streams. Sites usually have a diverse understory and a substantial duff layer (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b). Only the section of this river from the national forest boundary near the Blackerby day use area upstream to the confluence with Mill Creek supports the Selway forestsnail.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

There is mixed ownership with National Forest System lands and private land. This suitability report and the associated outstandingly remarkable values only pertain to the Forest Service administered lands portion of the segment and corridor.

The South Fork Clearwater River is within the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3. The segment on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the proposed Management Area 3 has been managed for timber production and other objectives under the 1987 Forest Plan and timber harvest has occurred along many portions of the segment. State Highway 14 runs along the river throughout the whole segment from Grangeville to Elk City. Developments in the corridor include nine sites in the Castle Creek Campground, nine sites in the South Fork Campground, three sites in the Meadow Creek Campground, five sites in the Leggett Creek Campground, the Nelson Creek Picnic Area, the Backerby Picnic Area, the Cotter Bar Picnic Area, and the McAllister Picnic Area. The Johns Creek and Cougar Creek Trailheads are in the corridor along with the following motorized trails: Center Star Mine Road, Cougar Creek Trail, and Dutch Oven Trail. Dozens of Forest Service, county, and private roads branch off of Highway 14 and are within the corridor, including Cover Placers Road (Forest Road 279), Cooked River Road (Forest Road 233), Forest Road 484, and Forest Road 492.

There are 30 mining claims within the corridor, and the Forest Service has 4 mapped rock sources: Crooked River Mouth, South Fork Tailing, Leggett Creek, and Reed Creek. Suction dredging is authorized under permit for up to 15 miners in upper portions of the South Fork Clearwater River.

There are four livestock grazing allotments in this area.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

Highway 14 parallels the South Fork Clearwater River for much of its length and provides the only paved access to Elk City. Unstable slopes have resulted in several large slides that have closed the highway for several months during recent years. This resulted in a large unvegetated landslide scar. Being able to maintain the highway and manage slides is critically important to Idaho County and Elk City residents. The electrical power distribution line managed by Avista, which provides power to Elk City, parallels the highway and the river. Accessing and maintaining the power line is also very important.

The segments are in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed on 6,014 acres due to a recreational classification.

Areas along the South Fork Clearwater River provide both summer and winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Changes in vegetation succession have been cited as a factor contributing to declining elk populations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2014). Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

The river contains significant portions of high-quality habitat for the fisher. These habitats occur from the national forest boundary near Elk City downstream until approximately the confluence with Otter Creek. These habitats would be protected or enhanced if this river is found suitable and added to the national system.

4. The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system

5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies

6. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system

The Forest Service’s authority for finding a river eligible or suitable only applies to National Forest System lands. Only the Forest Service administered portions of the river would be managed as eligible or suitable. At this time, the Forest Service is not pursing acquisition of lands or interests in lands on the basis of wild and scenic rivers. However, should the South Fork Clearwater River be added to the national system by Congress, Congress may or may not authorize or direct the Forest Service to pursue acquisition of lands or land interests, potentially affecting up to 330 acres of private land within the current corridor along approximately 1.5 miles of river. As it is not reasonably foreseeable that Congress would direct the agency to acquire lands or land interests, the cost of such action is not being calculated at this time.

7. A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system

8. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development

Idaho County does not have local zoning or land use controls. Prevention of incompatible development on private land would depend on private property owner voluntary participation, education, and outreach.

9. State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands

No non-federal lands would be affected by an agency finding that the river is suitable. Outstandingly remarkable values were determined based on their presence on Forest Service administered lands.

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives

Designation is inconsistent with the Idaho County Natural Resource Plan.

Designation of a segment as suitable, particularly where the segment is included as designated critical habitat for an Endangered Species Act listed fish species, or where it has an additional priority identified in any recovery plan for a listed fish species, would be consistent with recovery goals identified in recovery planning. Maintenance and improvement of stream habitat are central tenets of recovery planning, similar to language contained in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that directs outstandingly remarkable values to be maintained, particularly in rivers where fish is identified as an outstandingly remarkable value. Exceptions could include construction of instream or near-stream structures to restore habitat, or establishment of structures or features for collection of fish or fisheries data in conjunction with recovery efforts.

Designation is inconsistent with the Idaho Department of Park and Recreation programs and policies. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has not indicated whether designation would be consistent with agency plans nor have they indicated support or opposition.

The South Fork Clearwater River was identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the South Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 2005). It is designated a recreational river and may include some manmade development in the waterway or riparian area. The outstanding values recognized are recreational use, fish species of concern, wildlife species of concern, and salmonid spawning. The following activities are prohibited: alterations of the stream channel, except as allowed with specific provisions; construction of hydropower projects; construction of water diversion works; construction or expansion of dams or impoundments; dredge or placer mining; and mineral or sand and gravel extraction within the stream channel. The following activities are allowed if they do not impede fish passage, spawning, rearing, and boat passage: 1) alterations of the stream channel for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and trails; public recreation facilities; fish and wildlife enhancement structures; and channel reconstruction projects approved by the Idaho Water Resources Board and 2) construction of water diversion works for domestic, municipal, and agricultural uses. All activities must comply with all state stream channel alterations rules and standards. All works must be constructed or maintained to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

Alteration of the stream bed for recreational dredge mining is allowable as regulated by the Idaho Department of Land and Idaho Department of Water Resources from July 15 to August 15, although a permit through Idaho Department of Water Resources is required. Before a permit is granted, the

applicant must obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System general permit for small scale suction dredging in Idaho from the Environmental Protection Agency. The South Fork Clearwater River does not currently meet state water quality standards for sediment and is subject to a pollutant budget, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load. To meet statutory requirements and state water quality standards for the South Fork Clearwater River, the Idaho Department of Water Resources limits mining operations on the mainstem South Fork Clearwater River to a total of 15 power sluices or dredges with a nozzle five inches in diameter or less and equipment rated at a maximum of 15 horsepower. Additionally, the South Fork Clearwater River designation requires dredge sites to be inspected by the Idaho Department of Water Resources with a fisheries biologist.

All landowners—private, state, and federal—are encouraged to manage their lands consistent with the Idaho Water Resources Board's protection designations. The Idaho Water Resources Board also encourages federal resource management agencies to work within the comprehensive state water planning process rather than pursue federal protection of waters within Idaho.

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

The South Fork Clearwater River is one of the major rivers on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. It is a major river in the Clearwater Basin.

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 83. South Fork Clearwater River Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

West Fork Crooked River

Table 84. West Fork Crooked River

Segment Description	Confluence with East Fork Crooked River to headwaters
Segment Length	5.4 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	1,728 acres
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Fish

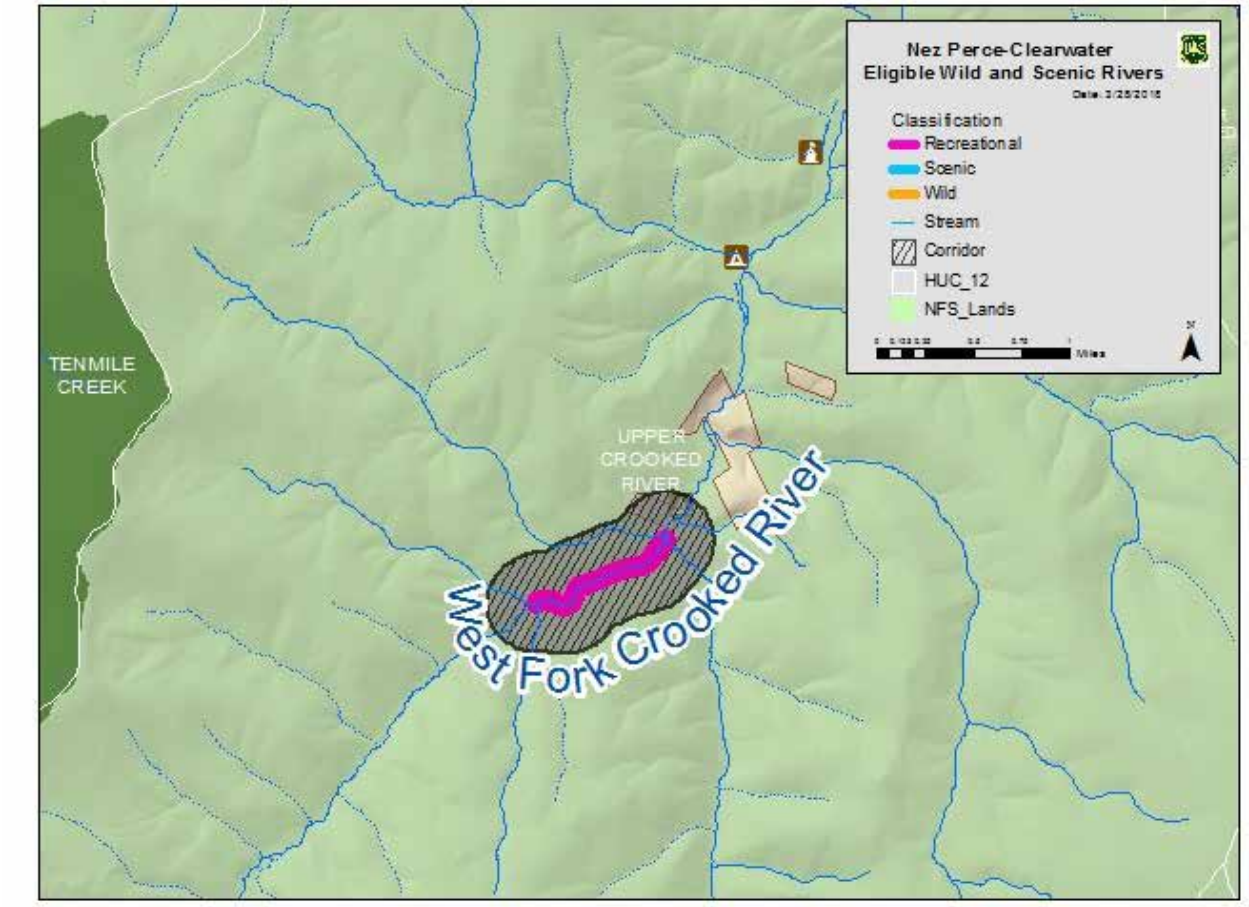

Figure 43. West Fork Crooked River

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The fish outstandingly remarkable value includes diversity, abundance, habitat quality, and natural reproduction. The West Fork Crooked River supports spawning and early rearing habitat at significantly high levels for fluvial bull trout and provides a large percentage of the spawning habitat available in the South Fork Clearwater subbasin for this species, as well as within the region of comparison. Eligible segments are designated critical habitat for Columbia River bull trout and Snake River steelhead trout. It is part of a major spawning area for steelhead trout (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency

2017), and a local bull trout population has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Habitat quality is very high, with high complexity from recruitment of large wood. A large westslope cutthroat trout population is present as well. This population has known high genetic integrity.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. The West Fork Crooked River is listed as impaired (Class 4A) for water temperature, physical substrate habitat alterations, and sedimentation/siltation and is not supporting cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning beneficial uses. It is included in the Environmental Protection Agency approved South Fork Clearwater River Total Maximum Daily Load Plan. A Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the Total Maximum Daily Load allocated to a stream.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

The majority of the West Fork Crooked River corridor is within the West Fork Crooked River Idaho Roadless Area with a backcountry/restoration theme and a short section of the northeast side, the first 0.75 miles from the confluence with East Fork Crooked River, is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3. Developments in the corridor include the Orogrande Summit Campground at the headwaters, three sites and one group site at the Orogrande 1 and 2 Campground, a self-guided tour on the first mile of the West Fork Crooked River, the Columbia Ridge Motorized Trail (T 225), the ML 3 Crooked River Road (Forest Road 233), and ML 2 roads 311, 9848, and 9849.

There are 25 mineral claims within the first mile from the confluence with the East Fork Crooked River.

The corridor on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the proposed Management Area 3 has been managed for timber production under the 1987 Forest Plan, though there is no record of timber harvest occurring within the corridor.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

A portion of the segment is in Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions, and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed on 117 acres in the recreational segment.

Areas along the West Fork Crooked River provide high quality summer habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Changes in vegetation succession have been cited as a factor contributing to declining elk populations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2014). Restrictions on timber harvest may impede the ability to manage habitat to benefit big game species by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession. These activities are currently not restricted in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 and would be restricted in the river corridor if the river is included in the national system.

The river corridor contains high quality habitat for Canada lynx near the headwaters and for fisher near the confluence with the East Fork Crooked River. These habitats would be protected if this river is found suitable.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the roadless area. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If this segment is found suitable, the recreational designation would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest and would likely foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration.

The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry/restoration theme areas; however, for this area, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

Designation of a river segment as suitable, particularly where the river segment is included as designated critical habitat for an Endangered Species Act listed fish species, or where it has an additional priority identified in any recovery plan for a listed fish species, would be consistent with recovery goals identified in recovery planning. Maintenance and improvement of stream habitat are central tenets of recovery planning, similar to language contained in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that directs outstandingly remarkable values to be maintained, particularly in rivers where fish are identified as an outstandingly remarkable value. Exceptions could include construction of instream or near-stream structures to restore habitat or establishment of structures or features for collection of fish or fisheries data in conjunction with recovery efforts.

The West Fork Crooked River was identified in the Comprehensive State Water Plan for the South Fork Clearwater River Basin (Idaho Water Resource Board 2005). It is designated a recreational river and may include some manmade development in the waterway or riparian area. The outstanding values recognized are recreational use, fish species of concern, and salmonid spawning. The following activities are prohibited: alterations of the stream channel, except as allowed with specific provisions; construction of hydropower projects; construction of water diversion works; construction or expansion of dams or impoundments; dredge or placer mining; and mineral or sand and gravel extraction within the stream channel. The following activities are allowed if they do not impede fish passage, spawning, rearing, and boat passage: 1) alterations of the stream channel for construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, and trails; public recreation facilities; fish and wildlife enhancement structures; and channel reconstruction

projects approved by the Idaho Water Resources Board and 2) construction of water diversion works for domestic, municipal, and agricultural uses. All activities must comply with all state stream channel alterations rules and standards. All works must be constructed or maintained to minimize erosion and sedimentation.

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

All rivers and creeks on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate this river's important contributions to the system.

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 85. West Fork Crooked River Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Salmon River Basin

Allison Creek

Table 86. Allison Creek

Segment Description	Confluence with Salmon River to headwaters
Segment Length	8.4 miles (including 2.62 are on private land)
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	2,688 acres (including 435 acres of private land)
Preliminary Classification	Upper portion from headwaters to FSR 221: scenic Lower portion from FSR 221 to Salmon River: recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Nez Perce cultural and wildlife

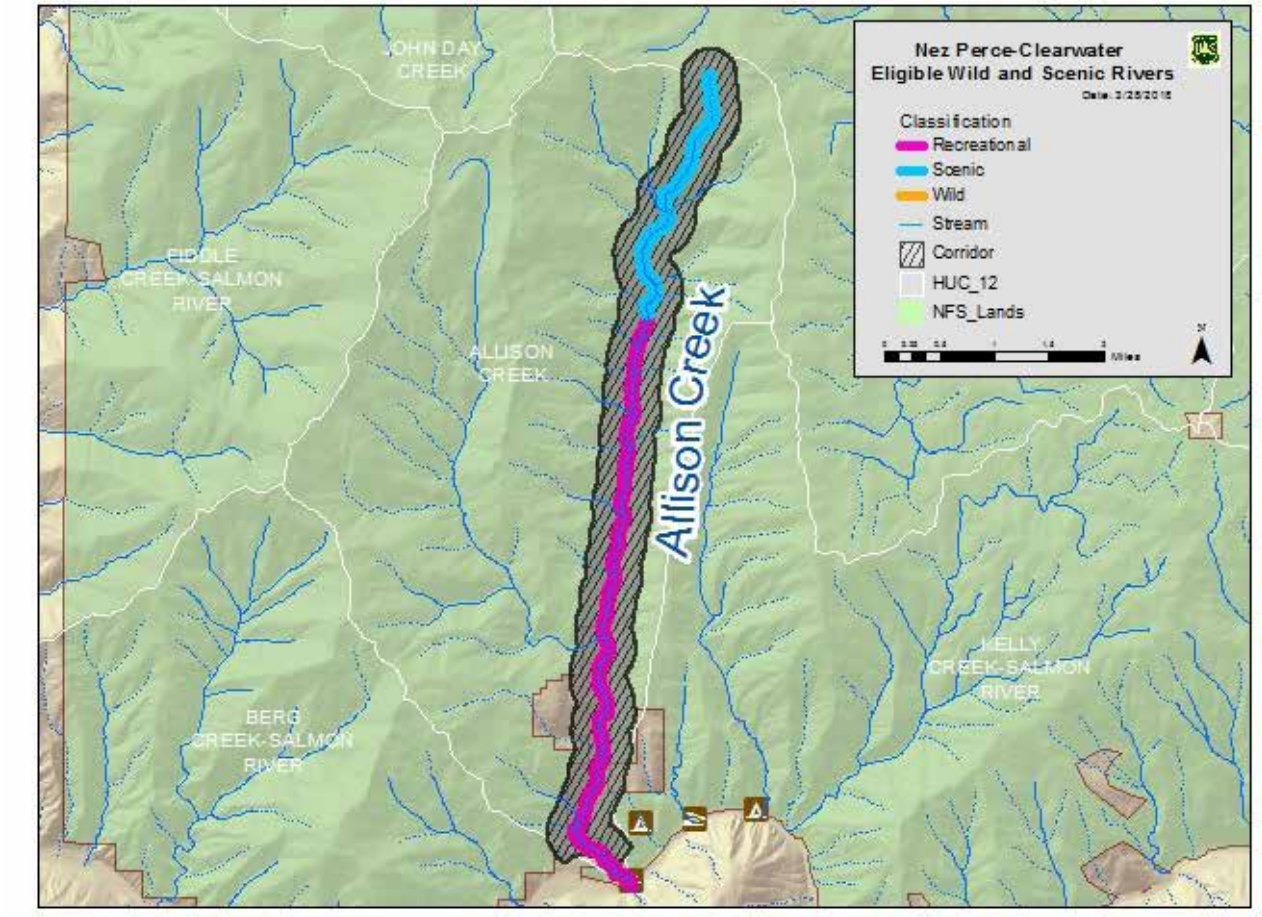

Figure 44. Allison Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The Nez Perce tribal staff identified the Allison Creek segment as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The wildlife outstandingly remarkable value is supported by the presence of the Selway forestsnail, which is an Idaho endemic with a global range that is only known to occur in isolated colonies at lower elevations along the lower Lochsa River, the Selway River, the South Fork Clearwater River, the lower Salmon River, and their tributaries. This species is found in intact mixed coniferous forest, usually in low elevation, well-shaded, moist areas along medium to large streams. Sites usually have a diverse understory and a substantial duff layer. It is known only from about a dozen sites across its entire range, including Allison Creek. Occurrences of this species in the lower Salmon River drainages are disjunct from the rest of the species range (Frest and Johannes 1997).

The boulder pile mountainsnail (*Oreohelix jugalis*) has been found near Allison Creek near the confluence with the Salmon River. This mountainsnail is an Idaho endemic species whose global distribution is only found in the Salmon River Subbasin between Hells Gate Creek and Allison Creek. The species is considered critically globally imperiled (G1G2) and critically imperiled at the state level (S1) by Nature Serve. Though a terrestrial species, all known observations of this snail have been observed within river corridors within one-quarter mile from rivers. The species is known from fewer than 20 sites in western Idaho (Hendricks and Maxell 2005). In 1999, these snails were thought to be declining and were reported as common at only 26 percent of sites (Frest 1999). Habitat loss arising from road construction via extraction of road building materials, mining, and livestock grazing are the primary threats to this species (Frest 1999).

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Allison Creek is listed as impaired (Class 4A) for *Escherichia coli* and is not supporting secondary contact recreation. It is supporting cold water aquatic life. It is included in the Environmental Protection Agency approved the Lower Salmon River and Hells Canyon tributaries Total Maximum Daily Load Plan. A Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plan is a water quality improvement strategy that includes the development of the Total Maximum Daily Load allocated to a stream.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

There is mixed ownership with both National Forest System lands and private land. This suitability determination is solely based on, and only applies to, National Forest System lands.

The majority of Allison Creek is within the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 and it runs through the John Day Idaho Roadless Area (backcountry/restoration theme) for about 1.5 miles. Developments in the corridor include the Allison Creek Picnic Area. Forest Road221 runs alongside the creek for the first 5.5 miles and other roads within the corridor include Forest Road 263 (ML 3), Forest Road 441 (ML 3), Forest Road 221G (ML 2), and Forest Road 2081 (ML 1). The segment on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the proposed Management Area 3 has been managed for timber production under the 1987 Forest Plan and timber harvest has occurred along the segment.

The creek is within the Allison-Berg allotment area.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

A portion of the proposed segment is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions, and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for

local communities. Timber harvest would be curtailed or restricted on 2,685 acres based on recreational and scenic classifications.

Areas along the lower section of Allison Creek provide winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. The headwaters of Allison Creek have a good potential to be managed to improve elk summer forage. Changes in vegetation succession have been cited as a factor contributing to declining elk populations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2014). Restrictions on some types of vegetation management may impede the ability to manage habitat to benefit big game species or manage fuels by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession. These activities are currently not restricted in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3.

No changes are anticipated to land use in the roadless area. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If this segment is found suitable, the recreational and scenic designations would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest and would likely foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration.

The Idaho Roadless Area Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry/restoration themed areas; however, for this area, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

4. The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system

5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies

6. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system

The Forest Service's authority for finding a river eligible or suitable only applies to National Forest System lands. Only the Forest Service administered portions of the river would be managed as eligible or suitable. At this time, the Forest Service is not pursing acquisition of lands or interests in lands on the basis of wild and scenic rivers. However, should Allison Creek be added to the national system by Congress, Congress may or may not authorize or direct the Forest Service to pursue acquisition of lands or land interests, potentially affecting up to 435 acres of private land within the corridor. As it is not reasonably foreseeable that Congress would direct the agency to acquire lands or land interests, the cost of such action is not being calculated at this time.

7. A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system

8. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development

Idaho County does not have local zoning or land use controls. Prevention of incompatible development on private land would depend on private property owner voluntary participation, education, and outreach.

9. State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands

No non-federal lands would be affected by an agency finding that the river is suitable. outstandingly remarkable values were determined based on their presence on Forest Service administered lands.

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

All rivers and creeks on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate this creek's important contributions to the system.

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 87. Allison Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Bargamin Creek and Sabe Creek

Table 88. Bargamin Creek and Sabe Creek

Segment Description	Bargamin Creek: confluence with Salmon River to headwaters Sabe Creek: confluence with Salmon River to headwaters
Segment Length	40.9 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	13,088 acres
Preliminary Classification	Sabe Creek: wild Bargamin Creek upper and lower portion: wild Middle section from Hot Springs Creek to wilderness boundary: scenic
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Bargamin Creek: fish and scenic Sabe Creek: fish

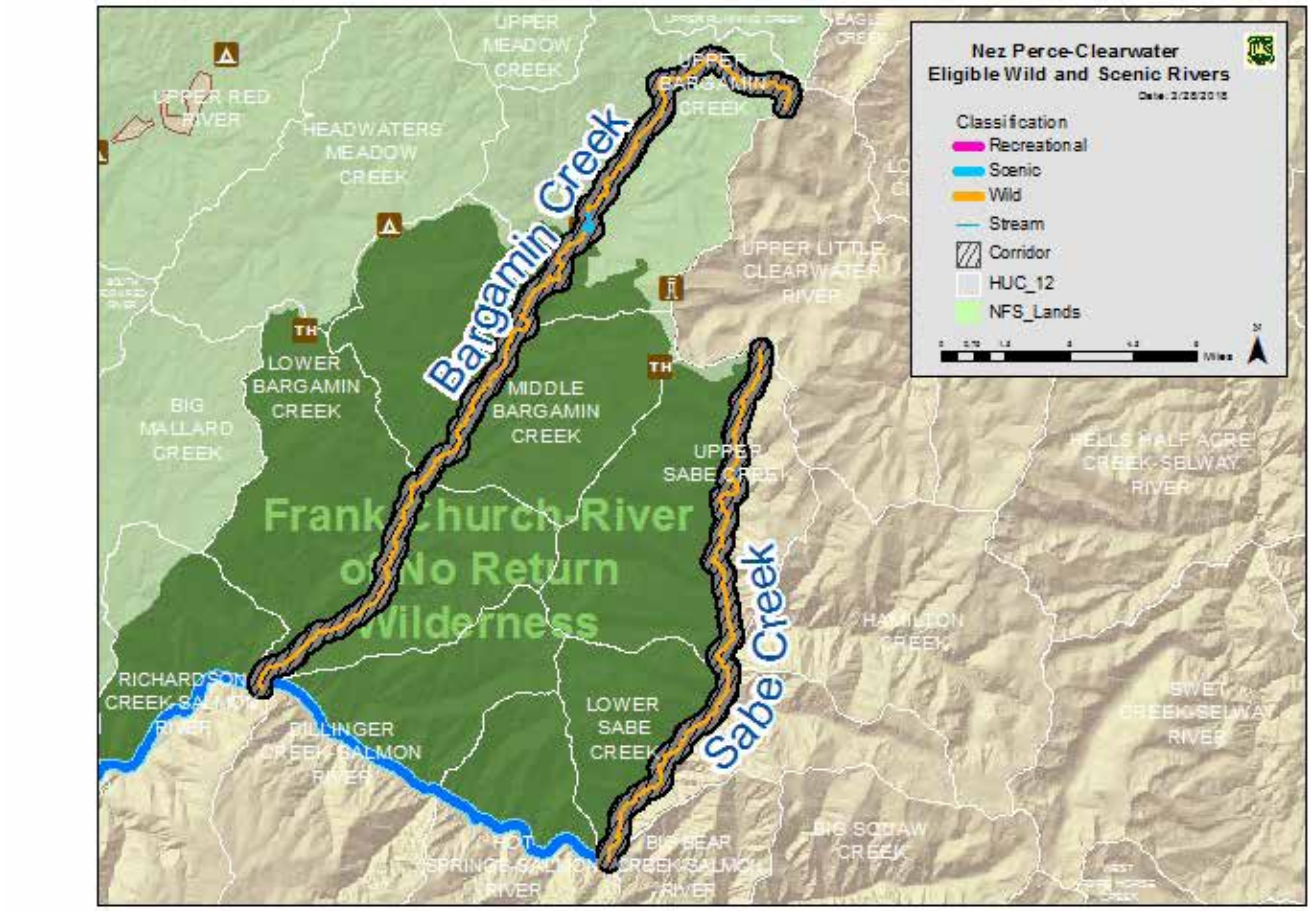

Figure 45. Bargamin Creek and Sabe Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. **Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system**

The fish outstandingly remarkable value for Bargamin and Sabe Creeks includes diversity and abundance, habitat quality, and natural reproduction. Eligible segments in both creeks support high species diversity,

including spring/summer Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, bull trout, and westslope cutthroat trout. Population numbers are among the highest within the region of comparison. Eligible segments are included as designated critical habitat for Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, and Columbia River bull trout. Both creeks have been identified as a minor spawning area for Chinook salmon and steelhead trout (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017), and a bull trout local population has been identified in both (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Habitat is abundant given the relative size and accessibility of these creeks within the region of comparison and is largely unaffected by human disturbance. There are no known non-native aquatic species present.

Bargamin Creek was originally not identified as having a scenic outstandingly remarkable value but was later added based on public input. A history of fires in the river corridor have maintained a diversity of vegetation throughout the U-shaped valley of the corridor, as well as slow-moving water through the meadows near its headwaters and fast-moving water downstream. The stream drops approximately 3,500 feet from its headwaters to the Salmon River, creating rocky drops. The steepness of the creek and the open vegetation allow for distant views.

Figure 46 is looking down into the “wild” section of Bargamin Creek towards the Salmon River.

Figure 46. Bargamin Creek

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho’s waters. Bargamin Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life, salmonid spawning, and secondary contact recreation. Sabe Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: aesthetic, wildlife habitat, and agricultural/industrial water supply.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and Bitterroot National Forest.

The headwaters of the Bargamin Creek segment are within the East Meadow Creek Idaho Roadless Area (primitive theme area). Bargamin Creek from the mouth to Poet Creek is in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area. The Nez Perce Trail Road (Forest Road 468) crosses Bargamin Creek in this area and other developments found in the corridor near Poet Creek include the access road at Poet Creek Campground and the Bargamin Creek Motorized Trail (T 502).

Sabe Creek's western side is on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and the eastern side is on the Bitterroot National Forest within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area. Near the headwaters of Sabe Creek, the Nez Perce Trail Road (Forest Road 468) runs through a small section of the corridor.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

No changes are anticipated to land use within the roadless areas. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If these segments are found suitable, the scenic designation would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest and would likely foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration.

Within Idaho Roadless Areas that allow timber harvest, one segment would be designated wild if found suitable. Timber harvest is not used extensively in this area.

The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction, reconstruction, and surface occupancy for primitive themed areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the wilderness area. Wilderness designation withdraws the area from mineral entry, and water developments in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

Bargamin and Sabe Creeks are both major tributaries to the Salmon River and provide important fish habitat in conjunction with the Salmon River. It would be beneficial to manage these as a system.

These creeks are identified as being an important contributor to the river system and to basin integrity. These creeks are some of the larger tributaries in the subbasin or basin. As such, they play an important ecological role in providing clean, free-flowing water and habitat for fish and wildlife species.

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 89. Bargamin Creek and Sabe Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Not Suitable

Big Mallard Creek and Noble Creek

Table 90. Big Mallard Creek and Noble Creek

Segment Description	Big Mallard Creek: confluence with Salmon River to confluence with Summit Creek Noble Creek: confluence with Big Mallard Creek to headwaters
Segment Length	12.5 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	4,000 acres
Preliminary Classification	Big Mallard - Wild Noble Creek – Wild with a small section in middle reach - recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Big Mallard Creek: scenic and geology Noble Creek: scenic and fish

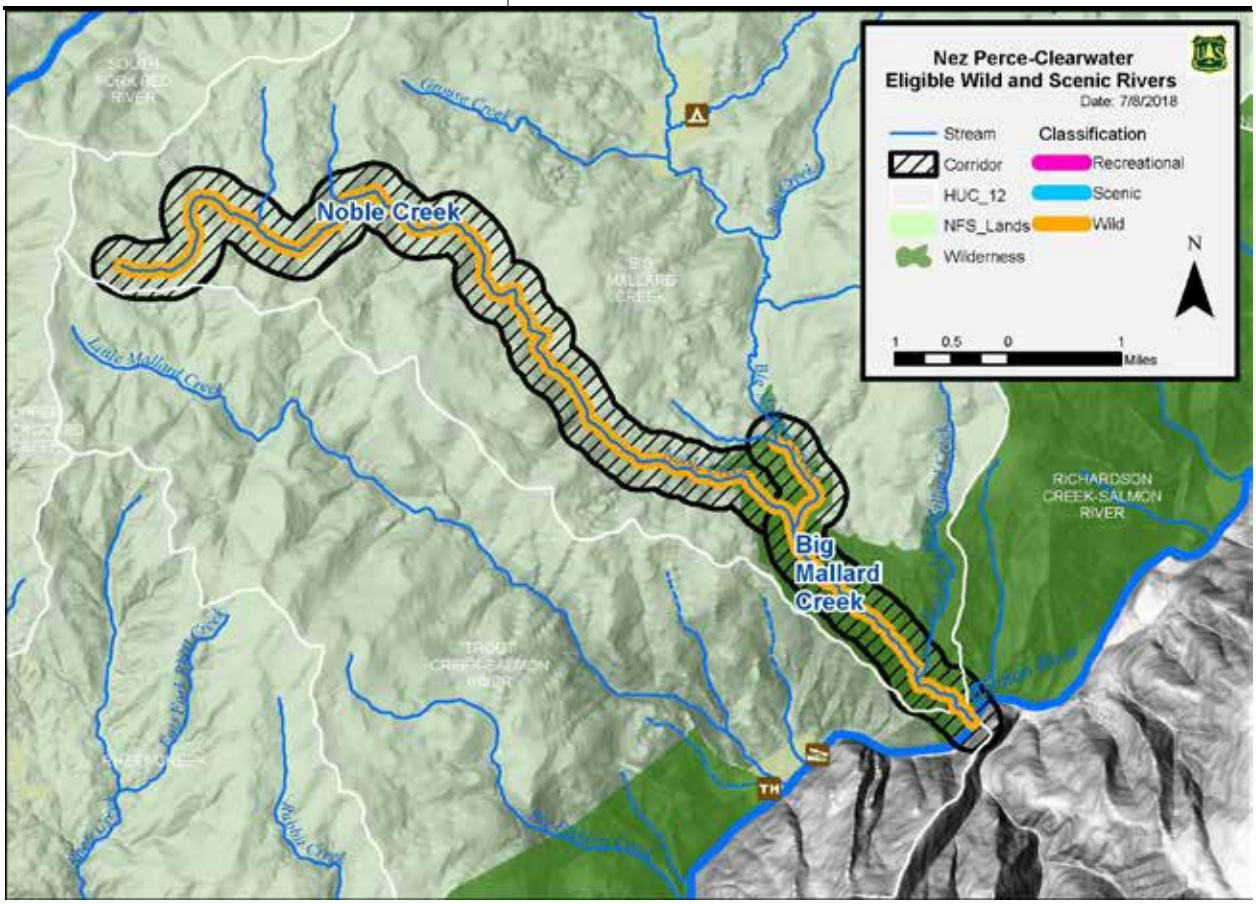

Figure 47. Big Mallard Creek and Noble Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. **Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system**

The scenic outstandingly remarkable value for Big Mallard and Noble Creeks is the combination of waterfalls, which are exemplary scenic features. Noble Creek is a tributary to Big Mallard Creek. The Big Mallard Creek Falls drop in a spectacular manner to the Salmon River. This is one of the longest

waterfalls in the region of comparison with a near-vertical drop of approximately 300 feet. Both waterfalls are within the boundary for the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area, which appears to have been drawn specifically to include these two creeks.

The combination of Big Mallard Creek and Noble Creek waterfalls are also the outstandingly remarkable geology value.

The fish outstandingly remarkable value is based on habitat quality and natural reproduction. Noble Creek supports the only allopatric resident westslope cutthroat trout population in the region of comparison. It is isolated from Big Mallard Creek and the Salmon River by a large waterfall, which is a complete upstream migration barrier. Therefore, it is likely this population is genetically unique and has very high genetic integrity. Population abundance is very high. Habitat quality in these low gradient eligible segments is very high. There are no non-native species present in Noble Creek.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Big Mallard Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning. Noble Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater.

The Big Mallard Creek and the lower portion of Noble Creek segments are within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area. The Noble Creek corridor extends beyond the wilderness area and into small portions of Gospel Hump and Mallard Idaho roadless areas (backcountry/restoration themes).

Forest Road 421 – Big Mallard Creek Road is also within the segment. A corridor of land around Forest Road 421 is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3.

There are no motorized trails, mining claims, mapped rock sources, or allotments in this area.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

The corridor of land around the Big Mallard Creek Road is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards the desired conditions. In the proposed Management Area 3, timber harvest would also provide products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. However, only a negligible portion of the creek corridors would overlap with the proposed Management Area 3, so a suitable designation would not be expected to have any noticeable impact on vegetation management or timber production. Management activities near the creek would follow the direction of best management practices for riparian management zones. If included in the national system, management activities within the corridor would have additional restrictions. The corridor is wider than the riparian management zone.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the roadless area. Within Idaho Roadless Areas that allow timber harvest, some segments would be designated wild if found suitable. Timber harvest is not used extensively in this area. However, if these segments are found suitable, timber harvest would be foreclosed as an option for forest vegetation restoration on six acres within the cold potential vegetation type group, three acres within the cool moist potential vegetation type group, 161 acres within the warm dry potential vegetation type group, and 23 acres within the warm moist potential vegetation type group.

The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry/restoration themed areas; however, for this area, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the wilderness area. Wilderness area designation withdraws the area from mineral entry, and water developments in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

Designation is inconsistent with the Idaho County Natural Resource Plan.

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

All rivers and creeks on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate the creeks' important contributions to the system.

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Although the waterfalls themselves are within the wilderness boundary, there is a private ranch upstream. A substantial reduction of water flow in the waterfalls due to upstream development would reduce their scenic value.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 91. Big Mallard Creek and Noble Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

South Fork White Bird Creek and North Fork White Bird Creek

Table 92. South Fork White Bird Creek and North Fork White Bird Creek

Segment Description	South Fork White Bird Creek: national forest boundary to the headwaters North Fork White Bird Creek: national forest boundary to confluences of Tollgate and Goodwin creeks (this creek leaves the Forest Service boundary for 1.41 miles)
Segment Length	South Fork White Bird Creek: 12.4 miles (of which 1.63 are on private land) North Fork White Bird Creek: 5.6 mile (does not include the area where it leaves the proclaimed Forest Service boundary for 1.41 miles)
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	South Fork White Bird Creek: 3,968 acres (including 172 acres of private land) North Fork White Bird Creek: 1,792 acres (only the areas within the national forest boundary)
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Nez Perce cultural and fish

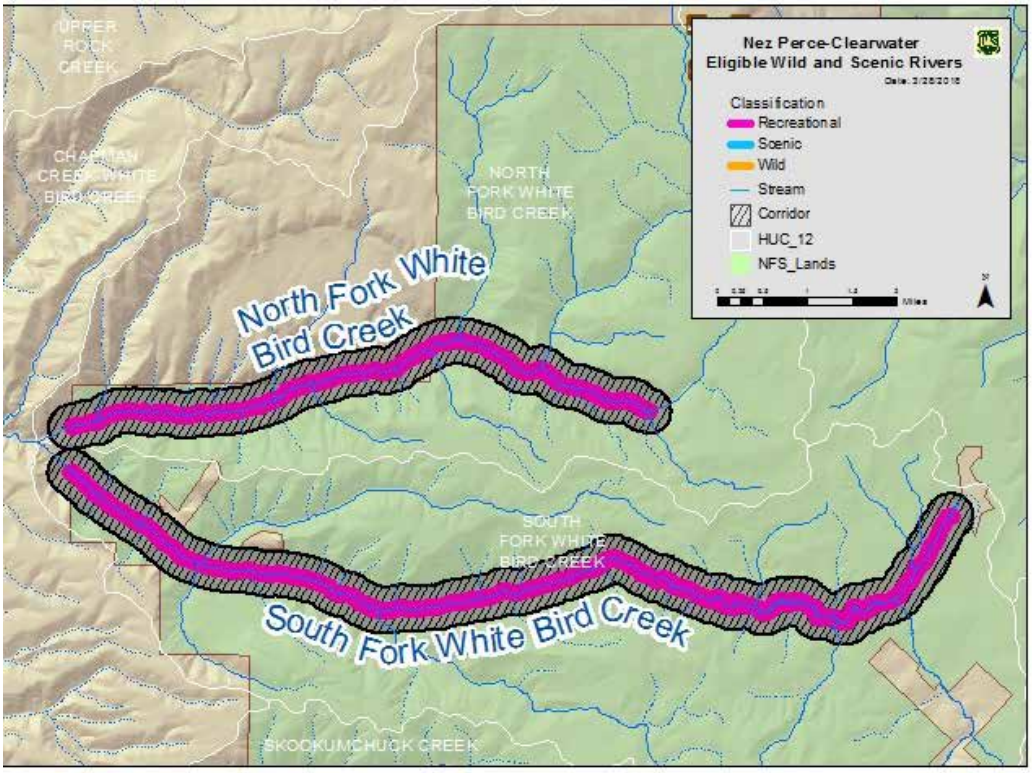

Figure 48. South Fork White Bird Creek and North Fork White Bird Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The Nez Perce tribal staff identified North Fork White Bird Creek and South Fork White Bird Creek as segments having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The fish outstandingly remarkable value is based on species abundance and diversity and natural reproduction. South Fork White Bird and North Fork White Bird Creeks support very high densities of juvenile steelhead trout within the region of comparison. Both species use South Fork White Bird and North Fork White Bird Creeks for spawning and early rearing. Eligible segments are included as designated critical habitat for Snake River steelhead trout and Snake River spring/summer Chinook salmon. They are also included as a minor spawning area for both species. The higher elevation eligible segments in North Fork White Bird Creek support a known indigenous population of interior redband trout.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. North Fork White Bird Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life and secondary contact recreation. South Fork White Bird Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life and salmonid spawning.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

There is mixed ownership with National Forest System lands and private land. The headwaters of South Fork White Bird Creek are on private land and a midsection of the North Fork White Bird Creek leaves the national forest for 1.4 miles.

North Fork White Bird Creek is within the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3. Developments in the corridor include the Bentz Ridge Motorized Trail (TR 340), three private roads, and Forest Road 479B (ML 1). The segment is within the White Bird Creek and Peter Ready allotments.

South Fork White Bird Creek is within the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3. Developments in the corridor include Milner Motorized Trail (TR 641) and Pinnacle Ridge Motorized Trail (TR 325). Over 20 roads intersect the corridor and roads that cross the creek include Forest Road 221 (ML 5), Forest Road 342 (ML 3), and Forest Road 2009 (ML 3). The segment crosses White Bird Creek and Peter Ready allotments.

The segments on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the proposed Management Area 3 have been managed for timber production and other objectives under the 1987 Forest Plan and timber harvest has occurred along the segments.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

The proposed segments are in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions, and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed on 3,745 acres of the segment based on a recreational classification.

Areas along the lowest section of South Fork Whitebird Creek provide winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Changes in vegetation succession have been cited as a factor contributing to declining elk populations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2014). Restrictions on some types of non-fire vegetation management may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species or manage fuels by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

The headwaters of the South Fork Whitebird Creek contain high quality fisher habitat. These habitats would be protected if this river is added to the national system.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

The Forest Service's authority for finding a creek eligible or suitable only applies to National Forest System lands. Only the Forest Service administered portions of the creek would be managed as eligible or suitable. At this time, the Forest Service is not pursing acquisition of lands or interests in lands on the basis of wild and scenic rivers. However, should the creeks be added to the national system by Congress, Congress may or may not authorize or direct the Forest Service to pursue acquisition of lands or land interests, potentially affecting up to 172 acres of private land within the corridor. As it is not reasonably foreseeable that Congress would direct the agency to acquire lands or land interests, the cost of such action is not being calculated at this time.

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

Idaho County does not have local zoning or land use controls. Prevention of incompatible development on private land would depend on private property owner voluntary participation, education, and outreach.

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

No non-federal lands would be affected by an agency finding that the creeks are suitable. Outstandingly remarkable values were determined based on their presence on Forest Service administered lands.

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

All rivers and creeks on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate the creeks' important contributions to the system.

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 93. South Fork White Bird Creek and North Fork White Bird Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Salmon River

Table 94. Salmon River

Segment Description	National forest boundary to Long Tom Bar at wild and scenic river designation
Segment Length	23.2 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	7,424 acres
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Scenic, recreation, and wildlife

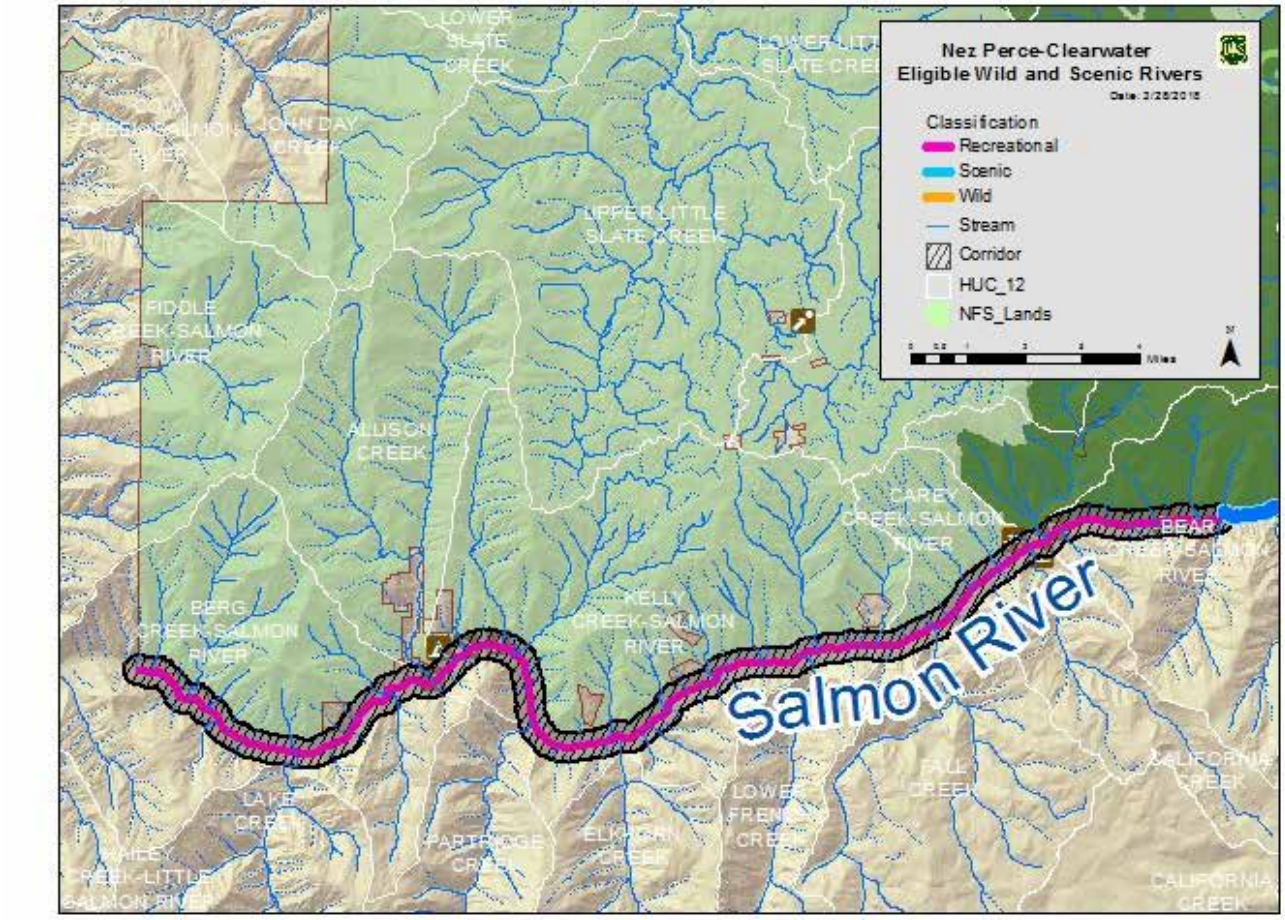

Figure 49. Salmon River

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

This corridor of the Salmon River segment contains a mix of vegetation, from steep, rocky grasslands to coniferous trees to cottonwoods along the river. The deep wide canyon provides extensive views. Much of this segment is wide, relatively calm water that forms pools interspersed with rapids that form whitewater that contributes to visual variety. The scenic quality of the Salmon River downstream from Long Tom Bar to the national forest boundary, which was found scenic in the 1973 Salmon River Study that evaluated

the Salmon River from source to mouth, has been reaffirmed. This supports a determination of a scenic outstandingly remarkable value. The 112-mile stretch from the mouth at the Snake River upstream to Long Tom Bar was also found scenic in the nationwide rivers inventory, last updated in 1993. The Bureau of Land Management considers this segment as both eligible and suitable based on the 1973 study directed by the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Resource Management Plan 2008).

The recreational outstandingly remarkable value is for boating, swimming, and fishing. The Salmon River from Long Tom Bar to Riggins provides easily accessible boating on a large, broad, and flat river interspersed with rapids, most notably at French Creek and Ruby Rapids. This stretch has a road along the length of it, which provides access in many places. Three developed boat ramps at Vinegar Creek, Carey Creek, and Spring Bar are in this segment along with one at Shorts Bar on Bureau of Land Management lands several miles downstream of the national forest boundary, allow for different length of trips. The river can be boated by kayak, raft, canoe, drift boat, and jet boat. The low elevation of this segment varies from 1,700 feet to 1,900 feet and allows for a long boating season with opportunities during most of the year.

This segment of the Salmon River develops large beaches in the summer since it is a large free-flowing river. Its natural and often dramatic water level fluctuation transports sand where it can be deposited to replenish beaches. The combination of large beaches with calm pools at low elevation attract people from within and beyond the region of comparison. The Salmon River stands out with places for swimming that may attract people beyond the region of comparison since the other large rivers have dams or diversions, such as the Snake, Bitterroot, and North Fork Payette Rivers; have steep and rocky shorelines, such as the Lochsa and South Fork Payette Rivers; or are smaller rivers closer to roads, such as the lower Selway and South Fork and North Fork Clearwater Rivers, that form smaller beaches but do not provide the same level of experience as the Salmon River. The Clearwater River also develops several large beaches. Most of the smaller rivers do not provide water deep enough to swim or soak.

The Salmon River provides both steelhead and salmon fishing easily accessible by road with boating access points. Within the region of comparison, the Clearwater River, along with the lower Middle Fork Clearwater (for less than two miles), downstream of the national forest boundary and the lower Snake River provide this opportunity. The South Fork Clearwater, Little Salmon, and South Fork Salmon provides a unique steelhead bankfishing opportunity. Steelhead fishing routinely draws numerous visitors from within and beyond the region of comparison from southwest Montana, Spokane, and Boise.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho’s waters. This portion of the Salmon River has not been assessed or there is insufficient data to determine if water quality standards are being met or if beneficial uses are supported.

The Wildlife outstandingly remarkable value is based on observations of the following species:

- The ashy pebblesnail (*FIuminicola columbiana*) was originally known from the Lower Snake and Columbia River drainages in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, British Columbia, and possibly Montana. It is probably extirpated from the middle and upper Columbia River in Washington, Montana, and British Columbia and may be extinct in the lower Columbia River in Washington and Oregon (Neitzel and Frest 1993). It is still extant in some tributaries in Washington (Okanogan and Methow Rivers). It was documented in the Salmon River by Frest and Nietzel between 1988 and 1991 (Neitzel and Frest 1993).

- The boulder pile mountainsnail (*Oreohelix jugalis*) has been found near the Salmon River. This mountainsnail is an Idaho endemic species whose global distribution is only found in the Salmon River Subbasin between Hells Gate Creek and Allison Creek. The species is considered critically globally imperiled (G1G2) and critically imperiled at the state level (S1) by Nature Serve. Though a terrestrial species, all known observations of this snail have been observed within one-quarter mile of rivers. The species is known from fewer than 20 sites in western Idaho (Hendricks and Maxell 2005). In 1999, these snails were thought to be declining and were reported as common at only 26 percent of sites (Frest 1999). Habitat loss arising from road construction via extraction of road building materials, mining, and livestock grazing are the primary threats to this species (Frest 1999).
- The rotund physa (*Physella Columbiana*) is an endemic snail to the Columbia River Basin. Historically, it was widespread across the basin, but is now possibly extirpated from Oregon and British Columbia. In Idaho, the species was recorded in the early 1980s from scattered locations along the lower Clearwater River, the lower Salmon River, and the upper Snake River (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b).
- The shortface lanx (*Fisherola nuttalli*) is a non-migrant freshwater snail. The range of the shortface lanx used to include almost the entire Columbia River Basin, but today this species is restricted to only a few remaining sites. In Idaho it is known in Hells Canyon of the Snake River and the lower Salmon and middle Snake rivers (Neitzel and Frest 1993). It was documented in the Salmon River by Frest and Nietzel during surveys from 1988 to 1991 (Neitzel and Frest 1993).
- The western ridged mussel (*Gonidea angulate*) is widespread across the northwestern United States but has experienced population declines and loss of populations in many areas of its range (Blevins et al. 2017). Historically, populations existed in much of the Snake, Clearwater, Salmon, and Little Salmon rivers in Idaho. Recent analyses by the Xerces Society suggests that the species has been lost from about one-third of its range in Idaho (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b, Blevins et al. 2017). The primary threat to this species is the degradation of water quality and quantity through impoundments, channel modification, reduced stream flow, contamination, sedimentation, nutrient enrichment, and thermal pollution (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b).

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

The south side of the river is in private ownership for about 16 miles west of the Payette National Forest boundary in Section 18, T. 24 N, R. 4E. There is mixed ownership along the north side of the river in this 16-mile section; 12.4 miles are National Forest System lands, and 3.6 miles are privately owned.

The majority of the area is non-forested in the proposed Management Area 3. There are a very limited number of acres along this segment in land suited for timber production. This area has been managed for elk habitat under the 1987 Forest Plan.

Salmon River Road (Forest Road 1614) and Forest road 103 are present along the river along with private road Berg Ranch (Forest Road 9900).

There are boat ramps at Vinegar Creek, Carey Creek, and Spring Bar with dispersed campsites at Van Creek, a developed 18-unit campground at Spring Bar, and a developed picnic site at Allison Creek.

The French Creek Trail is open to hiking, horseback riding, and motorcycles, and the Wind River Bridge and Idaho Centennial Trail 88 Trailhead are open for horses and pack animals.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

The proposed segment is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions, and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed on 243 acres if the segment is classified recreational.

4. The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system

The north side of the river in this segment primarily managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, except for private lands near Allison Creek. The south side of the river is managed by the Payette National Forest from Long Tom Creek to French Creek. The remainder of the south side is a mix of private lands and lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies

The Forest Service does not propose sharing costs with state and local agencies. Water quality for this river would continue to be monitored under a memorandum of understanding with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

6. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system

The Forest Service's authority for finding a river eligible or suitable only applies to National Forest System lands. Only the Forest Service administered portions of the river and corridor would be managed as eligible or suitable. At this time, the Forest Service is not pursing acquisition of lands or interests in lands on the basis of wild and scenic rivers. However, should this segment of the Salmon River be added to the national system by Congress, Congress may or may not authorize or direct the Forest Service to pursue acquisition of lands or land interests, potentially affecting up to 4,188 acres of private land within the corridor. As it is not reasonably foreseeable that Congress would direct the agency to acquire lands or land interests, the cost of such action is not being calculated at this time.

7. A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system

8. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development

Idaho County does not have local zoning or land use controls. Prevention of incompatible development on private land would depend on private property owner voluntary participation, education, and outreach.

9. State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands

No non-federal lands would be affected by an agency finding that the river is suitable. outstandingly remarkable values were determined based on their presence on National Forest System lands.

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

This Salmon River segment is an essential portion of the Salmon River and Snake River basins and is notable in the Columbia River basin.

13. The potential for water resources development

Theoretical low head and small hydro-electric potential exists within many of the rivers and streams within the Nez Perce-Clearwater. However, when considering other ecologic, social, and economic factors analyzed in studies, the feasibility of hydrologic development is highly unlikely in the foreseeable future. Water resources development on the Salmon River is unlikely due to social and political considerations. The upper portion of the Salmon River was designated as wild and scenic in part to prevent dam construction. The Salmon River is the longest undammed river in North America and was previously determined to be suitable for designation. It is unlikely that would change with or without designation by Congress.

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 95. Salmon River Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Suitable	Not Suitable	Suitable	Suitable	Suitable

Slate Creek

Table 96. Slate Creek

Segment Description	National forest boundary to the Rocky Bluff campground at the wilderness boundary
Segment Length	11.4 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	3,648 acres
Preliminary Classification	Recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Nez Perce Tribe cultural, fish, and wildlife (marbled disc and Selway forestsnail)

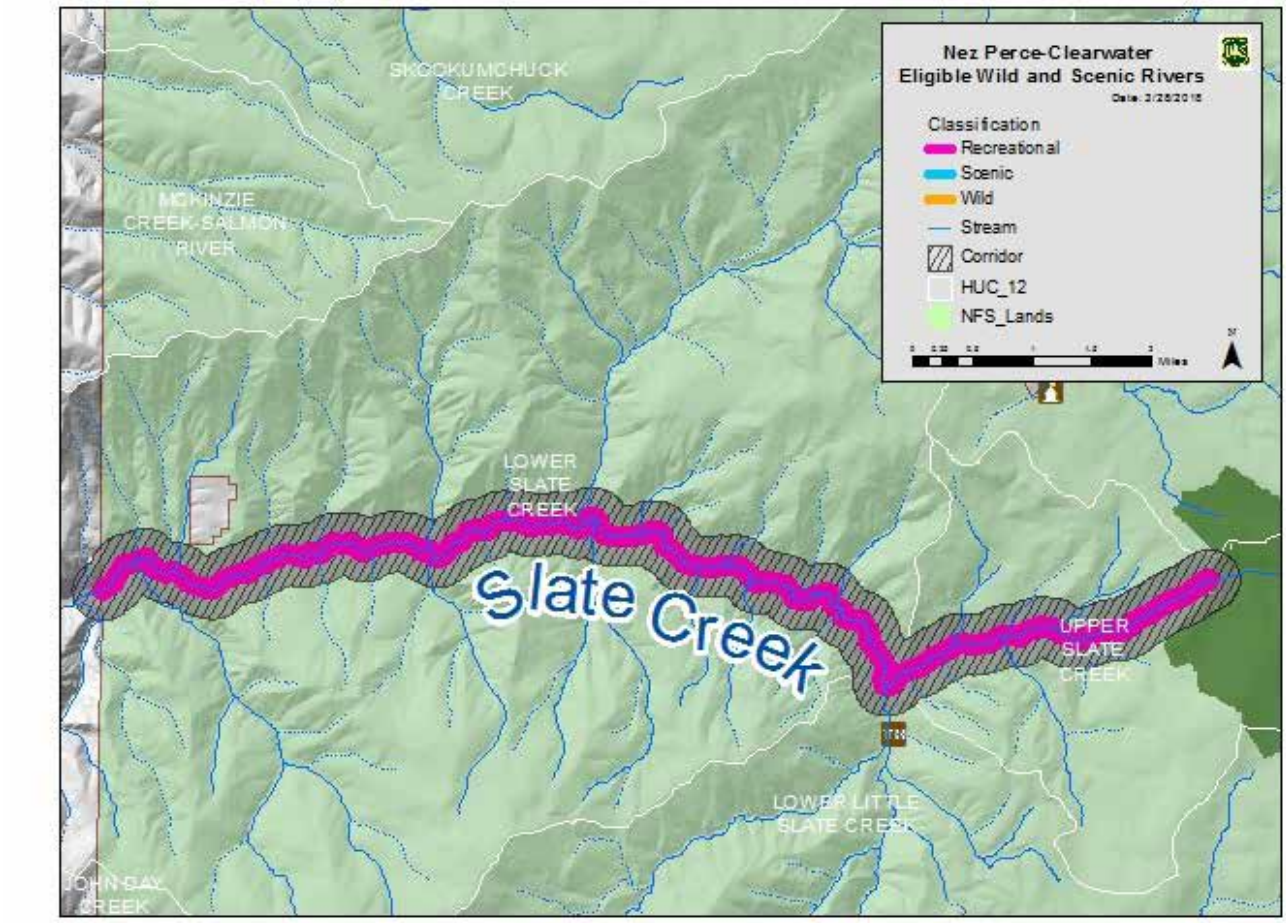

Figure 50. Slate Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The fish outstandingly remarkable value for Slate Creek includes diversity and abundance, natural reproduction, and cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe. Slate Creek supports spawning and early rearing habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, and both species are present in eligible river segments. The segment is also included as designated critical habitat for Snake

River spring/summer Chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, and Columbia River bull trout. This creek is identified as a minor spawning area for salmon and steelhead (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency 2017), and a local bull trout population has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). These populations and designations are unique within the region of comparison.

Fish diversity and abundance is defined as presence of two or more native fish species with high known genetic integrity, known high numbers of juvenile fish and adult fish, multiple life history strategies present, and higher fish densities than others in the region of comparison. Natural reproduction is defined when one or more native fish species is known to occur at high levels.

The wildlife outstandingly remarkable value is based on the observations of wildlife species considered to be unique. Slate creek contains observations of the marbled disc (*Discus marmorensis*) and the Selway forestsnail. The presence of these two endemic gastropods provide the basis for Slate Creek having a wildlife outstandingly remarkable value.

The marbled disc is an Idaho endemic, in which the entire global range is found only in the lower Salmon River drainage clustered closely in western Idaho County. The distribution of this snail is coincident with a geologic region known as the Martin Bridge Formation, characterized by a predominance of calcareous rock types. All localities are on the western and north western flanks of John Day Mountain, in portions of John Day Creek and Slate Creek drainages. The Slate Creek locations are the only places where the marbled disc is known to occur on National Forest system lands, making Slate Creek unique in the region of comparison. This species is considered a State of Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need Tier I (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b). The species is considered critically globally imperiled (G1G2) and critically imperiled at the state level (S1) by Nature Serve. Frest and Johannes (Frest and Johannes 1997) considered the species rare, even within its very narrow range. Though a terrestrial species, all known observations of this snail have been observed within one-quarter mile of rivers. Habitat is dense riparian conifer forest. Snails occur under rocks and woody debris partially buried in decomposing leaf and conifer needle litter or decomposing downed tree limbs. This species also inhabits well-shaded, moist Ponderosa pine forests with diverse deciduous and forb understories. Within occupied habitat, colonies usually occur near stream edges and at the bases of steep slopes, often in association with limestone (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b).

The Selway forestsnail is an Idaho endemic with a global range that is only known to occur in isolated colonies at lower elevations along the lower Lochsa River, the Selway River, the South Fork Clearwater River, the lower Salmon River, and their tributaries. This species is found in intact mixed coniferous forest, usually in low elevation, well-shaded, moist areas along medium to large streams. Sites usually have a diverse understory and a substantial duff layer. It is known only from about a dozen sites across its entire range, including Slate Creek. Occurrences of this species in the lower Salmon River are disjunct from the rest of the species range (Frest and Johannes 1997).

The Nez Perce tribal staff identified the Slate Creek segment as having cultural and historic importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho’s waters. Slate Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

The headwaters of the Slate Creek segment are within the Gospel-Hump Wilderness Area until it reaches the Rocky Bluff Campground at the wilderness boundary. From there the segment is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3. The segment on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the proposed Management Area 3 has been managed for timber production and other objectives under the 1987 Forest Plan and some timber harvest has occurred along the segment. The corridor also includes the North Fork Slate Creek (backcountry/restoration theme area) and Little Slate Creek Idaho Roadless Areas (backcountry/restoration and special themed areas). The Little Slate Creek Special Area is also a part of the No Business Creek Research Natural Area.

Five sites within the North Fork Slate Creek Campground are also in the corridor and Forest Road 354 (ML 3) or Forest Road 221 (ML 5) runs alongside the creek until it enters the wilderness area. A number of motorized trails and other roads branch off these main roads in the corridor, including the Idaho Centennial Trail (TR 88).

The segment crosses the Butte Gospel and Peter Ready allotments. The Forest Service rock source Rocky Bluff is within the corridor.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

A portion of the proposed segment is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions, and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed or restricted on 5,683 acres if the corridor is classified recreational.

Areas along the lower section of Slate Creek provide winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Changes in vegetation succession have been cited as a factor contributing to declining elk populations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2014). Restrictions on some types of vegetation management may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species or manage fuels by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession. These activities are currently not restricted in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3.

No changes are anticipated to the land use in the roadless areas. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If this river segment is found suitable, the recreational designation would cause increased restrictions for timber harvest and would likely foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration. This opportunity would likely be foreclosed on 632 acres within the warm dry potential vegetation type group and 79 acres within the warm moist potential vegetation type group.

The Idaho Roadless Area Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry/restoration themed areas; however, for this area, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land Management Plan. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction and surface occupancy in special areas of historic and tribal significance theme areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

No changes are anticipated to the land use within the wilderness area. Wilderness area designation withdraws the area from mineral entry, and water developments in wilderness areas must be authorized by the President.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

All rivers and creeks on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate this creek's important contributions to the system.

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 97. Slate Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Yeva Agai Naokwaide and Papoose Creek

Table 98. Yeva Agai Naokwaide and Papoose Creek

Segment Description	Yeva Agai Naokwaide: source to 1.22 miles downriver Papoose Creek: National Forest boundary upriver 0.6 miles to Road 517C
Segment Length	1.28 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	410 acres
Preliminary Classification	Yeva Agai Naokwaide: wild Papoose Creek: recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Wildlife

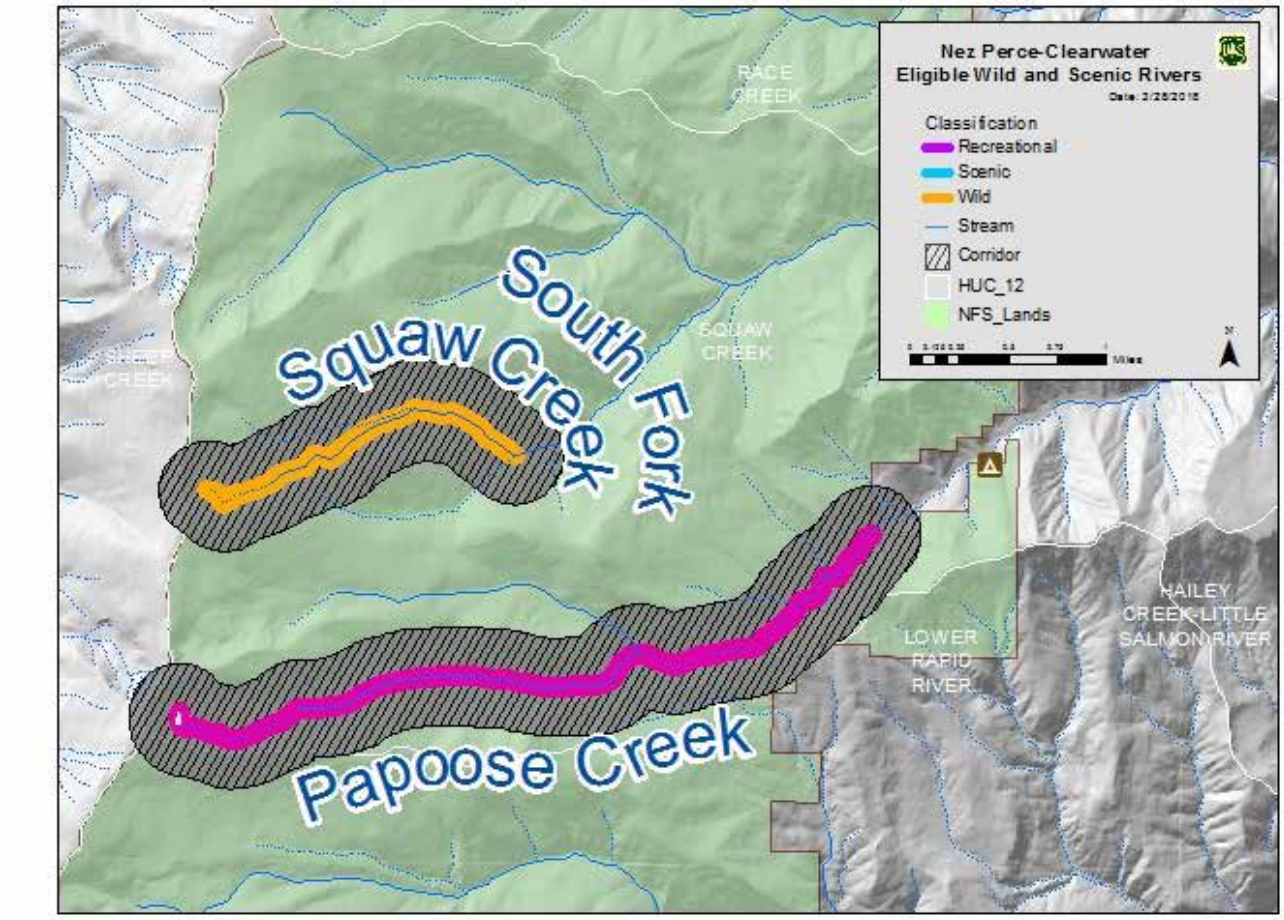

Figure 51. Yeva Agai Naokwaide and Papoose Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The Wildlife outstandingly remarkable values are based on the observations of wildlife species considered to be unique. Papoose Creek is one of a few locations where observations of the pristine pyrg (*Pristinicola hemphilli*) is known to occur within the region of comparison. The corridor of Yeva Agai Naokwaide is known to contain populations the boulder pile mountain snail (*Oreohelix jugalis*).

The pristine pyrg is a regional endemic known only from scattered locations in Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho. In Idaho, populations occur in portions of the lower Snake River and lower Salmon River drainages (Frest 1999). Its environmental specificity is considered narrow to very narrow, with its habitat described as cold, undisturbed springs, seeps, and small creeks with cobble substrates, slow to moderate flows, and very shallow, cold, clear water. This snail is normally associated with springs and seeps that are in pristine condition. It is completely aquatic, semelparous (reproduces a single time before dying), and generally lives one to two years. Observations in Idaho typically consist of a small number of individuals. This species is considered a State of Idaho Species of Greatest Conservation Need Tier II (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2017b). Most known populations occur primarily on privately owned lands, but at least one location is within lands administered by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests and another site is on the Payette National Forest (Stagliano et al. 2007). Papoose Creek is one of the few known occurrences of this species on National Forest System lands. Habitat loss is the primary threat to the species. According to Frest and Johannes (Frest and Johannes 1997), grazing is a prevalent cause of habitat degradation. Other causes include road construction and maintenance, damming and water diversion, and campground construction. Increased nutrient load in groundwater is also a potential threat to some populations (Frest 1999).

The boulder pile mountainsnail has been found near Yeva Agai Naokwaide. This mountainsnail is an Idaho endemic species whose global distribution is only found in the Salmon River Subbasin between Hells Gate Creek and Allison Creek. The species is considered critically globally imperiled (G1G2) and critically imperiled at the state level (S1) by Nature Serve. Though a terrestrial species, all known observations of this snail have been observed within one-quarter mile of rivers. The species is known from fewer than 20 sites in western Idaho (Hendricks and Maxell 2005). In 1999, these snails were thought to be declining and were reported as common at only 26 percent of sites (Frest 1999). Habitat loss arising from road construction via extraction of road building materials, mining, and livestock grazing are the primary threats to this species (Frest 1999).

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Yeva Agai Naokwaide and Papoose Creek are meeting water quality standards and are fully supporting the following beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life and secondary contact recreation.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the Yeva Agai Naokwaide proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. The segment is within the Salmon Face Idaho Roadless Area (backcountry/restoration theme). This area is within the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 2 within the Papoose Allotment. Papoose Creek is also on lands managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests. Papoose Creek is not in a roadless area and is within Management Area 3.

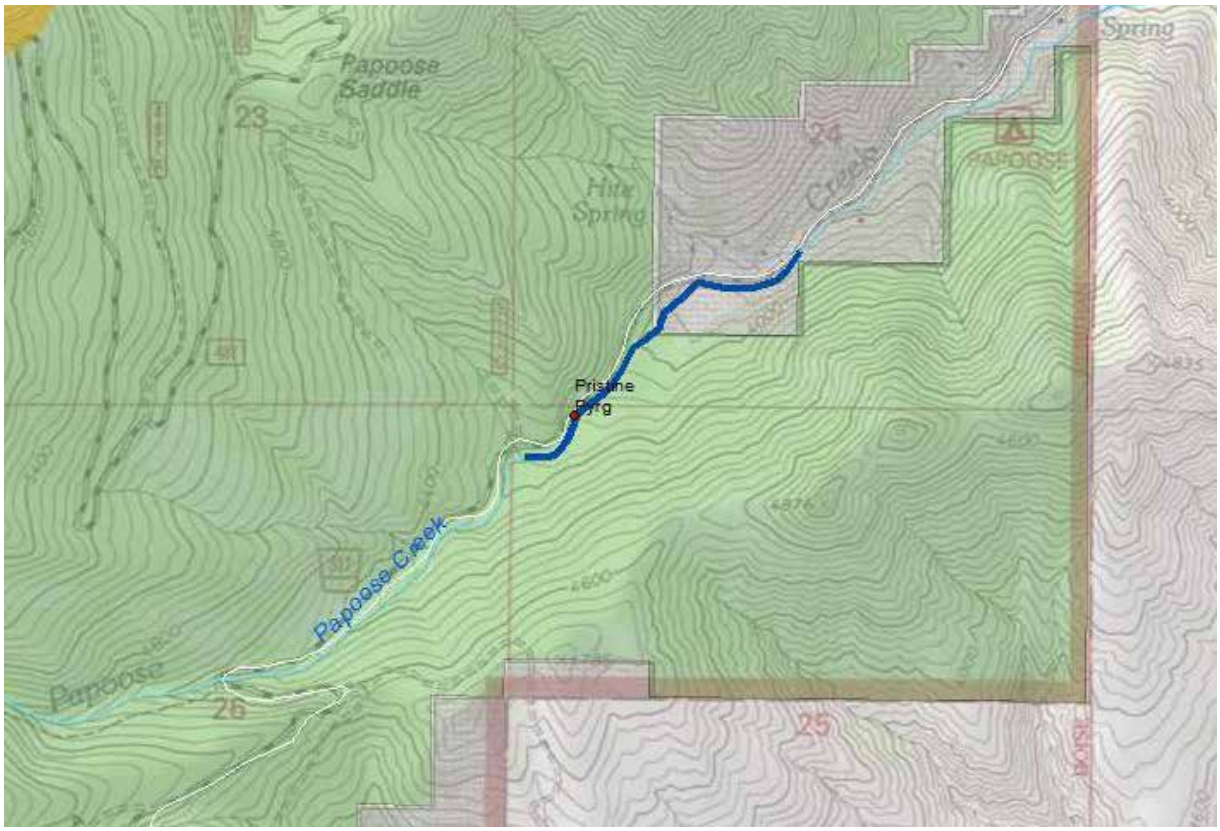

Figure 52. Papoose Creek

The segments on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production in the proposed Management Area 3 have been managed for timber production and other objectives under the 1987 Forest Plan, though there is no record of timber harvest along the segments.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

No changes are anticipated to land use surrounding Yeva Agai Naokwaide since the area has been managed as a part of an Idaho Roadless Area backcountry/restoration theme. A wild and scenic designation would enhance the protections.

The area surrounding Papoose Creek is within the suitable timber base and timber harvests are one management tool used to current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions, and where timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed or restricted on 775 acres if the segment is classified as recreational.

Papoose Creek also flows through Idaho Roadless Rule lands with themes that allow timber harvest for ecological restoration and other purposes. If Papoose Creek is found to be suitable, restoration activities would be curtailed or restricted within the recreational segments of the river.

Also, within Idaho Roadless Areas that allow timber harvest, Yeva Agai Naokwaide would be designated wild if found suitable. Timber harvest is not used extensively in this area. However, if this segment is found suitable, timber harvest would be foreclosed as an option for forest vegetation restoration on 68 acres within the cold potential vegetation type group, 196 acres within the cool moist potential vegetation type group, 106 acres within the warm dry potential vegetation type group, and 124 acres within the warm moist potential vegetation type group.

Areas along the section of Papoose Creek provide winter habitat for big game, particularly for elk. Changes in vegetation succession have been cited as a factor contributing to declining elk populations (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2014). Restrictions on some types of vegetation management may impede the ability to manage winter habitat to benefit big game species or manage fuels by reducing the number of tools available to manage forest vegetation succession.

4. The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system

5. The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies

6. The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system

7. A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system

8. The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development

9. State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives

11. Support or opposition to designation

12. The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity

All rivers and creeks on the national forest contribute to system and basin integrity. However, others within this basin were identified as being the major tributaries and having the most outstandingly remarkable values. Current protections would likely perpetuate the creeks' important contributions to the system.

13. The potential for water resources development

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 99. Yeva Agai Naokwaide and Papoose Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Van Buren Creek

Table 100. Van Buren Creek

Segment Description	Confluence with Little Slate Creek to headwaters
Segment Length	5.3 miles
Segment Area/Corridor (one-quarter mile on each side of the segment, measured from the highwater marks)	1,696 acres
Preliminary Classification	Van Buren Creek upper portion: wild Van Buren Creek lower portion: recreational
Eligibility outstandingly remarkable values	Fish

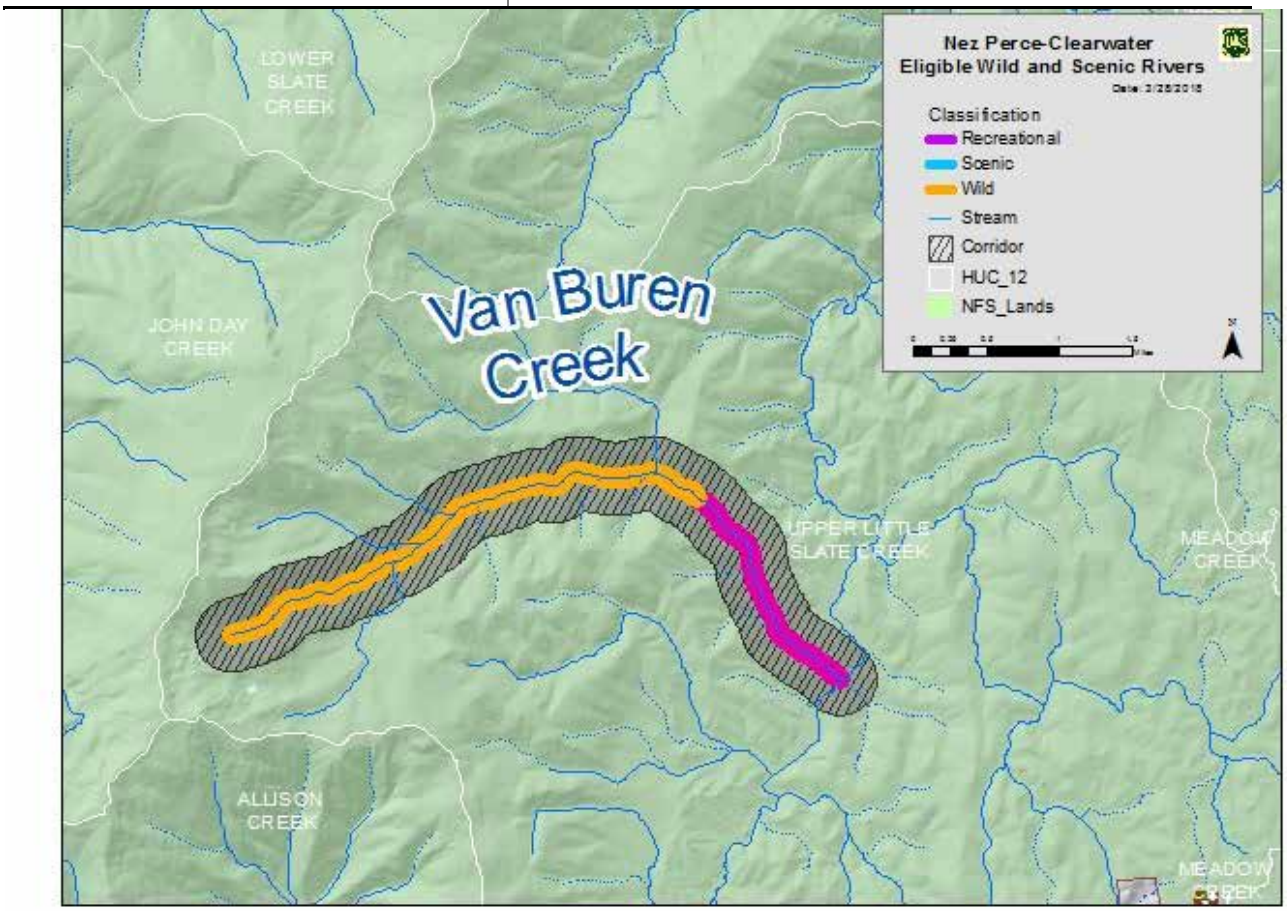

Figure 53. Van Buren Creek

Elements for Determining Suitability

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the area (the corridor) a worthy addition to the national system

The fish outstandingly remarkable value for the Van Buren Creek includes habitat quality and natural reproduction. Van Buren Creek supports the only known fluvial population of bull trout within the region of comparison. Eligible segments are included as designated critical habitat for Columbia River bull trout, and a local population has been identified (U.S. Department of the Interior 2015). Interior redband trout are also present. Eligible segments are included in the 2040 modeled climate shield for bull trout with

moderate probability (Isaak et al. 2015). There are no other areas in the region of comparison that have been similarly modeled, so Van Buren Creek represents the one place in the region of comparison where bull trout might be expected to persist into the future given current climate change trends. Habitat has been minimally affected by human disturbance. There are no known non-native species in Van Buren Creek.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 305(b)/303(d) 2014 Integrated Report (State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 2017) presents the current status of water quality for Idaho's waters. Van Buren Creek is meeting water quality standards and fully supporting the following beneficial uses: cold water aquatic life, secondary contact recreation, and salmonid spawning.

2. The current status of land ownership and use in the area

All of the lands in the proposed corridor are managed by the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests.

The headwaters of the Van Buren Creek segment are within the Little Slate Creek Idaho Roadless Area (backcountry/restoration theme area). From its mouth to the roadless area, it is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3. Van Buren Road (Forest Road 2002) crosses the creek, the Van Buren Motorized Trail is on the east side of the creek, and ten ML 1 roads provide administrative access to this area.

The segment on National Forest System lands suitable for timber production is in the proposed Management Area 3 and has been managed for timber production and other objectives under the 1987 Forest Plan and timber harvest has occurred along the segment.

3. The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area is included in the national system

If the segment is designated recreational, changes to existing motorized use would not be anticipated.

A part of the segment is in the Land Management Plan proposed Management Area 3 suitable timber base, where timber harvests are used to move current forested vegetation conditions towards desired conditions, and timber harvest provides products that contribute to economic stability for local communities. Timber harvest may be curtailed on 403 acres for the segment that may be classified as recreational, and timber harvest would be foreclosed on 23 acres for the segment that may be classified as wild.

A variety of wildlife species, both those that are river dependent and those that are not, have habitat within the corridor and would benefit from protections provided through the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. High quality fisher habitat occurs along the upper section of Van Buren Creek. Conservation of these habitats within the corridor would be preserved or enhanced should this creek be included in the national system.

No changes are anticipated to land use within the roadless areas. However, in the Idaho Roadless Rule, timber harvest is permitted for vegetation restoration and other purposes. If the segments that flow through Idaho Roadless Areas are found suitable, they would be designated wild and this would foreclose timber harvest as an option for vegetation restoration. This option would be foreclosed on 65 acres within the cold potential vegetation type group, 386 acres within the cool moist potential vegetation type group, 275 acres within the warm dry potential vegetation type group, and 194 acres within the warm moist potential vegetation type group.

The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction within backcountry/restoration themed areas; however, for this area, surface occupancy is allowed unless prohibited by the Land

Management Plan. The Idaho Roadless Rule limits road construction or reconstruction and surface occupancy for special themed areas. The rule does not protect from water developments or locatable mineral activities pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872.

4. **The Federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the national system**

5. **The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies**

6. **The need for, and cost to the United States of, acquiring lands and interests in lands and administering the area should it be added to the national system**

7. **A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the national system**

8. **The adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's outstandingly remarkable values by preventing incompatible development**

9. **State or local government ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands**

10. **The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and with meeting regional objectives**

11. **Support or opposition to designation**

12. **The river's contribution to river system integrity or basin integrity**

13. **The potential for water resources development**

Segment Suitability Determination

Table 101. Van Buren Creek Segment Suitability Determination

No Action Alternative	Alternative W	Alternative X	Alternative Y	Alternative Z	Preferred Alternative
Not Eligible	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable	Not Suitable

Original Eligible Rivers

Table 102. Original eligible rivers and documentation that found them eligible

Eligible WSR Name	Clearwater National Forest 1987 Plan ROD p13	Clearwater National Forest 1990 Plan Amendment 2	Nez Perce National Forest 1987 Plan Appendix
Bargamin Creek			X
Bear Creek			X
Brushy Fork Creek			X
Cayuse Creek	X		
Colt Killed Creek		X	

Eligible WSR Name	Clearwater National Forest 1987 Plan ROD p13	Clearwater National Forest 1990 Plan Amendment 2	Nez Perce National Forest 1987 Plan Appendix
Cub Creek			X
East Fork Moose Creek			X
Fish Creek		X	
Hungery Creek		X	
Johns Creek			X
Kelly Creek	X		
Lake Creek			X
Little North Fork Clearwater River		X	
Meadow Creek			X
Moose Creek			X
North Fork Clearwater River	X		
North Fork Moose Creek			X
Paradise Creek			X
Rhoda Creek			X
Running Creek			X
Salmon River			X
Slate Creek			X
South Fork Clearwater River			X
Three Links Creek			X
Wahoo Creek			X
West Fork Gedney Creek			X
West Fork Three Links Creek			X
West Moose Creek			X
White Bird Creek			X

Suitable wild and scenic rivers by alternative

Table 103. Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers by alternative

Eligible River Name	River Network	Preliminary Classification[1]	Eligible Length (miles)	Alternative[2] W	Alternative[2] Y	Alternative[2] Z	Preferred Alternative[2]
Potlatch River	Lower Clearwater	R	6.4				
North Fork Clearwater River	North Fork Clearwater	W, R	78.9		Yes		
Bostonian Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	5			Yes	
Boundary Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	3.1			Yes	
Caledonia Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	0.5			Yes	
Graves Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	2.0			Yes	
Cave Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	4.6				
Chateau Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	2.6				
Weitas Creek	North Fork Clearwater	S	28.5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cliff Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	3.9				
Lost Pete Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	4				
Falls Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	2.1				
Elk Creek	North Fork Clearwater	S	4.9				
Isabella Creek	North Fork Clearwater	R	5.4				
Beaver Creek	North Fork Clearwater	R	1.5				
Elmer Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	0.4				
Kelly Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W, R	26.2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Fork Kelly Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	5.9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Middle Fork Kelly Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	4.9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Fork Kelly Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W	6.2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cayuse Creek	North Fork Clearwater	W, S, R	35.9	Yes	Yes		Yes
Little North Fork Clearwater River	North Fork Clearwater	W	4.3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Eligible
Lake Creek	North Fork Clearwater	S, R	11.7				
Clear Creek	Middle Fork Clearwater	S	0.9				
South Fork Clear Creek	Middle Fork Clearwater	S	7.0				

Eligible River Name	River Network	Preliminary Classification[1]	Eligible Length (miles)	Alternative[2] W	Alternative[2] Y	Alternative[2] Z	Preferred Alternative[2]
Lolo Creek	Middle Fork Clearwater	R	19.8				
Musselshell Creek	Middle Fork Clearwater	R	2.1				
Canyon Creek	Lochsa	R	0.6				
Glade Creek	Lochsa	S	3.3				
Lowell Creek	Lochsa	R	1.0				
Rye Patch Creek	Lochsa	R	2.7				
Upper Lochsa	Lochsa	R	1.8			Yes	
Colt Killed Creek	Lochsa	W, S	23.3			Yes	Yes
Big Sand Creek	Lochsa	W	19.9			Yes	
Storm Creek	Lochsa	W	10.8			Yes	
North Fork Storm Creek	Lochsa	W	3.2			Yes	
South Fork Storm Creek	Lochsa	W	3.7			Yes	
Crooked Fork	Lochsa	W, R	23.2			Yes	
Brushy Fork	Lochsa	R	4.9				
Hopeful Creek	Lochsa	W	4.7				
Fish Creek	Lochsa	S, R	21.1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hungery Creek	Lochsa	W, S	13.8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Huckleberry Creek	Lochsa	W	0.8				
Warm Springs Creek	Lochsa	W	6.4				
Imnamatnoon Creek	Lochsa	R	1.3				
Waw'aalamnime Creek	Lochsa	R	2.1				
Old Man Creek	Lochsa	W	8.3				
Lake Creek	Lochsa	W	5.6				
Bear Creek	Selway	W	22.8			Yes	
Cub Creek	Selway	W	16.6			Yes	
Brushy Fork Creek	Selway	W	8.0			Yes	
Gedney Creek	Selway	W	9.1				
West Fork Gedney Creek	Selway	W	10.0				
O'Hara Creek	Selway	R	2.3				

Eligible River Name	River Network	Preliminary Classification[1]	Eligible Length (miles)	Alternative[2] W	Alternative[2] Y	Alternative[2] Z	Preferred Alternative[2]
Meadow Creek (Selway)	Selway	W, S, R	44.3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
East Fork Meadow Creek	Selway	S	7			Yes	
Buck Lake Creek	Selway	W	12.0			Yes	
Moose Creek	Selway	W	3.8			Yes	
North Fork Moose Creek	Selway	W	20.8			Yes	
West Moose Creek	Selway	W	9.1			Yes	
East Fork Moose Creek	Selway	W	34.6			Yes	
Rhoda Creek	Selway	W	16.3			Yes	
Wounded Doe Creek	Selway	W	9.2			Yes	
Running Creek	Selway	W, S	16.9			Yes	
Three Links Creek	Selway	W	14.7				
West Fork Three Links Creek	Selway	W	6.0				
Glover Creek	Selway	W	5.8				
American River	South Fork Clearwater	R	3.0				
Johns Creek	South Fork Clearwater	W	18.3	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Gospel Creek	South Fork Clearwater	W	7.0				
West Fork Gospel Creek	South Fork Clearwater	W	5.6				
Meadow Creek (South Fork Clearwater)	South Fork Clearwater	R	14.7				
Mill Creek	South Fork Clearwater	R	0.9				
Red River	South Fork Clearwater	R	6.5				
Silver Creek	South Fork Clearwater	W, S, R	12.2			Yes	
South Fork Clearwater River	South Fork Clearwater	R	34.5		Yes		
West Fork Crooked River	South Fork Clearwater	R	5.4				
Allison Creek	Salmon	S, R	8.4				
Bargamin Creek	Salmon	W, S	25.6			Yes	
Sabe Creek	Salmon	W	15.3			Yes	
Big Mallard Creek	Salmon	W	3.6				
Noble Creek	Salmon	W	8.9				
North Fork White Bird Creek	Salmon	R	5.6				

Eligible River Name	River Network	Preliminary Classification[1]	Eligible Length (miles)	Alternative[2] W	Alternative[2] Y	Alternative[2] Z	Preferred Alternative[2]
South Fork White Bird Creek	Salmon	R	12.4				
Salmon River	Salmon	R	23.2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Eligible
Slate Creek	Salmon	R	11.4				
Yeva Agai Naokwaide	Salmon	W	1.2				
Papoose Creek	Salmon	R	0.6				
Van Buren Creek	Salmon	W, R	5.3				

[1]W = wild classification, S = scenic classification, R = recreational classification

[2]No eligible rivers were suitable in the No Action Alternative or in alternative X, therefore these alternatives are not shown.

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