

Appendix G. Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Study Process

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Introduction

Following the adoption of the 1986 Forest Plans, both the Helena and the Lewis and Clark National Forests conducted wild and scenic rivers eligibility studies. During these late 1980's studies the Helena National Forest identified four rivers and the Lewis and Clark National Forest identified nine rivers as eligible for wild and scenic rivers designation. Determinations for eligibility were made using the process outlined in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act of 1968. The results of these studies were adopted in 1989 as forest plan amendments to both national forest plans.

In 2015, under the direction of the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR Part 219), a new wild and scenic rivers eligibility study was conducted for the Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest's (HLC NFs) planning area. The 2015 eligibility study reviewed the earlier work from the 1989 effort and determined that an additional, more comprehensive study was required to fulfill the mandates set forth in the 2012 Planning Rule. In the 2015 study, all named and free flowing streams/rivers within the HLC NF planning area were considered. The results of that comprehensive look are included in this document.

The designation of eligible wild and scenic rivers pertains only to federally owned lands. Rivers and segments of rivers that pass through private lands were not considered in this study.

Relevant Laws, Regulations, and Policy

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act of 1968 (WSRA)

Congress passed the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) for the purpose of preserving rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act is recognized for safeguarding the special character of these rivers, while also allowing for their appropriate use and development. The Act promotes river management across political boundaries and public participation throughout the process.

During the forest planning process, whether for revision or initial development, the Forest Service must review all streams for their potential eligibility for designation in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) as directed under section 5(d)(1) the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (PL 90-542:16 USC 1271-1287, as amended).

Section 1(b) of the Act expresses Congressional policy for America's rivers: It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital conservation purposes.

Regulations

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires the Forest Service to develop a planning rule under the principles of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (MUSYA) which sets the process for the development and revision of land management plans. In 2012, 36 CFR Part 219 was passed to codify the direction in the NFMA and the MUSYA. This regulation is known as the 2012 Planning Rule. The 2012 Planning Rule's Final Directives (FSH 1909.12 Chapter 80) provide additional guidance for conducting a wild and scenic rivers eligibility study during forest plan revision. The HLC NF used this guidance to conduct the wild and scenic rivers eligibility study for the HLC NF planning area.

Eligibility Process Overview

In May 2015, a wild and scenic rivers eligibility process paper was developed which outlined the step by step process planned to be used to conduct a wild and scenic rivers eligibility study within the HLC NF planning area. This process paper was made available to the public by posting on the HLC NF Plan Revision website and was updated after public review and comment. The following steps to an eligibility study were identified in the process paper.

- Step 1: Identify free-flowing named streams/rivers.
- Step 2: Identify regions of comparison (ROC) for each resource.
- Step 3: Develop evaluation criteria for identifying outstanding remarkable values (ORVs).
- Step 4: Evaluate named streams/rivers and determine if they possess ORVs.
- Step 5: Review level of development/determine classification (wild, scenic, or recreational)
- Step 6: Develop forest plan management direction (to be included in the proposed action)

The eligibility study was conducted through a series of meetings and workshops aimed at each of the steps identified in the process paper. Much of the base information was developed from geographic information systems (GIS), such as the base maps, determining the number and location of all “named streams”, and identifying the location of developments along or nearby these rivers and streams. Specific resource information about each river/stream was gathered from maps and professional knowledge provided by forest resource specialists.

The results of the eligibility process are contained in this wild and scenic rivers eligibility study document. It includes river data, description tables, and maps which are located below in the Eligible Wild and Scenic River Description Tables and Maps section starting on page 19.

The results of the study were provided for public comment and review in late 2015. This comment and review period ended on January 15, 2016. Changes to the study were made as a result of this public input.

The following table provides a summary of each step of the process, the timeframe in which it was accomplished and the tasks completed for that step in the process.

Table 1. Summary of the wild and scenic rivers process

WSR Step	Dates Completed	Accomplishments
Pre-process: Process white paper.	May 2015	The Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Study process paper was posted on the website for public information.
Step 1: Identified free-flowing named streams/ivers	March 2015	All free flowing rivers, identified on a USGS 7.5 minute quad map, were identified and organized by Geographic Area. Previously identified rivers/streams were reviewed to determine if changes to their free-flowing characteristics had changed since the earlier 1989 eligibility study.
Step 2: Region of Comparison	April 2015 (Workshop)	A Wild and Scenic Rivers eligibility study workshop was conducted with forest specialists present to represent the resources of scenery, geology, recreation, wildlife, fisheries, cultural resources, and plants. The Region of Comparison (ROC) was decided upon by each resource. All specialists felt that the State of Montana would be the most appropriate ROC.
Step 3: Develop Evaluation Criteria for Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORVs)	April 2015 (Workshop)	Evaluation Criteria were developed for each resource to determine whether an ORV might be present on each stream/river.
Step 4 (Part I): Evaluate each named stream/river.	April 2015 (Workshop)	Each named stream/river within the HLC NF that had been identified as free-flowing was evaluated against the ORV criteria for each resource. This evaluation determined the presence or absence of a potential ORV. There are 1,016 named streams which are free-flowing on the HLC NF. At the end of the workshop, 73 of these streams/ivers were identified as having potential ORVs. Some of these needed additional study (or analysis).
Step 4 (Part II): Continue the evaluation of named streams/ivers.	May 2015	Continued evaluation of the potential streams/ivers and the refinement of the location of ORVs.
Step 4 (Part III): Refine the evaluation of named streams/ivers.	June/July 2015	Met with Fisheries, Geology, Wildlife, and Cultural resource staff to refine the evaluation of potential streams/ivers and ORVs. At the end of the refinement of Step 4, 40 potentially eligible WSR streams/ivers remained on the list of eligible streams.
Step 5: Review level of development and determine potential classification	July 2015	Using GIS to determine amount of development along each river, including road and trail density or other shoreline development, a classification was assigned each eligible stream/river. These classifications are Wild, Scenic, or Recreational. Different stream/river segments may have different classifications.
Step 6 (Part I): Document and describe the ORVs on each eligible stream/river	August 2015	Separate description tables and maps were developed for each eligible stream/river. Each description table provides a narrative for the ORVs of that stream/river. 40 rivers were identified as eligible in this initial study.
Step 6 (Part II): Develop management direction for these rivers to	August/September 2015	Management direction for the eligible rivers was developed and is included in the proposed action.

WSR Step	Dates Completed	Accomplishments
be included in the Proposed Action		
Public Comment and Review period	November 2015 – January 2016	Public provided comment and review on the process and the eligibility list.
Development of Final Eligibility List	April 2016	Internal IDT meeting reviewed public comments and updating the eligibility list with additional resource information. This resulted in the addition of 6 new rivers, the removal of one, and changes to the assigned classification of several rivers.

Eligibility Process Details

Step 1: Identify all free-flowing named streams

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems Act (WSRA) defines “free-flowing” as existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the national system does not automatically disqualify it for designation, but future construction of such structures is not allowed. The guidelines state, “the 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.”

“Free flowing” includes rivers with intermittent flows that are enough to maintain the ORV. The river doesn't have to be boatable or floatable, as long as the flow is enough to maintain the ORV.

All free-flowing and named rivers/streams, identified on a U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle map within the HLC NF planning area, were identified and organized by geographic area (GA). The named streams were identified using the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) flowline feature class from the NHD and the associated stream names from the geographic names information system (GNIS). Previously identified rivers/streams were reviewed to determine if changes to their free-flowing characteristics had changed since the earlier 1989 eligibility study.

Through this review, it was determined that there are 1,016 named rivers/streams within the HLC NF planning area. These named rivers/streams were documented in a spreadsheet (see appendix A) and were carried forward to be studied for potential eligibility. A few un-named tributaries were also analyzed that were important for fisheries ORVs.

Step 2: Identify the region of comparison for each resource

The region of comparison is a geographic area that provides the basis for meaningful comparative analysis of potentially eligible rivers. The forest plan revision team identified the area of consideration for each resource (and ORV within each resource) which then served as the basis for meaningful comparative analysis. The following further describes aspects and importance of the region of comparison:

- The region of comparison may vary for different rivers and for different resource ORVs.
- The region of comparison should be scaled at an appropriate level for the type of river value being evaluated. For example, the appropriate region of comparison for scenic values may be an entire

national forest or grassland, while for cultural values it may be the portion of the state in which the river is located.

- Alternatively, the responsible official may conclude that a single region of comparison can encompass the evaluation of outstanding remarkable values.
- Once the region of comparison is identified, a river’s values can then be analyzed in comparison with other rivers in that area. Each value may have its own region of comparison and, thus, multiple regions of comparison may be utilized to evaluate one river.

During the April 2015 wild and scenic river workshop, the team determined the regions of comparison for each resource area. Because the HLC NF planning area is large with a wide variety of unique resource and river values, it was recognized that a large region of comparison would be necessary to adequately study the eligible rivers/streams.

Each specialist considered many potential areas to use for the region of comparison for their resource area. Some of those areas included ecological sections, domain, provinces, regions used in the 1988 Pacific Northwest Rivers Analysis, state of Montana recreation regions from the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Report, state of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks regions, Forest Service Region 1 boundaries, and potential inclusions of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, etc. After considerable discussion, the team chose the boundary for the State of Montana as the region of comparison for this wild and scenic eligibility study. This region of comparison was acceptable for all resource areas and served as the basis for meaningful comparative analysis in the eligibility process.

Step 3: Develop evaluation criteria to identify ORVs

The Wild and Scenic Rivers System Act establishes a set of categories for determining the ORVs for resource areas. The Forest Service has further established baseline criteria to foster greater consistency within the agency and with other federal river-administering agencies in evaluating eligibility under Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 82.14a. The evaluation criteria set minimum thresholds in the establishment of each ORV. The criteria within the resource category may be modified and additional criteria may be included to make them more meaningful in the area of comparison.

During the April 2015 wild and scenic river workshop, the team established baseline evaluation criteria for scenery, recreation, geology, fish populations and habitat, wildlife populations and habitat, historic and cultural resources, and other natural river related values. The final evaluation criteria for each resource area are documented in the following table. These criteria were applied in the 2015 eligibility study process.

Table 2. Final eligibility evaluation criteria

Resource	FINAL Eligibility Criteria
Scenic	The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions, that provide river users with scenery that is spectacular and/or not common to other rivers in the region. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed, may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.

Resource	FINAL Eligibility Criteria
Recreation	<p>Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. River-related opportunities include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.</p> <p><u>Recreational Fishing</u>: Recreational fishing opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region.</p>
Geologic	<p>The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a “textbook” example, and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).</p>
Fishery	<p>Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.</p> <p><u>Populations</u>: The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern are of particular significance</p> <p><u>Habitat</u>: The river provides uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison. Exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern is of particular significance.</p>
Wildlife	<p>Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.</p> <p><u>Populations</u>: The river or river corridor contains nationally or regionally important or uniquely diverse assemblage populations of indigenous wildlife species, particularly federal or state listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.</p> <p><u>Habitat</u>: The river or river corridor provides uniquely diverse or uniquely high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance (e.g. federal or state listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern), particularly where such habitats meet the year-round or important seasonal biological needs of the species.</p>
Cultural	<p>The river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting history or prehistory.</p> <p><u>History</u>: Site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region. A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older.</p> <p><u>Pre-history</u>: Sites may have unique or rare characteristics or exemplary human interest value; represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups, or may have been used for rare sacred purposes</p>
Plants	<p>Populations of plant species are growing in and associated with the area in the river corridor that are judged to be of national or regional significance by virtue of their scarcity; outstanding scientific or educational value; and/or designation as threatened, endangered or proposed for threatened or endangered status. This may include known stands of federally listed threatened or endangered plant species, those listed as category 1 or 2 by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, or those proposed for threatened or endangered status by the Montana Rare Plant Project or Montana Natural Heritage Program, and those identified as species of conservation concern.</p>

During the May 20, 2015 team meeting, the team looked and each potentially eligible stream river and made the determination of whether the ORV was of regional or national significance. Regional or national significance was documented in the wild and scenic river stream table excel spreadsheet and within the description tables for each potentially eligible river/stream. Specific river data, description tables, and

maps are located below in the Eligible Wild and Scenic River Description Tables and Maps section starting on page 19.

Step 4: Evaluate named streams and determine if they are free-flowing and possess ORVs

During the April 2015 wild and scenic river workshop, the team systematically reviewed all 1,016 named and free-flowing streams and compared them to the final evaluation criteria to identify the presence of ORVs. In some instances additional unnamed streams were examined for potential ORVs. The interdisciplinary team (IDT) applied the evaluation criteria to each stream along with the following requirements from the WSRA.

- Outstandingly remarkable values must be river related,
- Be located in the river or on its immediate shore lands (generally within ¼ mile on either side of the river), but may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values,
- Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem, and/or
- Owe the location or existence to the presence of the river.

The IDT considered the area within one-quarter mile of the high water marks on both sides of a river, as well as other features outside this corridor, such as tributaries supporting rearing and spawning habitat, if their inclusion is essential for the protection of the river's ORVs. Additional factors considered by the IDT for each stream were:

- Determine if resource values/attributes are unique, rare, or exemplary within the region of comparison which is the state of Montana.
- Determine if a river may qualify for a given resource value based upon an aggregate of important values, no one of which would confer eligibility standing alone. For example, a series of unusual and distinctive river-related geologic features may together qualify a segment as exhibiting an “outstandingly remarkable geologic value” even though no one element meets the criteria alone.

The determination that a river area does or does not contain one or more ORVs is a professional judgment on the part the responsible official as informed by an interdisciplinary team, best available scientific information (BASI), and public participation. (FSH 1909.12 Ch 82.17)

The systematic approach used by the ID Team included reviewing the streams within hydrologic unit code (HUC) 10 watersheds that were further grouped by geographic area. ArcMap was used to display the names streams in context with spatial data representing attributes of the resource themes associated with identification of ORVs. The ID Team identified the streams with potential ORVs based on application of the evaluation criteria and comparison to other similar resources in the state of Montana. For each resource value the IDT determined if the values/attributes were unique, rare, or exemplary within the state of Montana.

The status of each stream was documented in the potential eligibility spreadsheet. This included streams with no known ORVs, streams that might have an ORV, and those streams that do possess outstandingly remarkable values.

The process also included review of rivers recommended as eligible in the Montanan's for Healthy Rivers Eligibility Report. Potential ORVs for each of these streams has been documented based on the eligibility criteria established by the IDT. Based on application of the eligibility criteria, the team found some of the recommended streams in the Montanan's for Healthy Rivers Eligibility Report not to be eligible.

The results of the course filter first look during the April 2015 wild and scenic river workshop resulted in approximately 73 streams remaining on the list of streams to closely examine to confirm or determine that they have outstandingly remarkable values (see table xx). Out of these streams, 14 of the streams were previously identified as eligible and 59 additional rivers were identified as having potential ORVs.

Further review of the 73 streams mentioned above was conducted during meetings in May 2015. ID team members coordinated with forest and regional office staff prior to the meeting regarding any questions or clarification on resource information directly related to potential ORVs. That information was used to change a stream that may have had an ORV to yes or no for the presence of an ORV and in specific resource areas. This information was updated in the wild and scenic river stream table and the revised list had 44 streams with potential ORVs and 5 streams that need further review (see appendix A- Tabs: S4b Interim List A (60) 050815 and S4c,d Interim List B (45) 052215).

Several smaller meetings with individual resource specialists occurred in the months of June and July 2015. Using maps and additional data on hand, these specialists further refined the list of potentially eligible streams. The resulting list consisted of 40 streams within the HLC NF planning area that were found to have ORVs and were considered potentially eligible for future wild and scenic river designation. The results of this work are documented in appendix A (Tab-S4d, 5, 6 Final List (40) 083115) and B.

The public comment and review period from November 2015 through January 15, 2016, highlighted a number of additional streams and ORVs that the public felt should be considered. These were reviewed by the IDT in an April 2016 meeting, resulting in the addition of 6 streams/rivers, the removal of one stream, and changes to the classification of several streams. This gave the study a sum total of 45 eligible streams/rivers.

Step 5: Classification of eligible streams

Once a watercourse has been determined eligible, the level of development needs to be reviewed to determine which preliminary classification category (ies) apply to the entire stream/river or segments of the stream/river. The categories for consideration under the WSRA are: wild, scenic, or recreational.

Potential classification should be based on the situation existing at the time of the study. It should not anticipate expected development or other changes along the river corridor; this is an aspect of evaluating suitability. A variety of things to consider regarding classification include livestock grazing, past management activities (such as timber harvesting, mining developments, or exploration and development of oil and gas), special lands uses (such as utility corridors and other special use permits), and any types of development along the shore of the river.

The 1964 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that “It is important to understand each criterion, but it is more important to understand their collective intent. Each river segment and its immediate environment should be considered as a unit. The basis for classification is the degree of naturalness, or stated negatively, the degree of evidence of man’s activity in the river area. The most natural rivers will be classified wild; those somewhat less natural, scenic, and those least natural, recreational... Although each classification permits certain existing development, the criteria do not imply that additional inconsistent development is permitted in the future.”

Core team members evaluated the potentially eligible streams/rivers for preliminary classification. The preliminary classification is described in the river description form for all potentially eligible rivers (see the summary section starting on page 19). The other team members and the leadership team reviewed the preliminary classification information and provided feedback. Additionally, the public provided feedback

to some of the preliminary classifications. The following factors were used to determine classification of river segments.

Table 3. Classification criteria for wild, scenic, and recreational rivers

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. The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable. A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable. Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest.	Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable. The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable. Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.	Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable. Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses. 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, for propagation of fish, and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except where exceeded by natural conditions.	No criteria are prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the United States are made fishable and swimmable. 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.	

Eligible rivers may be divided into segments having differing classifications when the levels of human use and activity create different degrees of development within the study area. In cases where a river has one or more classifications, each river segment identified should be of sufficient length to warrant its own unique management. Regarding segment length; FSH 1909.12 Chapter 80.62 states that, “there is no minimum length of a segment, but segment length should be sufficient to enable protection of the outstandingly remarkable values if the area were managed, apart from other segments, as a wild, scenic, or recreational river”.

A number of initial river classifications were changed as a result of additional field verification and public comment and review. Classification of the individual river segments for the 2015 eligibility study are described in the summary section starting on page 13. River data, description tables, and maps are located below in the Eligible Wild and Scenic River Description Tables and Maps section starting on page 19.

Step 6: Develop management direction to be included in the proposed action

Rivers determined to be eligible within the national system must have certain interim protection measures. These protection measures apply until a decision is made of the future use of the river and the adjacent lands through an act of Congress or a determination that the river is not suitable. Along with the interim protective measures additional statutory, regulatory, or policy requirements may apply if the study river is located within a wilderness area or other designated area. In case of conflict between the provisions of the Wilderness Act and FSH 1909.12 Chapter 80 the more restrictive provisions shall apply.

The 2012 Planning Rule provides direction for the interim management of Forest Service identified eligible rivers/streams. This can be found in 36 CFR 219.10 (b, v).

(b) The plan must provide plan components, including standards and guidelines, to provide for:

(v) Protection of designed wild and scenic rivers as well as management of rivers found to be eligible or determined to be suitable for the National Wild and Scenic River system to protect the values that provide the basis for their suitability for inclusion in the system.

Site-specific projects and activities on National Forest System lands within eligible corridors may be authorized only where the project and activities are consistent with the following:

- The free-flowing character of the identified river is not adversely modified by the construction or development of stream impoundments, diversions, or other water resources projects.
- Outstandingly remarkable values of the identified river are protected.
- Classification of an eligible river/stream on National Forest System lands must be maintained as inventoried (eligible) unless a suitability study is completed that recommends management other than the preliminary classification.

The following protection measures apply to interim management of rivers the Forest Service has identified as eligible. As mentioned above, these protective measures apply to the future use of the river and adjacent lands until they are changed through an act of Congress or a change in eligibility through a suitability study conducted in the future. The following table describes management activities and protection measures that apply to eligible wild, scenic, or recreational rivers.

Agency identified study river protection continues unless a river is determined not suitable for designation.

Table 4. Protection measures for eligible wild, scenic, or recreational rivers

Project/Activity	Interim Protective Measures		
	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
Water Resource Projects Dams Diversions Flood control Activities that affect free-flow	Wild, Scenic, and Recreational: Water resource projects on eligible rivers shall be analyzed as to their effect on a rivers free-flow, water quality, and identified ORV, with adverse effects to be prevented to the extent of the existing agency authority (such as special use authority).		
Hydroelectric Power Facilities	Wild, Scenic, and Recreational: Forest Service-identified eligible rivers are to be protected pending a suitability determination.		
Minerals Locatable Leasable	Wild, Scenic, and Recreational: Subject to valid existing rights, existing or new mining activity on an identified eligible river are subject to regulations in 36 CFR Part 228 and must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation, pollution, and visual impairment. Leases, licenses and permits under mineral leasing laws must include conditions necessary to protect the values of the river corridor that make it eligible for inclusion in the National System.		
Minerals Saleable	Wild Rivers Disposal of saleable mineral material is prohibited.	Scenic and Recreational Disposal of saleable mineral material is allowed if the values of the river corridor that make it eligible for inclusion in the National System are protected.	
Transportation System	Roads and railroads are generally not compatible. Prevent actions related to the road system that would preclude protection of the river as wild. Do not plan roads outside of the corridor that would adversely affect the wild classification. New trail construction should generally be designed for non-motorized users. New airfields may not be developed.	Roads and railroads may parallel the river for short segments or bridge the river if such construction protects the river values, including the free flowing character. Bridge crossings and access points are allowed. New trail construction and airfield development must be compatible and fully protect river ORVs.	Roads and railroads are permitted to parallel the river if such construction fully protects river ORVs, including the free flowing character. Bridge crossings and access points are allowed. New trail construction and airfield development must be compatible and fully protect river ORVs.
Utility Proposals	Wild, Scenic, and Recreational: New transmission lines such as gas lines, water lines, and similar linear features are not compatible with eligible wild and scenic rivers and are discouraged. Any portion of a utility proposal that has the potential to affect the river's free-flowing character must be evaluated as a water resources project.		
Recreation Developments	Major public use areas such as large campgrounds, interpretive centers, or administrative headquarters must be located outside of the	Public facilities, such as moderate sized campgrounds, simple sanitation and convenience facilities, public information centers, administration sites, and river access developments are allowed.	Recreation, administration, and river access facilities may be located in close proximity to the river. However, recreational classification does not require recreation development.

Project/Activity	Interim Protective Measures		
	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
	<p>river corridor (typically 1/4 mile either side of river).</p> <p>Minimum facilities such as toilets and refuse containers may be provided to protect and enhance water quality and other river values.</p> <p>Facilities must be located and designed to harmonize with the primitive character, must protect river values, and must be screened from view to the extent possible.</p>	<p>Facilities must be located and designed to harmonize with the natural and cultural settings, must protect river values, including water quality, and must be screened from view to the extent possible.</p>	<p>Facilities must be located and designed to harmonize with the natural and cultural settings, must protect river values, including water quality, and must be screened from view to the extent possible.</p>
Motorized Travel	<p>Wild</p> <p>Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted but is generally not compatible. Where motorized travel is deemed necessary, uses should be carefully defined and impacts mitigated.</p>	<p>Scenic and Recreational:</p> <p>Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited, or restricted to protect river ORVs.</p>	
Wildlife and Fish Projects	<p>Construction of minor structures and vegetation management to protect and enhance wildlife and fish habitat should harmonize with the area's primitive character and protect river ORVs.</p> <p>Proposed wildlife or fisheries restoration or enhancement projects that have potential to affect the rivers free-flowing character must be evaluated as a water resources project.</p>	<p>Construction of structures and vegetation management designed to protect and enhance wildlife and fish habitat should harmonize with the area's largely undeveloped character and protect river ORVs.</p> <p>Any portion of a wildlife or fisheries restoration or enhancement projects that have potential to affect the rivers free-flowing character must be evaluated as a water resources project.</p>	<p>Construction of structures and vegetation management designed to protect and enhance wildlife and fish habitat should fully protect river ORVs.</p> <p>Any portion of a wildlife or fisheries restoration or enhancement projects that have potential to affect the rivers free-flowing character must be evaluated as a water resources project.</p>
Vegetation Management	<p>Wild:</p> <p>Cutting of trees and other vegetation is not permitted except when needed in association with a primitive recreation experience, to protect users, or to protect identified ORVs.</p>	<p>Scenic and Recreational:</p> <p>A range of vegetation management and timber harvest practices are allowed, if these practices are designed to protect users, or protect, restore, or enhance the river environment, including the long-term scenic character.</p>	

Project/Activity	Interim Protective Measures		
	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
Domestic Livestock Grazing	<p>Domestic livestock grazing should be managed to protect ORVs.</p> <p>Existing structures may be maintained.</p> <p>New facilities may be developed so long as they maintain the ORVs and the area's primitive character.</p>	<p>Domestic livestock grazing should be managed to protect ORVs.</p> <p>Existing structures may be maintained.</p> <p>New facilities may be developed so long as they maintain the ORVs and the area's largely undeveloped character.</p>	<p>Domestic livestock grazing should be managed to protect ORVs.</p> <p>Existing structures may be maintained.</p> <p>New facilities may be developed so long as they maintain the ORVs for which the river was found eligible.</p>

Summary of Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Study

As directed by the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.12 Chapter 80), the HLC NF planning team developed and conducted a comprehensive inventory and evaluation to determine which rivers are eligible for inclusion in the wild and scenic rivers system on National Forest System lands. The team initiated the study process with 1,016 rivers/streams free-flowing and named streams. During the process, outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) for each of the rivers were determined based on established evaluation criteria within a region of comparison. At the end of the study and public comment and review period, 45 rivers/streams were identified as eligible for inclusion. These rivers were then given a potential classification based on the amount of development present within the river corridor.

The following map displays the locations of the 45 river/streams within the GAs defined in the HLC NF planning area. Table 6 further describes each river, its length, its outstandingly remarkable value(s), and the potential classification for which it is being proposed as eligible. Following Table 5, the 45 eligible wild and scenic rivers are displayed by geographic area and include a descriptive table and map for each one.

Figure 1. Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Study

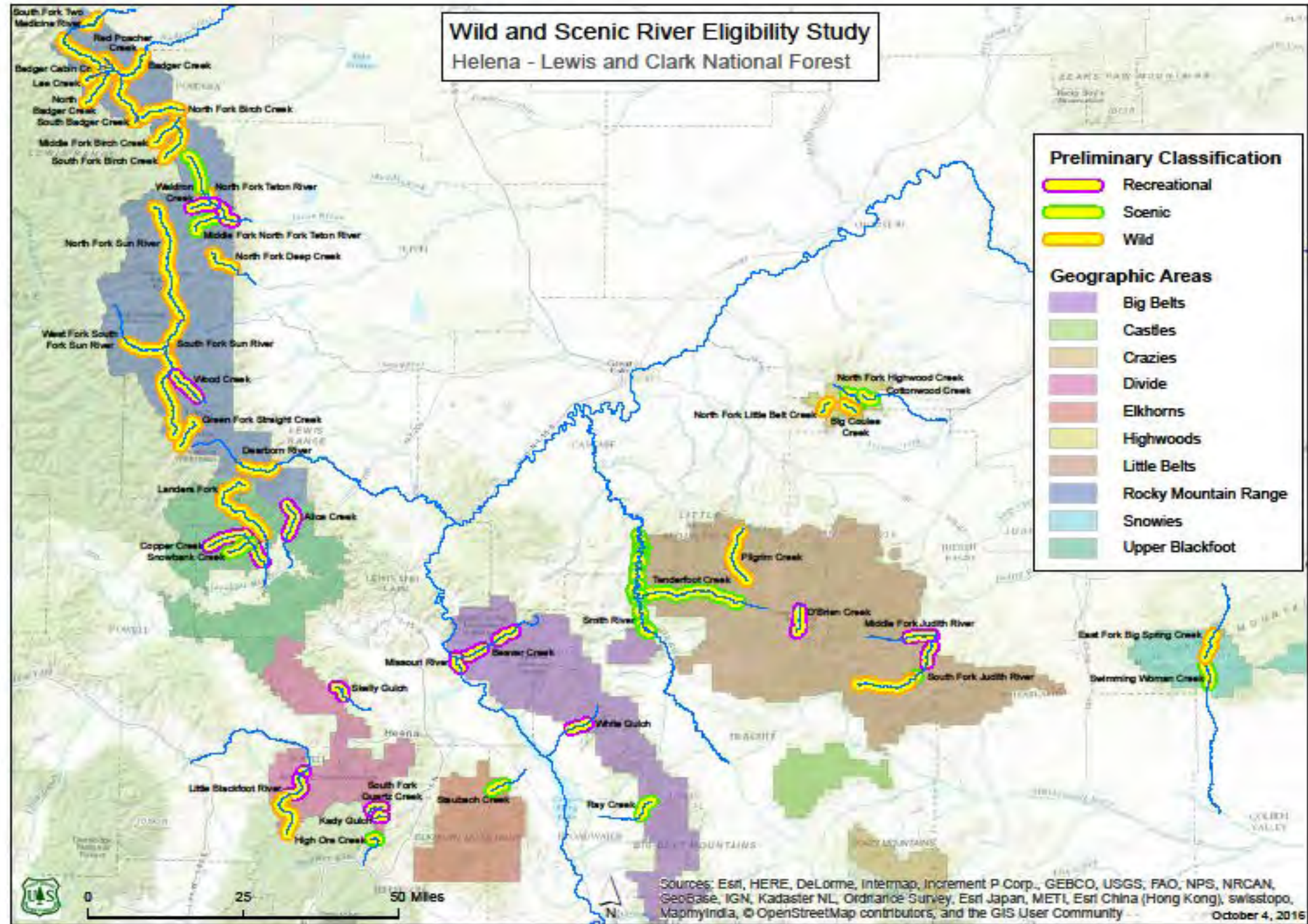


Table 5. Potential Eligible wild and scenic rivers by geographic area

Potential River Name	Segment Description	Miles	Potential Classification	Outstanding Remarkable Values	Past Eligibility Notes
Big Belts Geographic Area					
Beaver Creek	<u>Segment 1:</u> From mouth to Bridge Creek, west of Nelson	5.5	Recreational	Recreation Geology Fish Cultural	Eligible in 1989 for Fish.
	<u>Segment 2:</u> From Sheep Gulch to Pike Creek	3.7	Recreational		
Whites Gulch	From FS boundary west to private boundary.	3.0	Recreational	Fish	
Missouri River	Hauser Dam to Cochran Gulch	2.2	Recreational	Recreation (Fishing) Geology Wildlife	Eligible in 1989 for Rec, Geology, Fish, Wildlife, and Natural.
Ray Creek	From FS boundary to headwaters.	3.4	Scenic	Fish	
Divide Geographic Area					
Little Blackfoot River	<u>Segment 1:</u> From mouth to private land boundary near Charter Oaks.	0.8	Recreational	Fish Cultural	Eligible in 1989 for Fish.
	<u>Segment 2:</u> From private land boundary south of Sawmill Creek to private land boundary north of Conner's Gulch.	5.0	Recreational		
	<u>Segment 3:</u> From private land boundary north of Kading Campground to the headwaters.	9.0	Wild		
High Ore Creek	From FS boundary to headwaters	1.1	Scenic	Fish	
Kady Gulch	From FS boundary to mining claim boundary	1.1	Recreational	Fish	
South Fork Quartz	From mouth to mining claim boundary	2.2	Recreational	Fish	
Skelly Gulch	From FS boundary to headwaters	2.5	Recreational	Fish	
Elkhorns Geographic Area					
Staubach Creek	From FS boundary to headwaters	2.4	Scenic	Fish	
Highwoods Geographic Area					
North Fork Highwood Creek	From fish barrier to headwaters	3.4	Scenic	Fish	
Big Coulee Creek	From natural cascade fish barrier to upper tributary fork	2.1	Wild	Fish	

Potential River Name	Segment Description	Miles	Potential Classification	Outstanding Remarkable Values	Past Eligibility Notes
Cottonwood Creek	From FS boundary to headwaters	2.5	Scenic	Fish	
North Fork Little Belt Creek	From FS boundary to headwaters	2.1	Wild	Fish	
Little Belts Geographic Area					
Pilgrim Creek	From cascade fish barrier to headwaters	10.7	Wild	Fish	
Middle Fork Judith River	From FS boundary to Big Arch Coulee	4.7	Recreational	Cultural	Eligible in 1989 for Cultural.
South Fork Judith River	<u>Segment 1:</u> From Bower Creek to Dry Pole Creek	3.6	Recreational	Fish Cultural	
	<u>Segment 2:</u> From Bluff Creek to Cabin Creek	1.3	Scenic		
	<u>Segment 3:</u> From Cabin Creek to headwaters	10.0	Wild		
Smith River (FS lands only)	The Smith River is comprised of 14 small segments of Forest Service lands interspersed with private lands. Only Forest Service lands are considered for eligibility. To view individual segments, see detail maps located in the summary.	17.1	Scenic	Scenic Recreation Geology Wildlife Cultural	Eligible in 1989 for Rec, Scenery, Geology, Fish, Wildlife and Cultural.
Tenderfoot Creek	From FS boundary to Iron Mines Creek	21.5	Scenic	Recreation Fish	Eligible in 1989 for Fish.
Rocky Mountain Range Geographic Area					
South Fork Two Medicine River	<u>Segment 1:</u> From FS boundary to Box Creek	3.4	Wild	Scenery Cultural	
	<u>Segment 2:</u> From private land boundary to headwaters	9.5	Wild		
Badger Creek	From FS boundary to confluence with North and South Badger Creeks	7.2	Wild	Cultural Scenery	
North Badger Creek	From confluence with main Badger and South Badger Creeks to headwaters	10.4	Wild	Fish Cultural	Eligible in 1989 for Fish.
South Badger Creek	From confluence with main Badger and North Badger Creek to headwaters	10.9	Wild	Cultural	
Lee Creek	From mouth to headwaters	4.6	Wild	Fish	
Badger Cabin Creek	From mouth to headwaters	3.2	Wild	Fish	

Potential River Name	Segment Description	Miles	Potential Classification	Outstanding Remarkable Values	Past Eligibility Notes
Red Poacher Creek	From confluence with North Badger Creek to headwaters	3.1	Wild	Fish	
North Fork Birch Creek	From FS boundary to headwaters	7.8	Wild	Cultural Scenery	Eligible in 1989 for Scenery and Geology.
Middle Fork Birch Creek	From confluence to the headwaters	5.2	Wild	Scenery Cultural	
South Fork Birch Creek	From FS boundary to headwaters	9.8	Wild	Scenery Recreation Fish Wildlife Cultural	
North Fork Deep Creek	From FS boundary to headwaters	5.3	Wild	Scenery	
North Fork Teton River	Segment 1: From FS Boundary to road crossing above Elko Campground (bottom of the box canyon)	5.5	Recreation	Recreation Scenery Fish	
	Segment 2: from road crossing to West Fork Campground (through the box canyon)	4.1	Wild		
	Segment 3: from West Fork Campground to headwaters	7.6	Scenic		
Middle Fork North Fork Teton River	From the confluence with North Fork Teton River to headwaters.	6.8	Scenic	Fish	
Waldron Creek	From the confluence with North Fork Teton River to headwaters	4.3	Recreational	Fish	
North Fork Sun River	From wilderness boundary to the headwaters	26.2	Wild	Scenery Recreation	
South Fork Sun River	From wilderness boundary to headwaters	26.2	Wild	Recreation Wildlife	
West Fork South Fork Sun River	From mouth to junction with Ahorn Creek	8.5	Wild	Recreation Wildlife	
Green Fork Straight Creek	From mouth to headwaters	5.9	Wild	Scenery Geology	Eligible in 1989 for Scenery and Geology.
Wood Creek	From below the dam on Wood Lake to the confluence with Straight Creek	7.1	Recreational	Wildlife	
Dearborn River	From FS boundary to Whitetail Creek	6.5	Wild	Scenery	Eligible in 1989 for Scenery.
Snowies Geographic Area					
Swimming Woman Creek	From FS boundary to headwaters	3.9	Scenic	Scenery Geology	

Potential River Name	Segment Description	Miles	Potential Classification	Outstanding Remarkable Values	Past Eligibility Notes
East Fork Big Spring Creek	From south end of Section 33 to headwaters	5.3	Wild	Fish	
Upper Blackfoot Geographic Area					
Alice Creek	From FS boundary to headwaters	7.0	Recreational	Cultural	
Copper Creek	From FS boundary to headwaters	14.0	Recreational	Fish	Eligible in 1989 for Fish.
Landers Fork	From FS boundary to headwaters	18.8	Wild	Fish	
Snowbank Creek	From confluence with Copper Creek to headwaters	4.4	Scenic	Fish	
Total Miles of eligible sections of wild and scenic rivers					363.4 miles

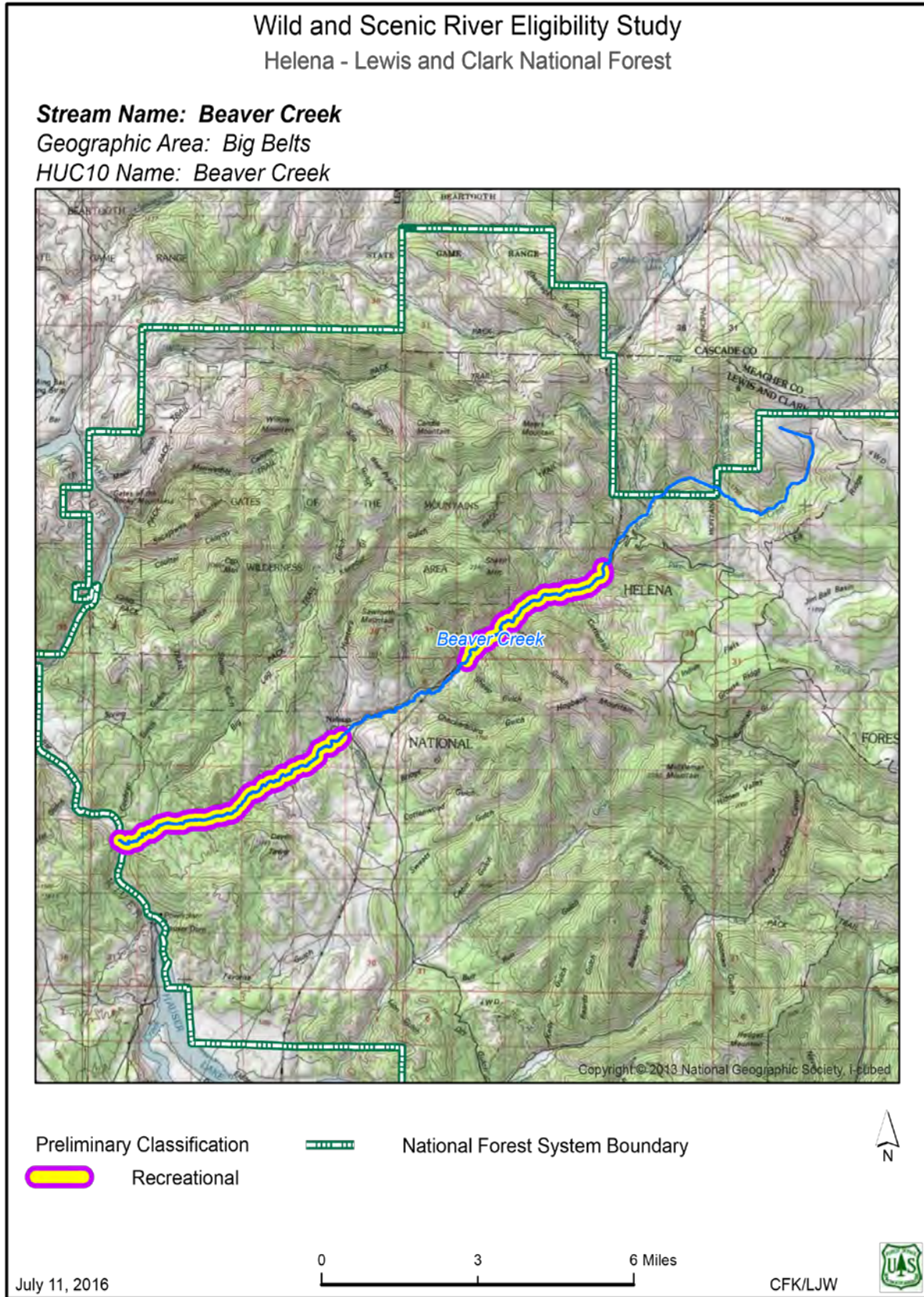
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers Description Tables and Maps

Description tables and maps were developed for each of the 45 rivers identified as free flowing and possessing at least one outstandingly remarkable value. The eligible rivers and streams are organized by geographic area.

Big Belts Geographic Area

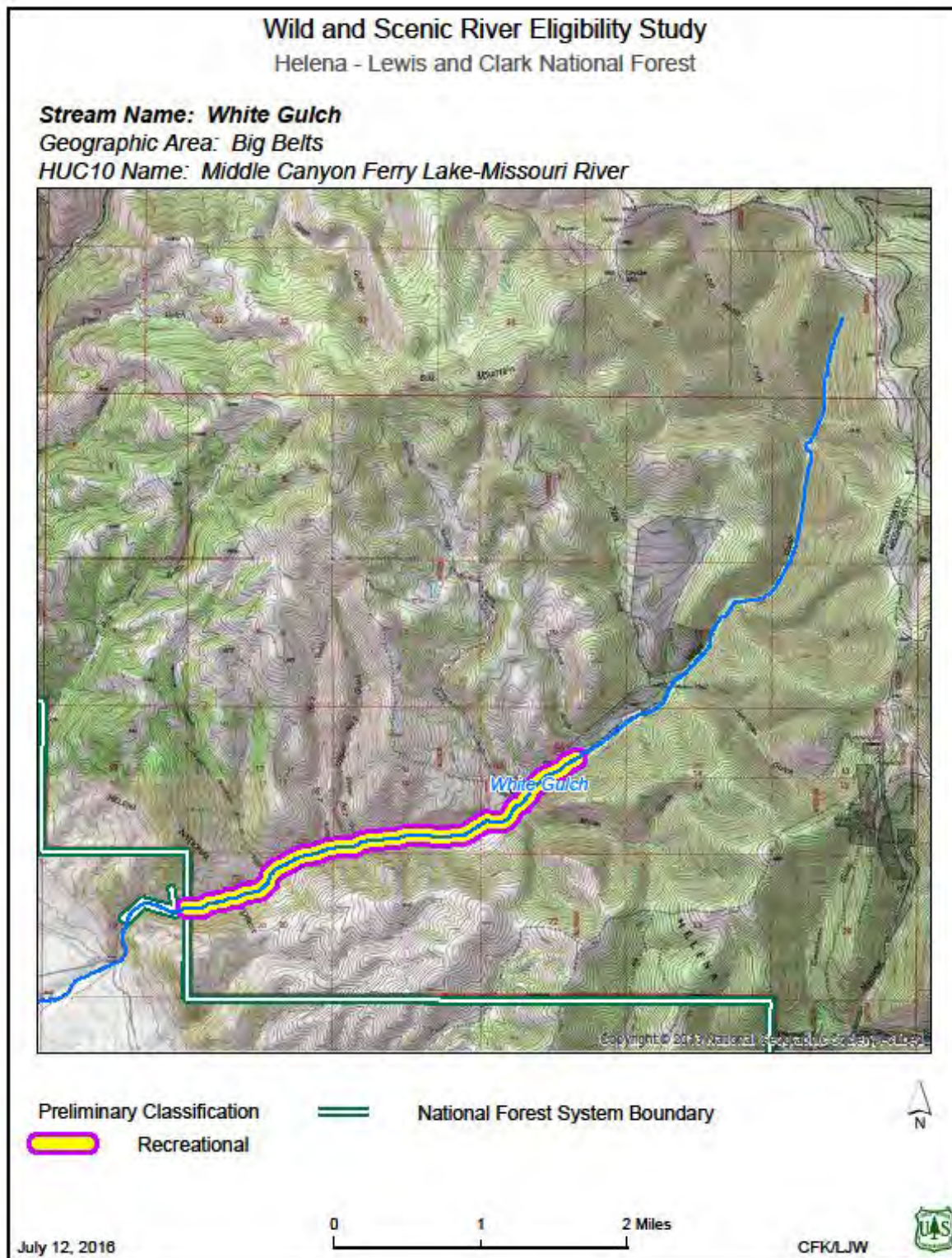
Beaver Creek

Beaver Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Geology, Fish, Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	Segment 1: From mouth to Bridge Creek, west of Nelson Segment 2: From Sheep Gulch to Pike Creek
Miles of each segment	Segment 1: 5.5 miles Segment 2: 3.7 miles
Potential Classification	Segment 1: Recreational Segment 2: Recreational
Location	Geographic area: Big Belts HUC 10: Beaver Creek Beginning Point: T12N R2W Section 19
County(ies)	Lewis and Clark
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	Beaver Creek is a popular national fishing destination for Rainbow Trout. Recreation sport fishing occurs on the entire stream, including both segments, with over 10,000 out of state fishermen per year.
Geologic	The geology of Beaver Creek, in segment 2, is outstanding for geology because it shows intricately and complexly folded and faulted lodgepole limestone. This formation shows many classic over thrust faulting deformation features. The geology of segment 1 is also spectacular. Geology in segment 1 is of the Madison formation and offers a cross sectional view highlighted by the deeply dissected valley.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	There are high prehistoric site concentrations on segment 1 and there are potential sites in segment 2. These sites offer excellent examples of culture use of limestone geologic formations close to waterways.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



Whites Gulch

Whites Gulch	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary west to the private land boundary.
Miles of each segment	3.0 miles
Potential Classification	Recreational
Location	Geographic area: Big Belts HUC 10: Middle Canyon Ferry Lake- Missouri River Beginning Point: T10N R2E Section 16
County(ies)	Broadwater
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	This stream has a pure westslope cutthroat trout population that is protected by two cascade fish barriers.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.

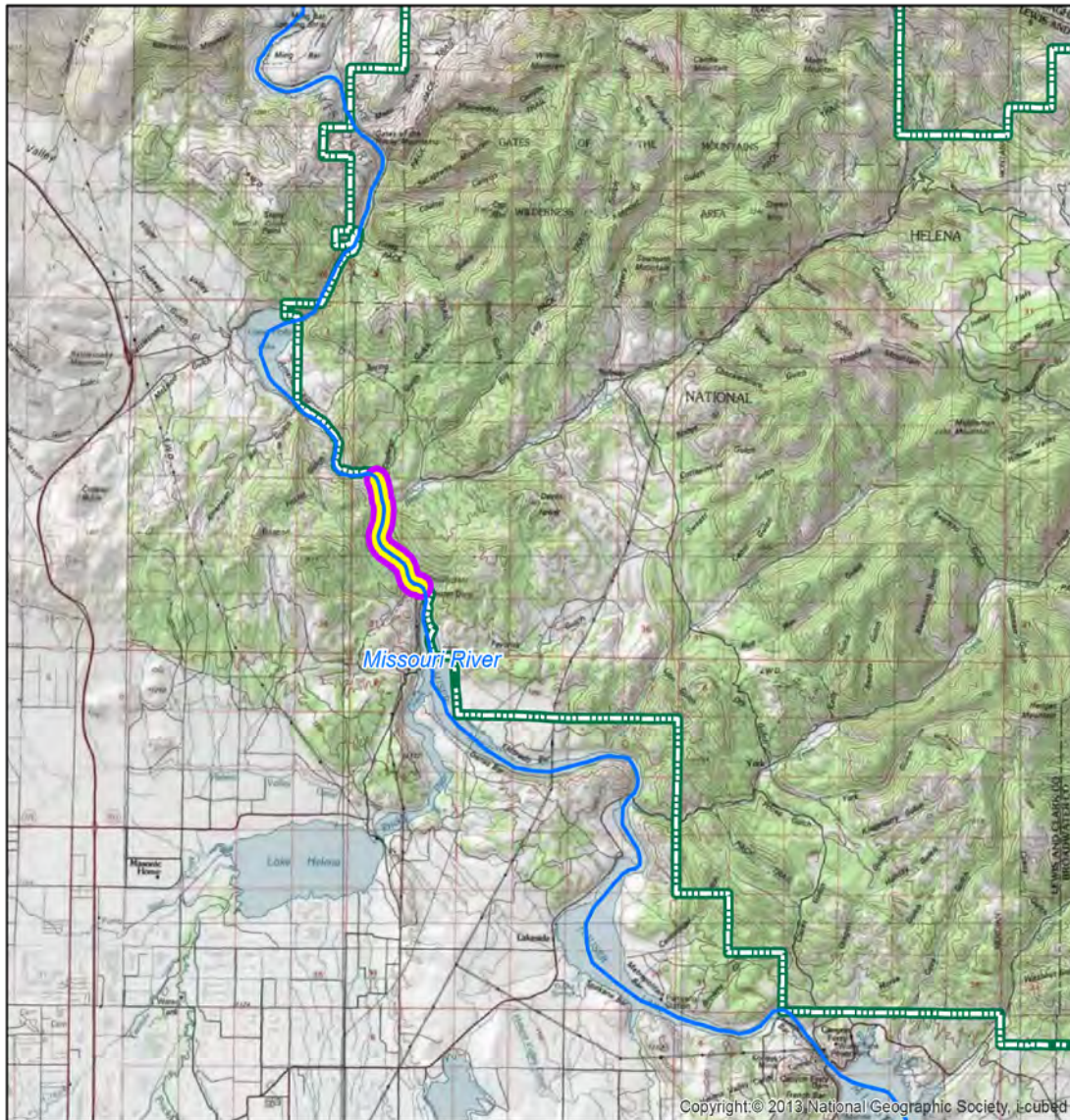



Missouri River

Missouri River	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Geology, Wildlife
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From Houser Dam to Cochran Gulch.
Miles of each segment	2.2 miles
Potential Classification	Recreational
Location	Geographic area: Big Belts HUC 10: Rattlesnake Gulch- Missouri River Beginning Point: T12N R2W Section 19
County(ies)	Lewis and Clark
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	Recreation sport fishing of rainbow trout is the ORV. The area receives over 10,000 out of state fishermen per year. Due to the proximity to the dams it is also an important tail-water fishery.
Geologic	The geology is of spectacular exposures of Madison limestone cliffs. Part of the Eldorado thrust fault.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	Yes, bald eagle, golden eagle, peregrine falcon nesting, multiple wildlife values, remarkable to all be there together, diversity of raptor nesting, important as a group.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.
Notes	Existing Eligible

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest

Stream Name: *Missouri River*
Geographic Area: *Big Belts*
HUC10 Name: *Rattlesnake Gulch-Missouri River*

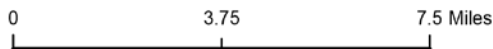


Preliminary Classification
 Recreational

 National Forest System Boundary



July 11, 2016

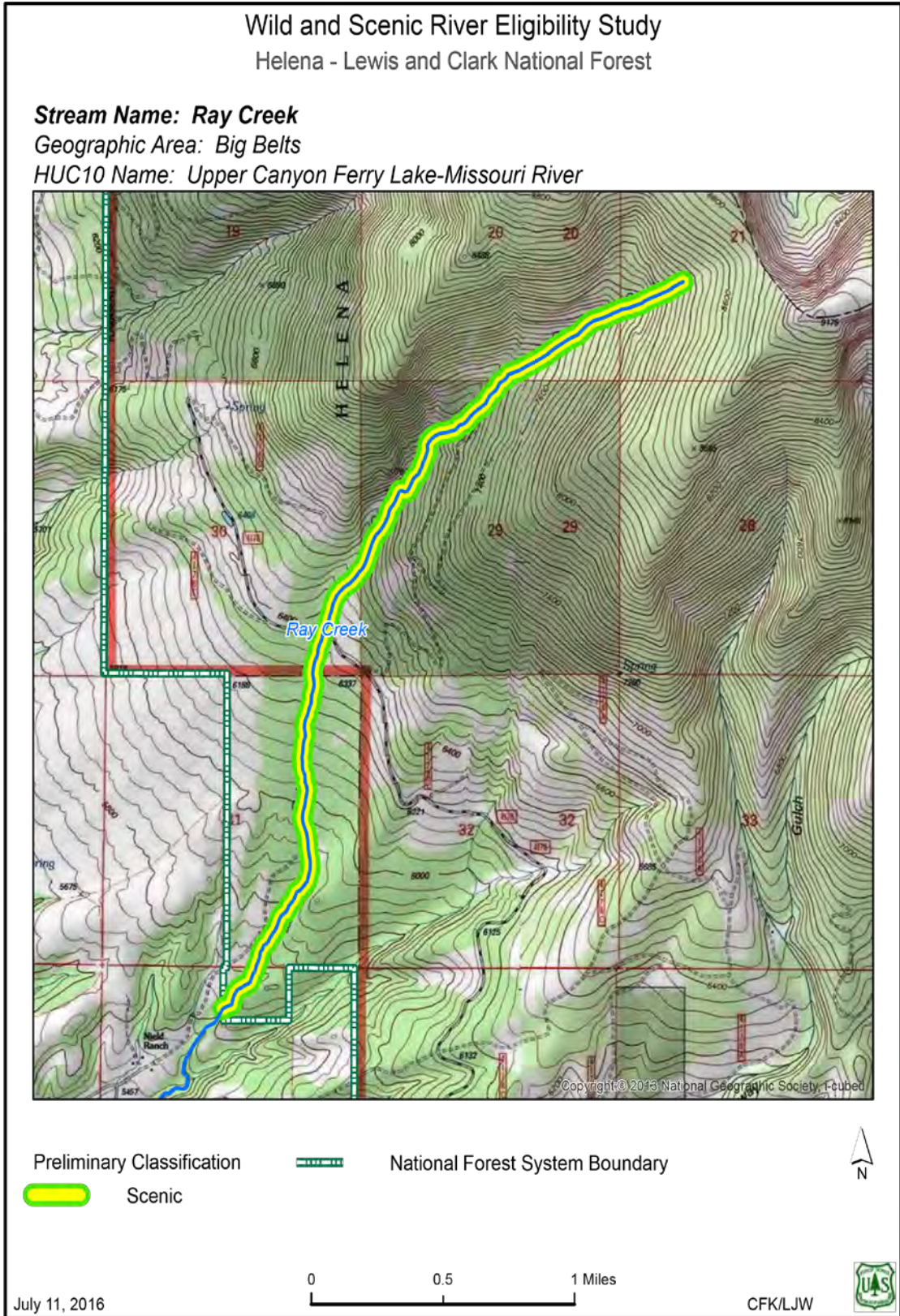


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Ray Creek

Ray Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to the headwaters.
Miles of each segment	3.4 miles
Potential Classification	Scenic
Location	Geographic area: Big Belts HUC 10: Upper Canyon- Ferry Lake- Missouri River Beginning Point: T8N R4E Section 30
County(ies)	Broadwater
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Pure westslope cutthroat trout in an Upper Missouri River HUC.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



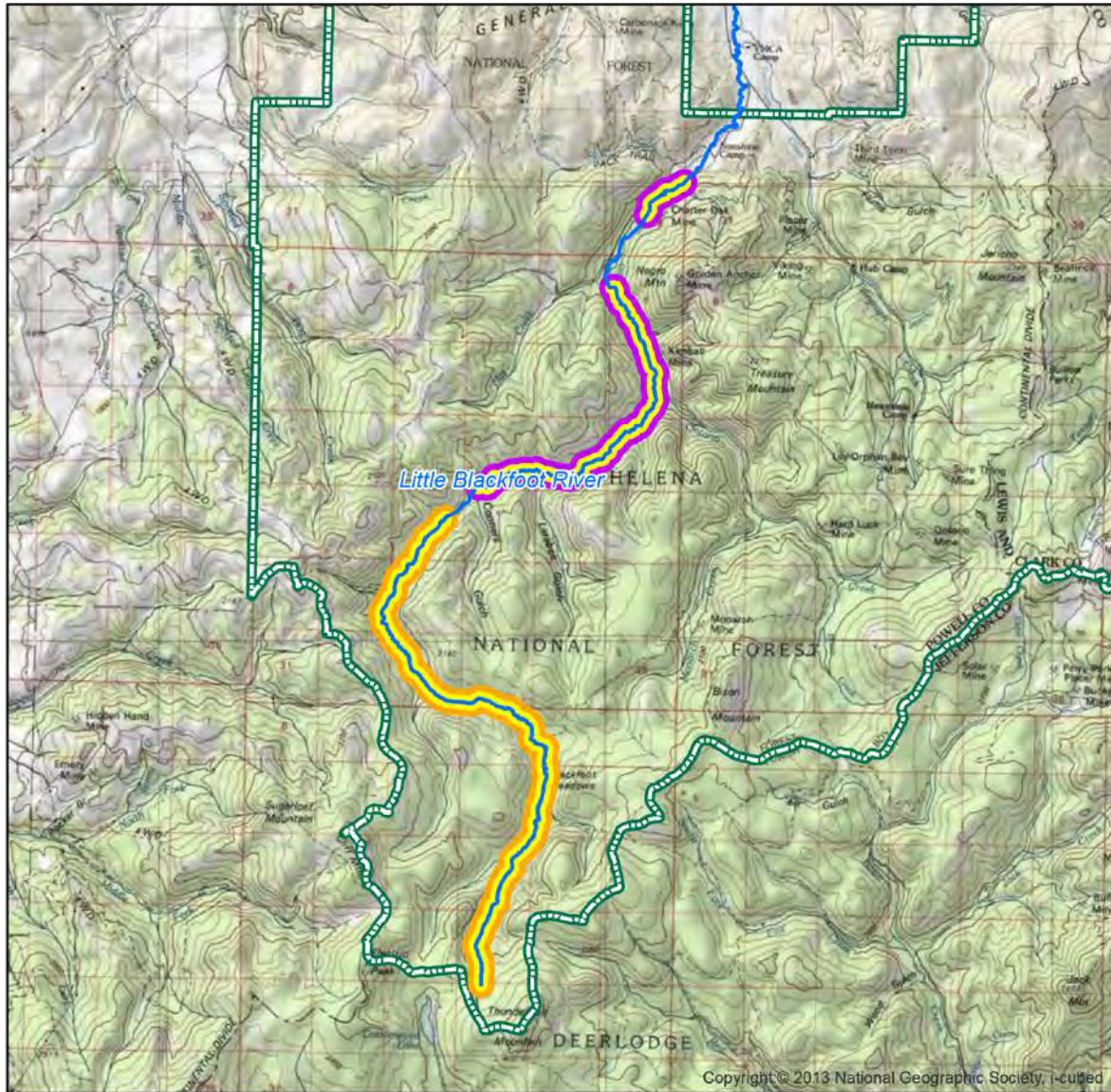
Divide Geographic Area

Little Blackfoot River

Little Blackfoot River	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	Segment 1: From mouth to private land boundary near Charter Oaks. Segment 2: From private land boundary south of Sawmill Creek to private land boundary north of Conner's Gulch. Segment 3: From private land boundary north of Kading Campground to the headwaters.
Miles of each segment	Segment 1: 0.8 miles Segment 2: 5.0 miles Segment 3: 9.0 miles
Potential Classification	Segment 1: Recreational Segment 2: Recreational Segment 3: Wild
Location	Geographic area: Divide HUC 10: Little Blackfoot River Beginning Point: T8N R7W Section 12
County(ies)	Powell
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Eligible for fisheries. Large reach with westslope cutthroat, but non-natives present. DNA sampling this field season. Headwaters still contains westslope cutthroat trout population.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	Charter Oak is an historic mine and mill located within segment 1. It is currently interpreted and on the National Register of Historic Places.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.
Notes	Research currently in progress on fish, existing eligible for bull trout, but the bull trout populations don't meet the ORV criteria now. Review again after the research is completed. May go out in the field.

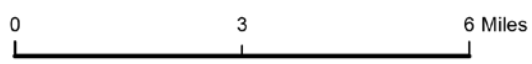
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest

Stream Name: *Little Blackfoot River*
Geographic Area: *Divide*
HUC10 Name: *Little Blackfoot River Headwaters*



Preliminary Classification
Recreational
Wild

National Forest System Boundary



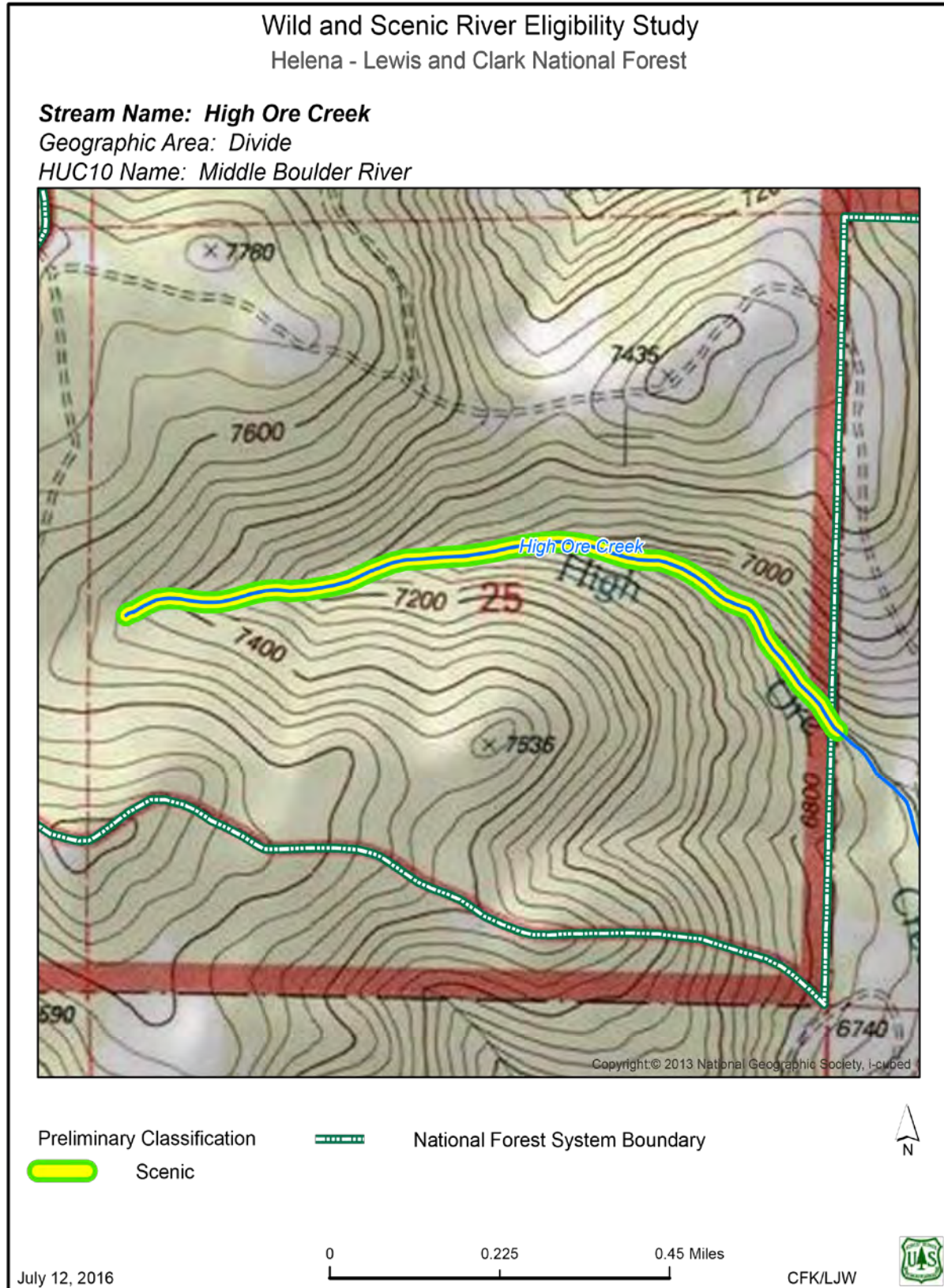
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High Ore Creek

High Ore Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to headwaters
Miles of each segment	1.1 miles
Potential Classification	Scenic
Location	Geographic area: Divide HUC 10: Middle Boulder River Beginning Point: T7N R5W Section 25
County(ies)	Jefferson
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Isolated genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout population.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.

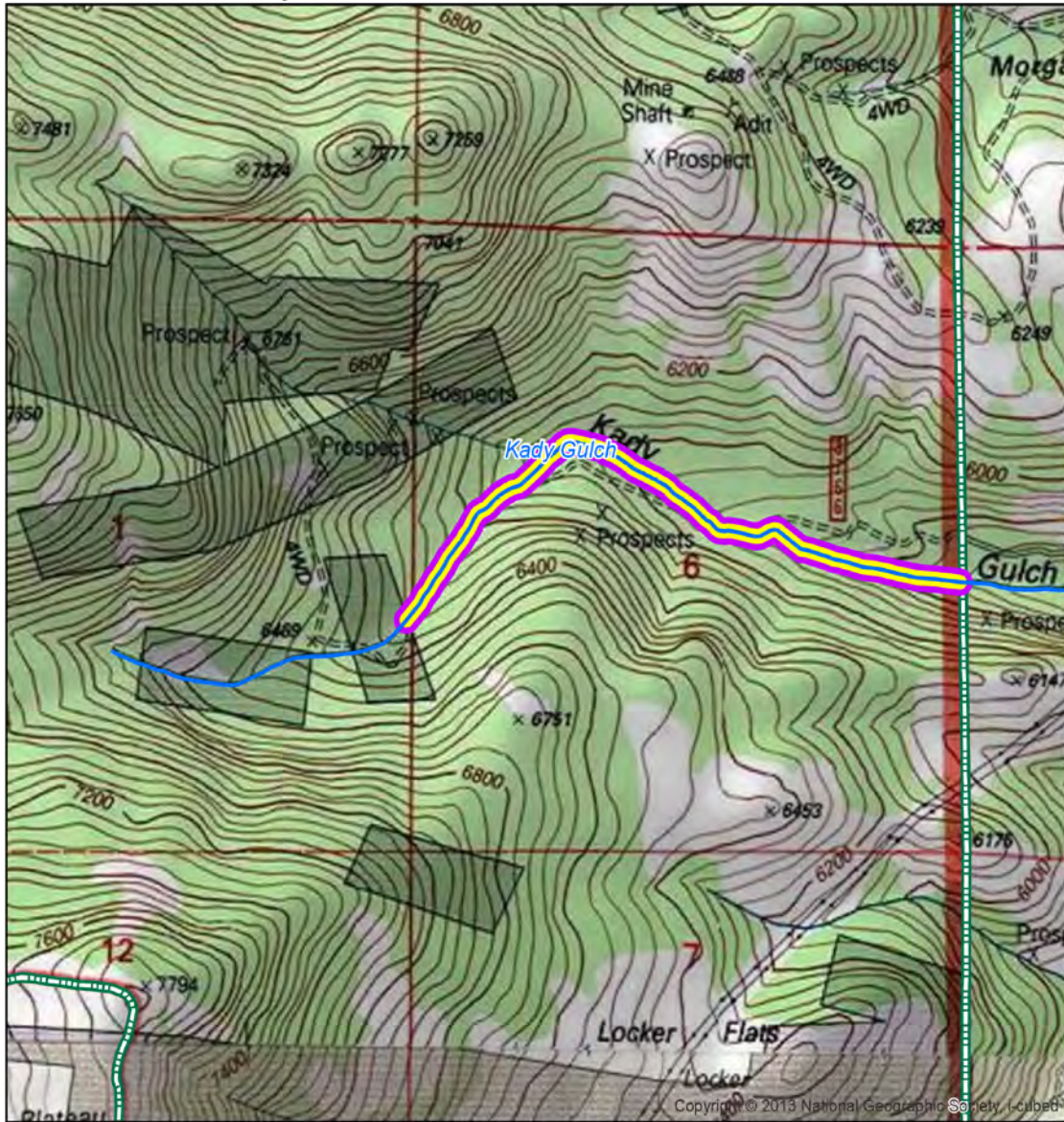


Kady Gulch

Kady Gulch	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to the mining claim boundary.
Miles of each segment	1.1 miles
Potential Classification	Recreational
Location	Geographic area: Divide HUC 10: Prickly Pear Creek Beginning Point: T7N R4W Section 6
County(ies)	Jefferson
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Isolated westslope cutthroat trout population with unique genetic makeup that is rare to this drainage basin.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest

Stream Name: *Kady Gulch*
Geographic Area: *Divide*
HUC10 Name: *Prickley Pear Creek*



Preliminary Classification
Recreational

 National Forest System Boundary



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0 0.35 0.7 Miles

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South Fork Quartz

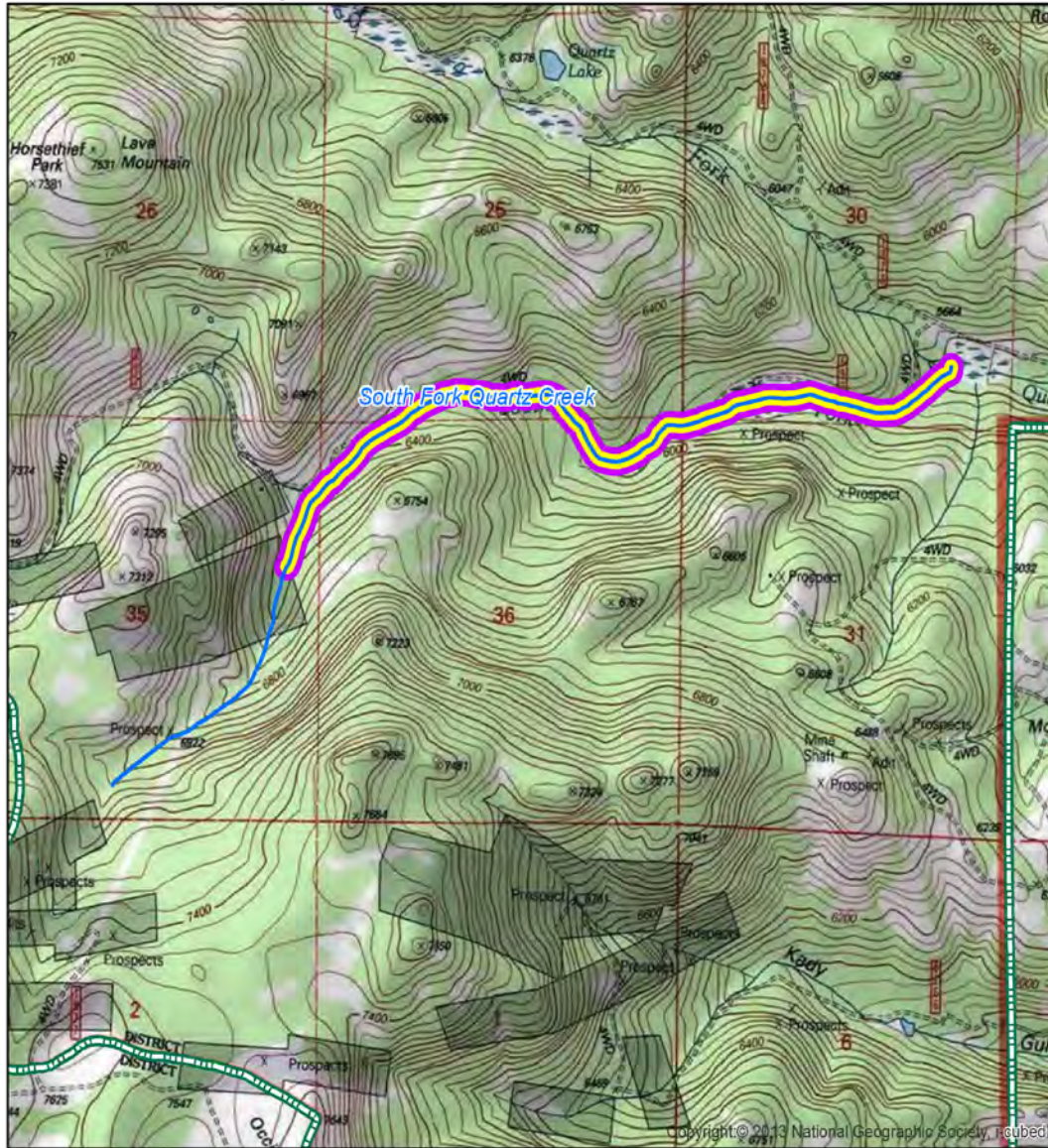
South Fork Quartz	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From mouth to the mining claim boundary.
Miles of each segment	2.2 miles
Potential Classification	Recreational
Location	Geographic area: Divide HUC 10: Prickly Pear Creek Beginning Point: T8N R4W Section 30
County(ies)	Jefferson
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Isolated westslope cutthroat trout population with unique genetic makeup that is rare to this drainage basin.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest

Stream Name: South Fork Quartz Creek

Geographic Area: Divide

HUC10 Name: Prickley Pear Creek

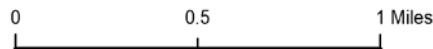


Preliminary Classification

Recreational



National Forest System Boundary



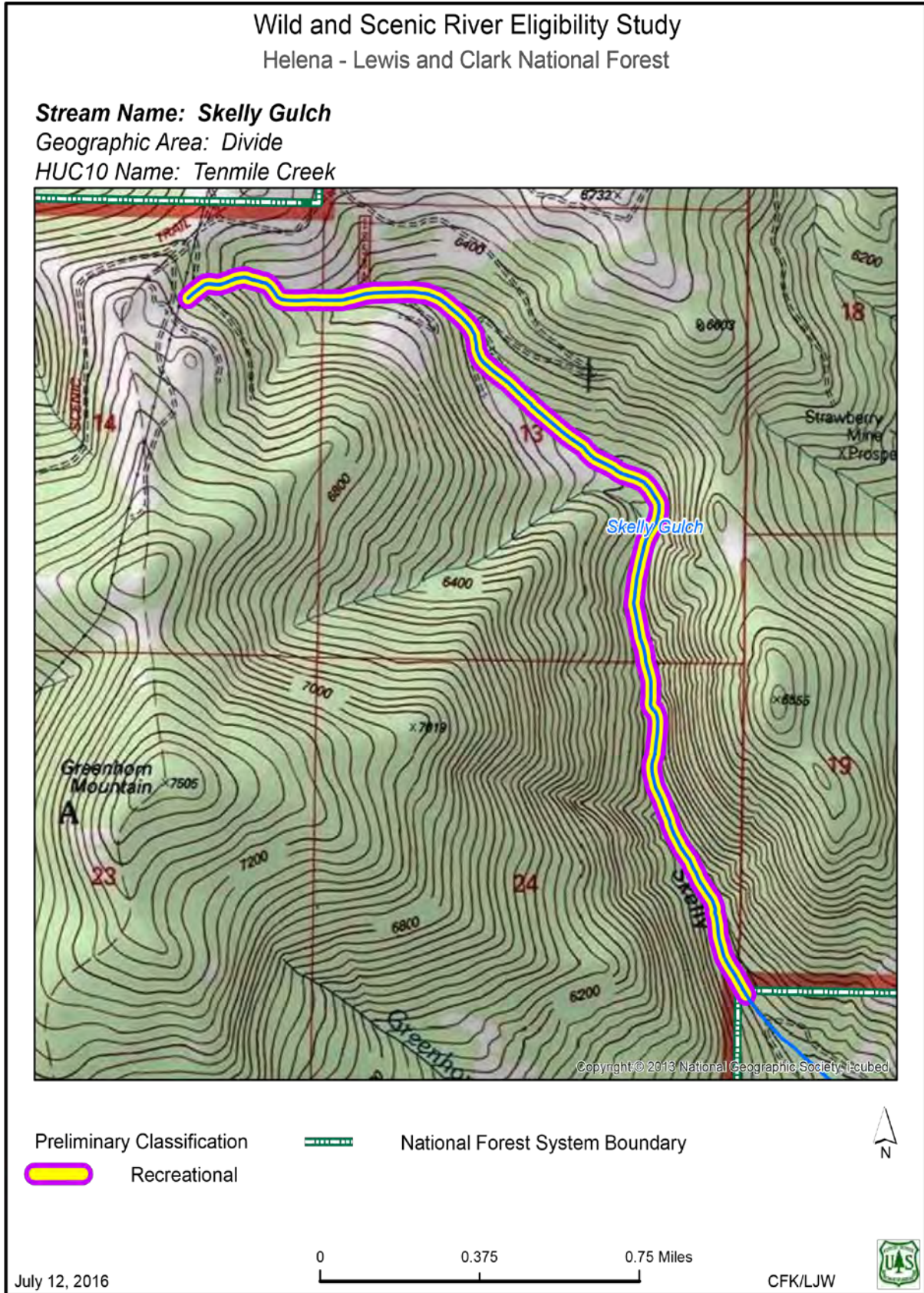
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Skelly Gulch

Skelly Gulch	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to the headwaters.
Miles of each segment	2.5 miles
Potential Classification	Recreational
Location	Geographic area: Divide HUC 10: Tenmile Creek Beginning Point: T11N R6W Section 24
County(ies)	Lewis and Clark
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Isolated westslope cutthroat trout population with unique genetic makeup that is rare to this drainage basin.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



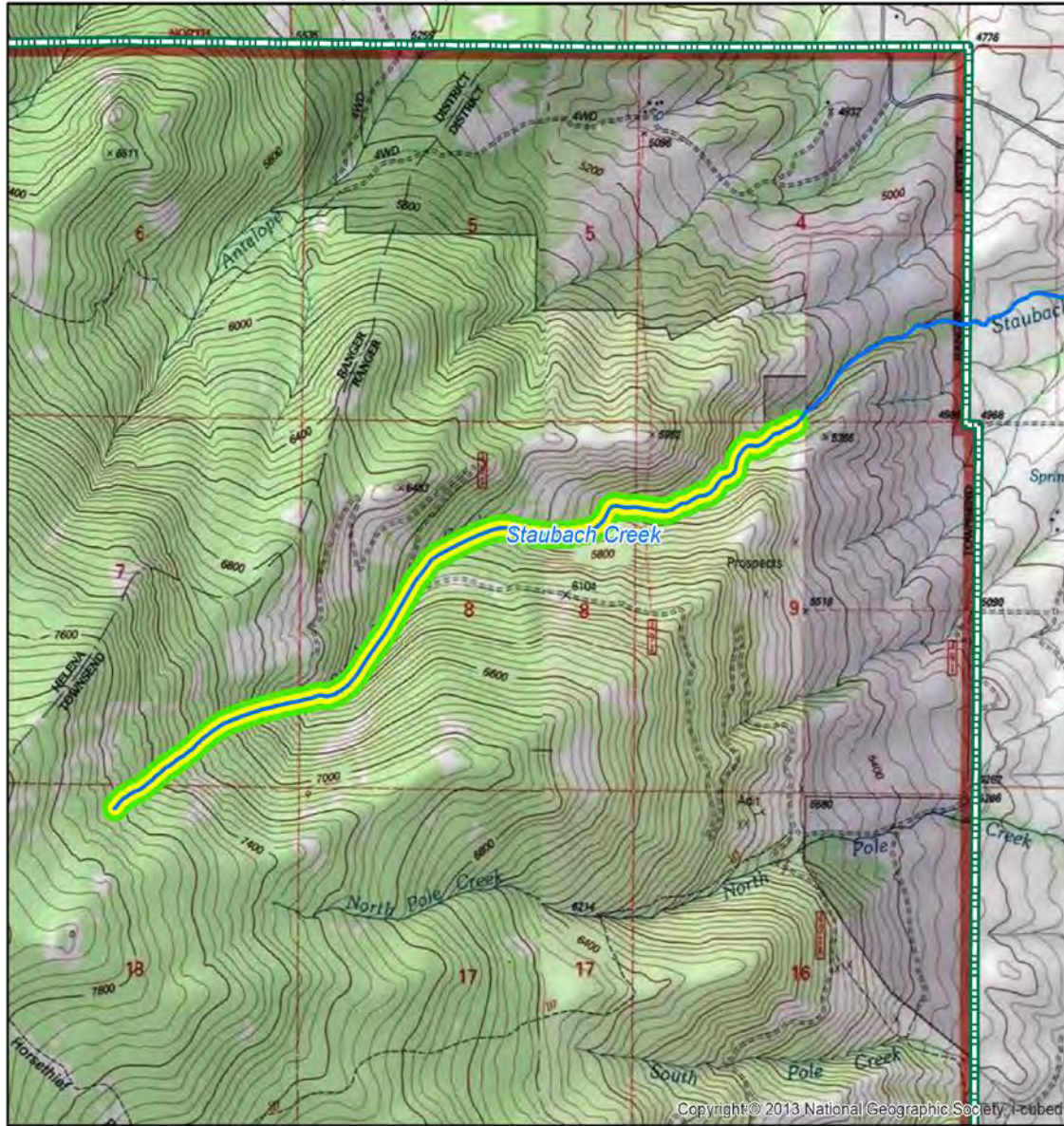
Elkhorns Geographic Area

Staubach Creek

Staubach Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to headwaters.
Miles of each segment	2.4 miles
Potential Classification	Scenic
Location	Geographic area: Elkhorns HUC 10: Middle Canyon Beginning Point: T8N R1W Section 9
County(ies)	Broadwater
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Isolated westslope cutthroat trout population with unique genetic makeup that is rare to this drainage basin
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest

Stream Name: Staubach Creek
Geographic Area: Elkhorns
HUC10 Name: Middle Canyon Ferry Lake-Missouri River



Preliminary Classification

 Scenic



National Forest System Boundary



0 0.5 1 Miles

July 12, 2016

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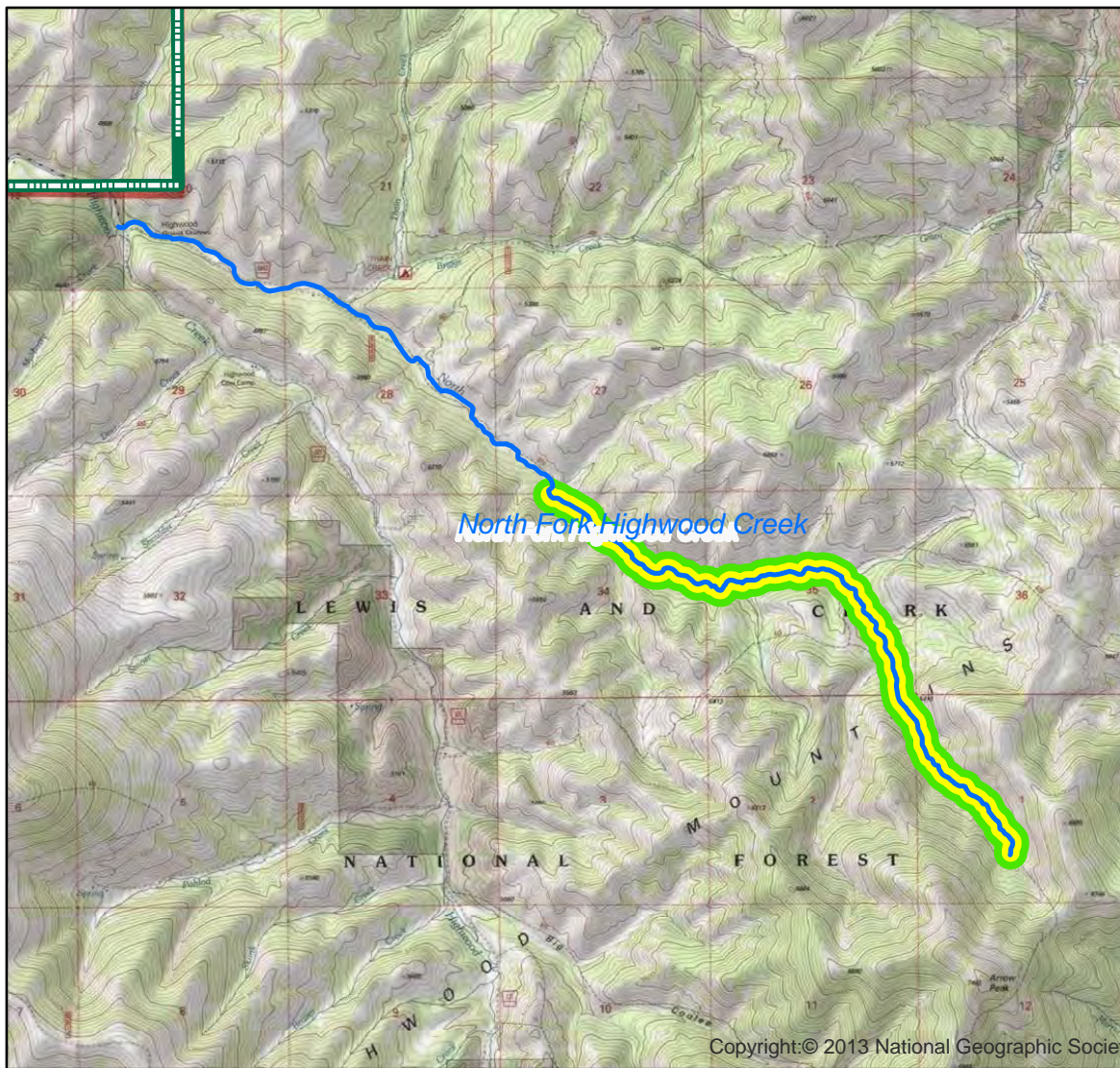
Highwoods Geographic Area



North Fork Highwood Creek

North Fork Highwood Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From fish barrier to the headwaters.
Miles of each segment	3.4 miles
Potential Classification	Scenic
Location	Geographic area: Highwoods HUC 10: Highwood Creek Beginning Point: T20N R9E Section 20
County(ies)	Chouteau
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	One of two remaining pure westslope cutthroat trout populations in the Highwood Creek drainage system which represents the only known pure populations in this segment of the Upper Missouri River basin.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study Helena - Lewis and Clark National Forest

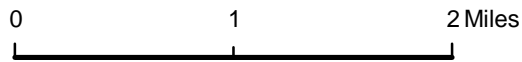
Stream Name: North Fork Highwood Creek
Geographic Area: Highwoods
HUC10 Name: Highwood Creek



Preliminary Classification  Scenic 

National Forest System Boundary 

July 12, 2016

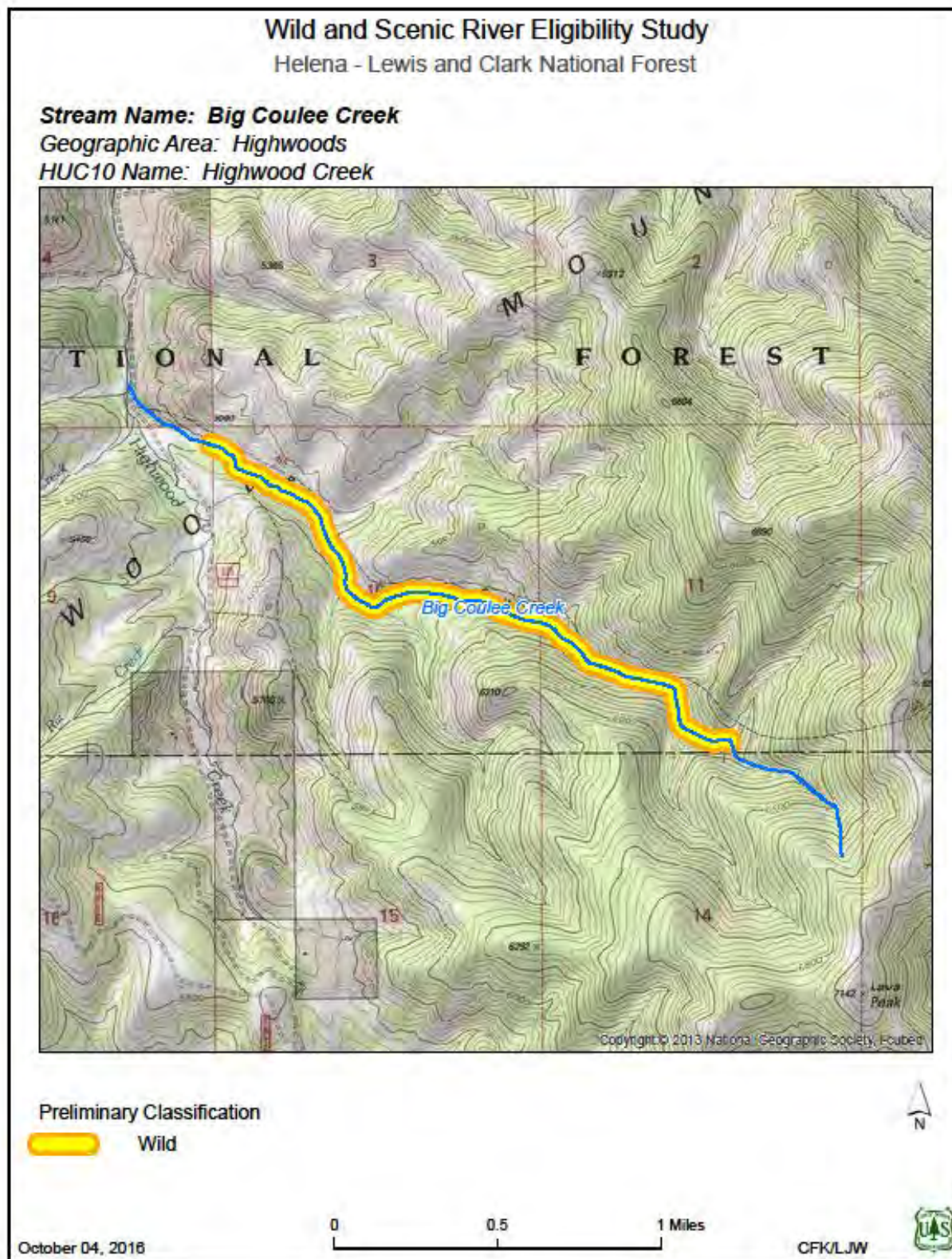


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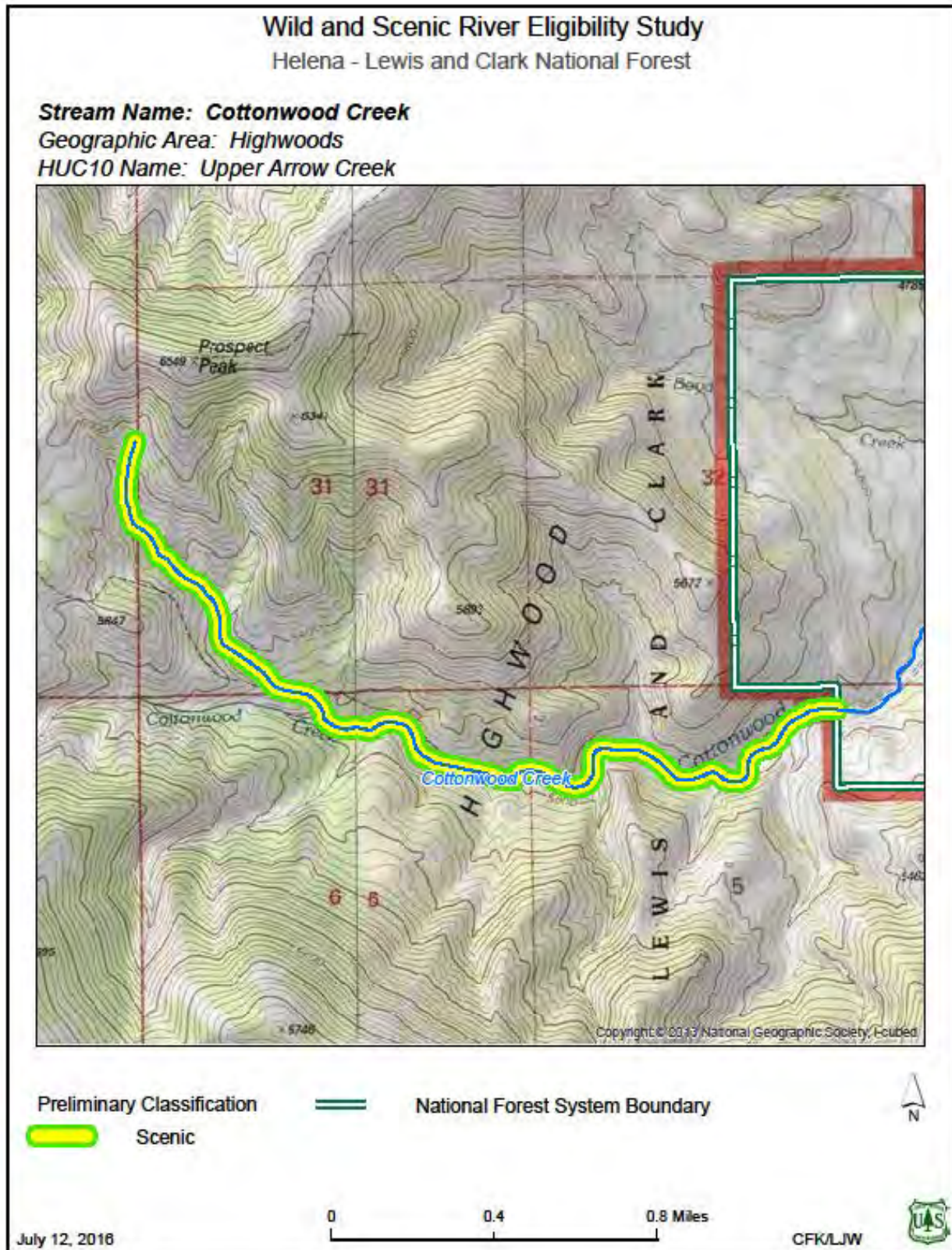
Big Coulee Creek

Big Coulee Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From natural cascade fish barrier to upper tributary fork.
Miles of each segment	2.1 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Highwoods HUC 10: Highwood Creek Beginning Point: T 19N R9E Section 4
County(ies)	Chouteau
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	One of two remaining pure westslope cutthroat trout populations in the Highwood Creek drainage system which represents the only known pure populations in this segment of the Upper Missouri River basin.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



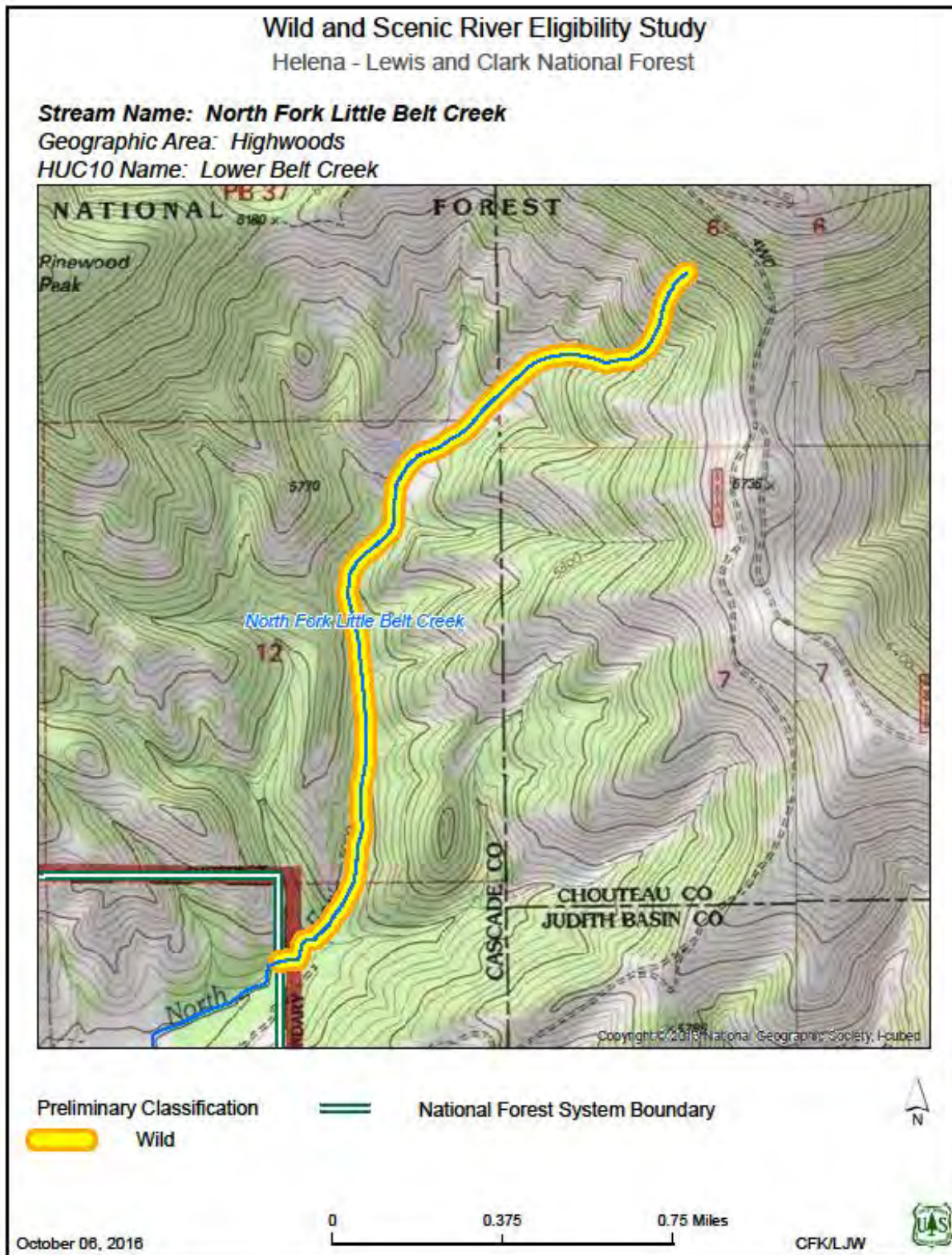
Cottonwood Creek

Cottonwood Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From Forest Boundary to headwaters
Miles of each segment	2.5 miles
Potential Classification	Scenic
Location	Geographic area: Highwoods HUC 10: Upper Arrow Creek (1004010206) Beginning Point:
County(ies)	Chouteau County
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	The largest, most intact Westslope cutthroat trout population within the entire Arrow Creek river system.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



North Fork Little Belt Creek

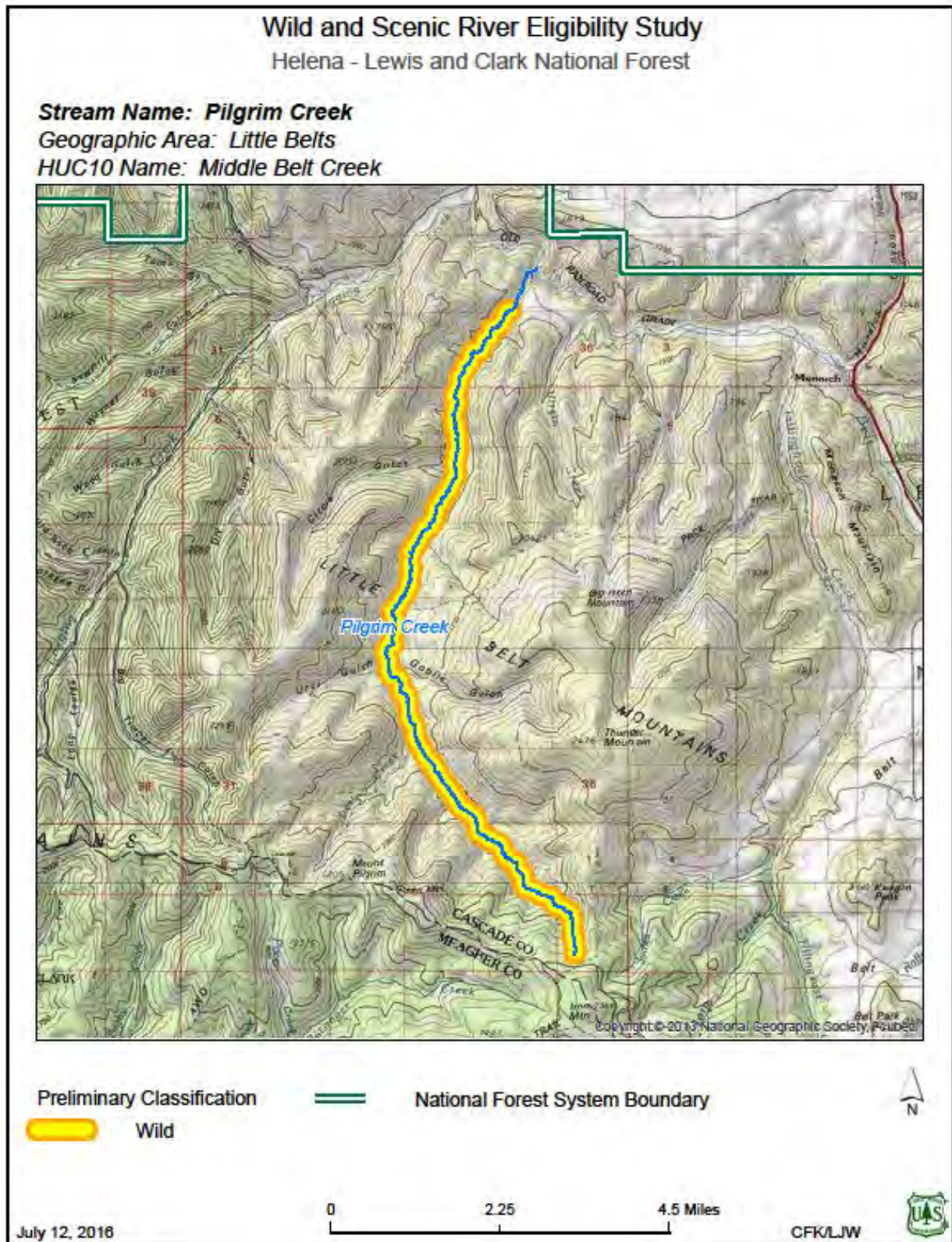
North Fork Little Belt Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS Boundary to headwaters
Miles of each segment	2.1 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Highwoods HUC 10: Lower Belt Creek (100301030) Beginning Point:
County(ies)	Cascade County
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	The most intact and secure Westslope cutthroat trout population within the Little Belt Creek and the lower portion of the Belt Creek drainage.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



Little Belt Mountains Geographic Area

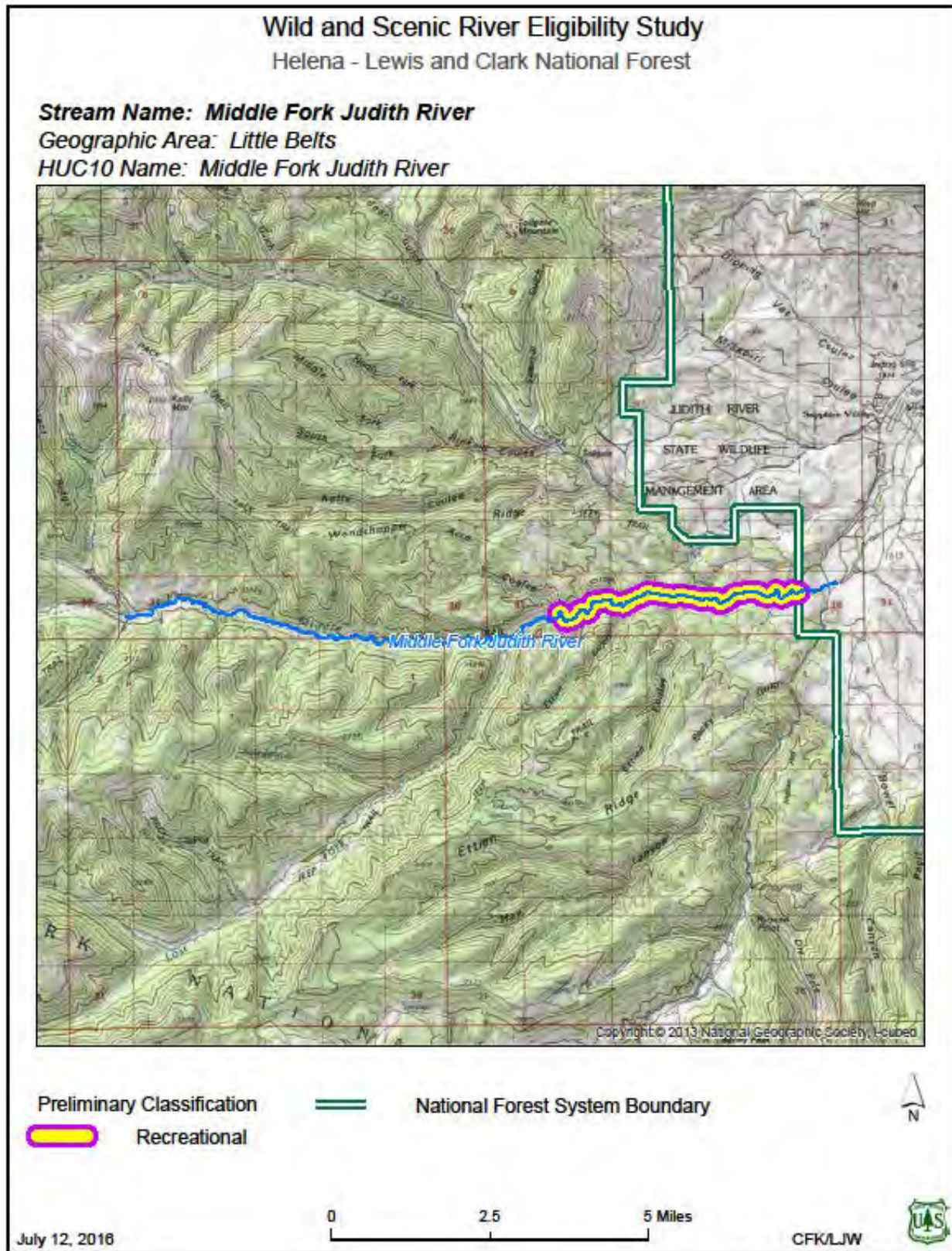
Pilgrim Creek

Pilgrim Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From cascade fish barrier (north end of Section 35) to headwaters.
Miles of each segment	10.7 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Little Belt Mountains HUC 10: Middle Belt Creek Beginning Point: T 16N R6E Section 26
County(ies)	Cascade
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Most productive and largest population of pure westslope cutthroat trout in this section of Belt Creek.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



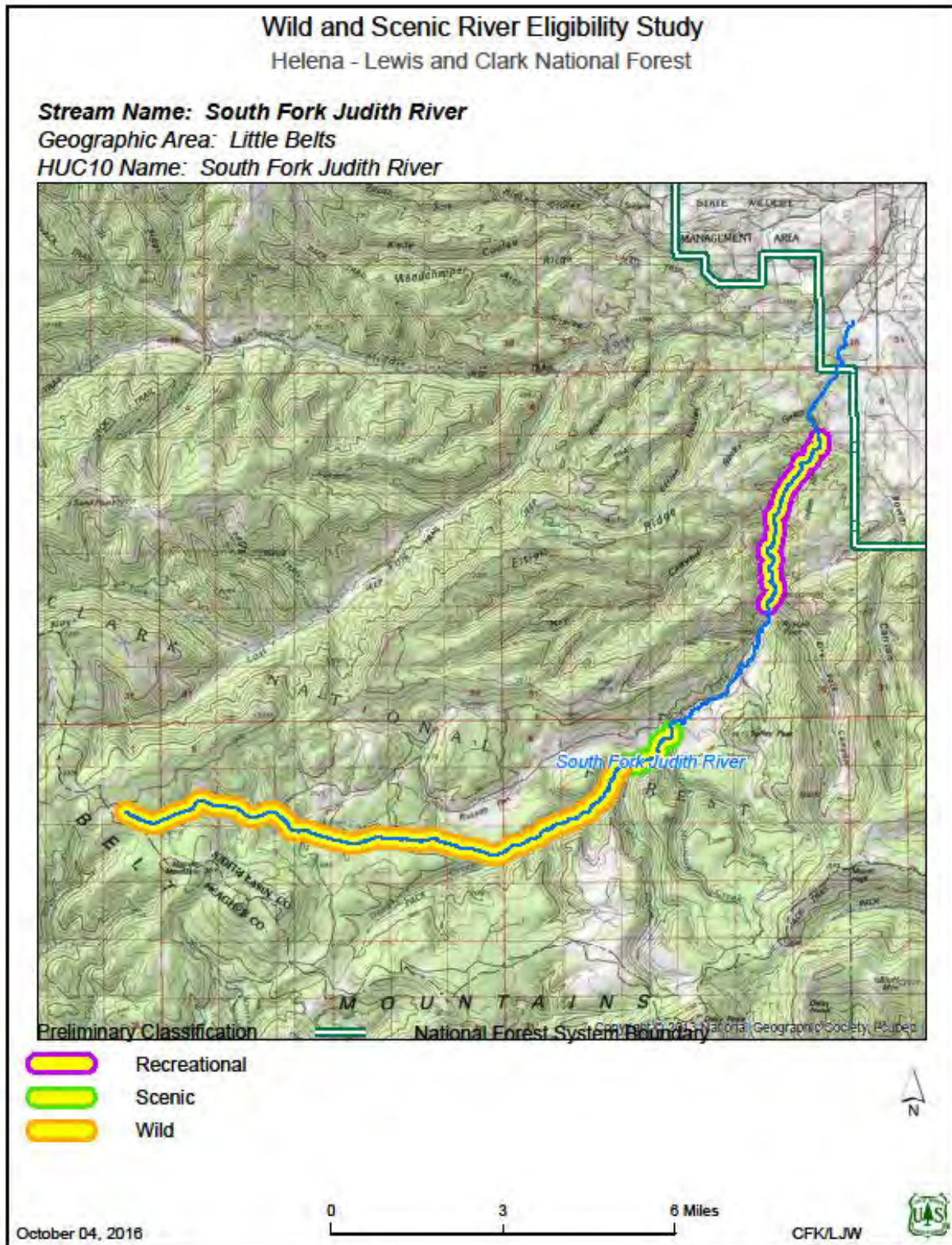
Middle Fork Judith River

Middle Fork Judith River	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to Big Arch Coulee.
Miles of each segment	4.7 miles
Potential Classification	Recreational
Location	Geographic area: Little Belt Mountains HUC 10: Middle Fork Judith River Beginning Point: T13N R11E between Section 35 and 36
County(ies)	Judith Basin
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	Nine recorded historic properties within this stretch of river have been recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The sites represent a site type which is no longer common, and form a complex of similar site-types. The sites possess the potential to yield significant information; therefore, presenting the opportunity to ask a variety of research questions. The Judith Guard Station is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and has the strong potential for public interpretation. All known historic properties possess an integral relationship to the Middle Fork Judith River.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



South Fork Judith River

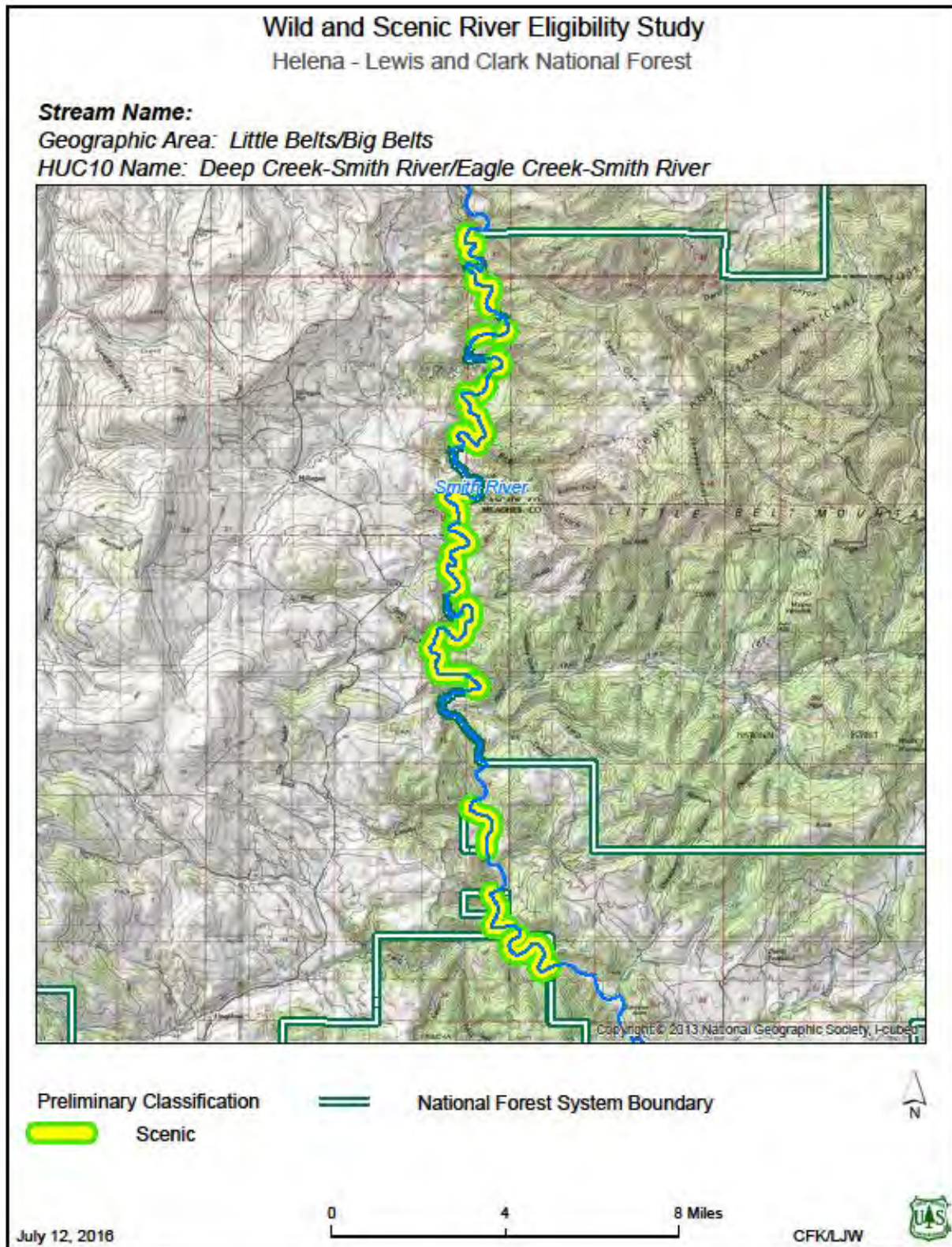
South Fork Judith River	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish, Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	Segment 1 – From Bower Creek to Dry Pole Creek Segment 2 – From Bluff Creek to Cabin Creek Segment 3 – From Cabin Creek to headwaters
Miles of each segment	Segment 1: 3.6 miles Segment 2: 1.3 miles Segment 3: 10.0 miles
Potential Classification	Segment 1: Recreation Segment 2: Scenic Segment 3: Wild
Location	Geographic area: Little Belt Mountains HUC 10: South Fork Judith river Beginning Point: T13N R11E Section 36
County(ies)	Judith Basin
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Second longest, contiguous westslope cutthroat trout populations east of the Continental Divide for both segments.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	There is a high concentration of cultural sites along both Segments. These sites offer excellent examples of culture use of travel routes, river terraces, and occupation sites close to waterways. The cowboy artist CM Russell lived, worked and painted in this area.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.

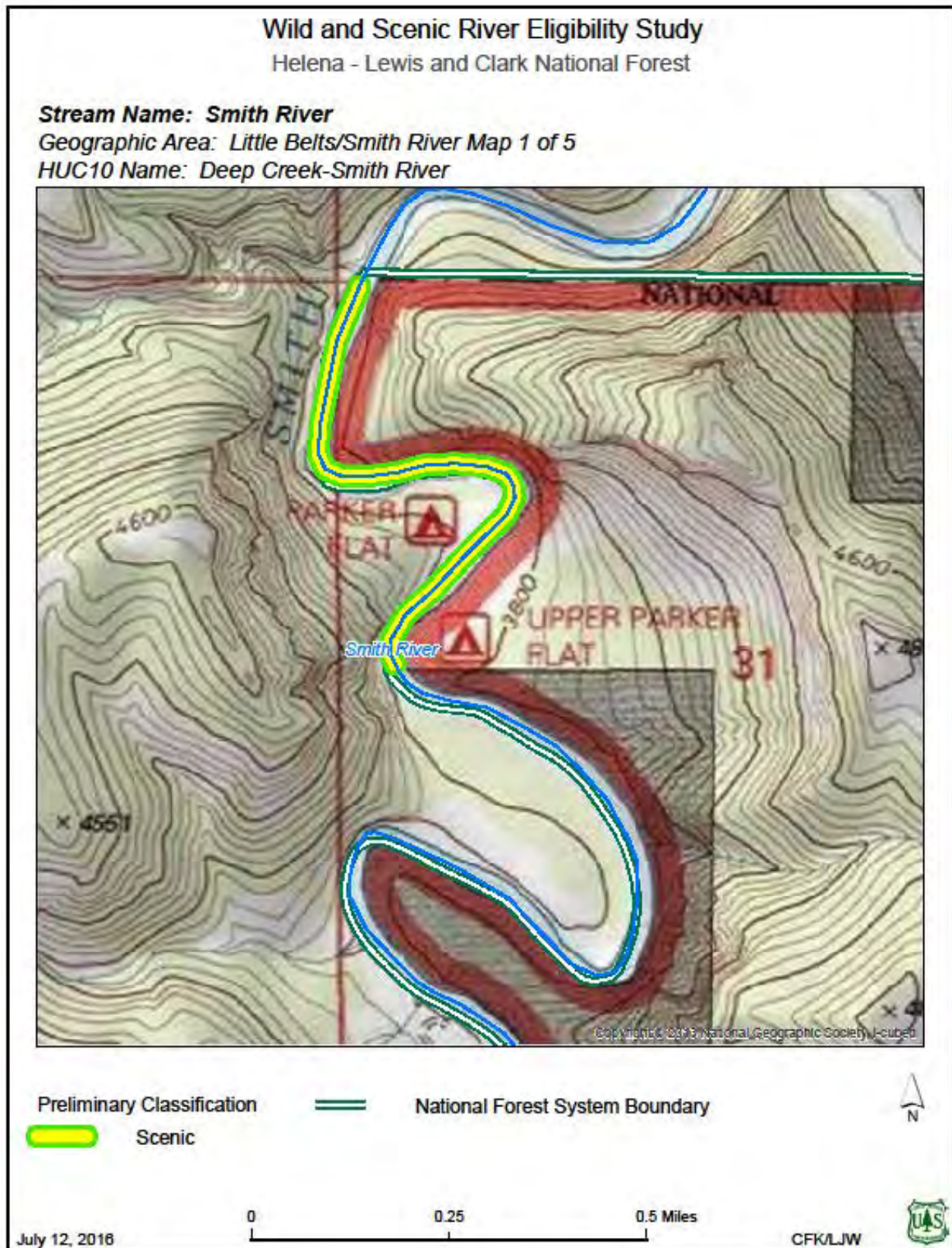


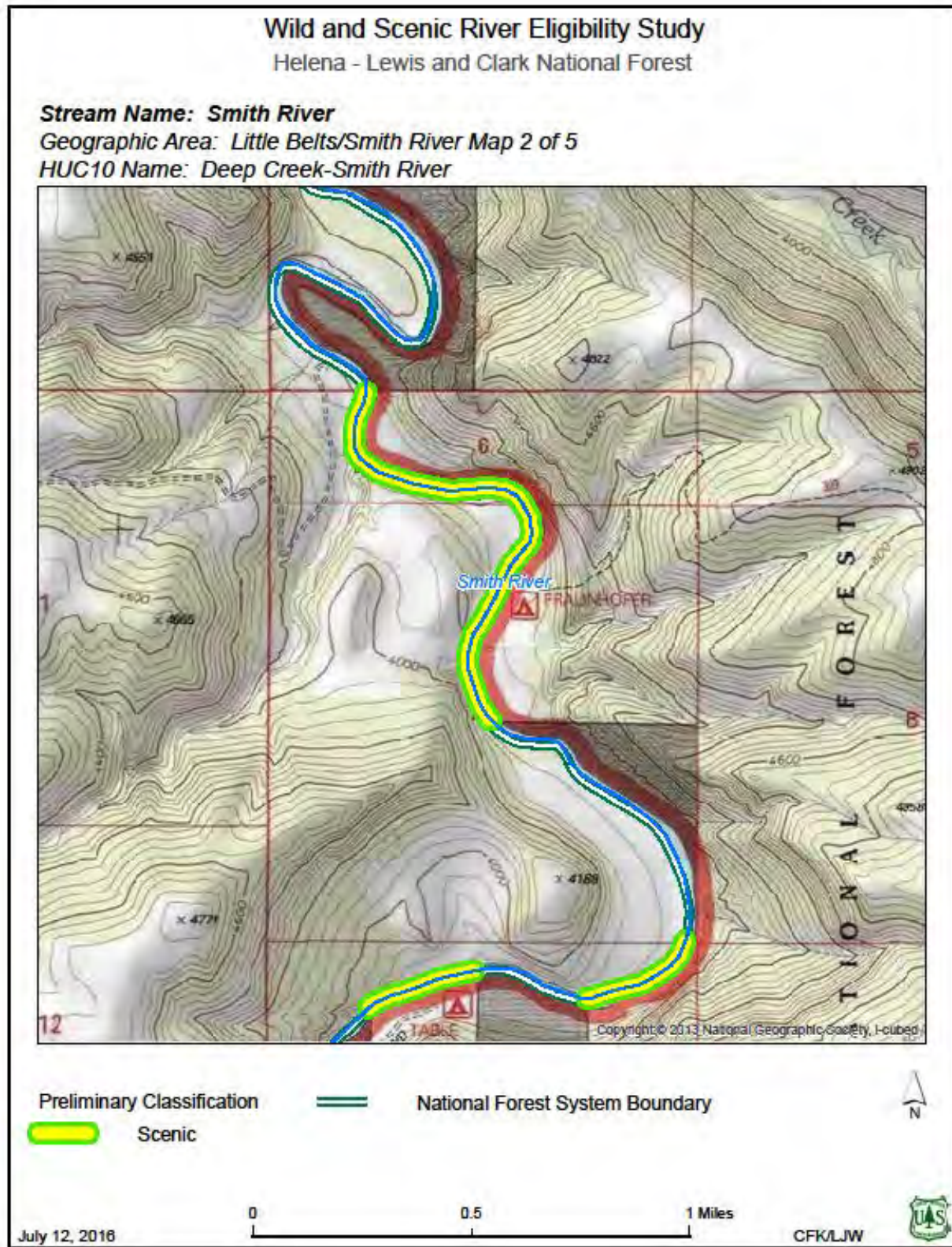
Smith River

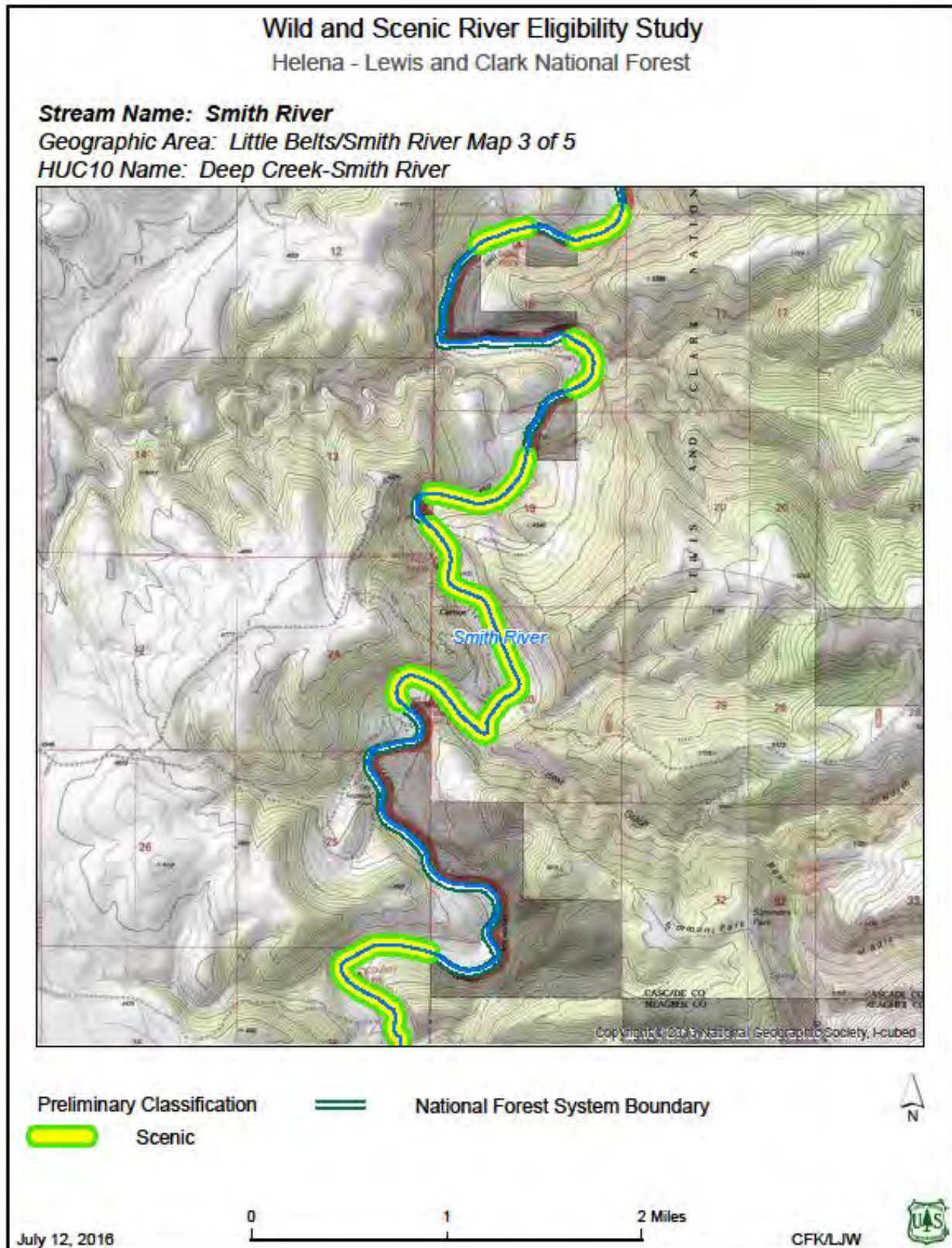
The following section includes a description table and 7 maps. The first map is a general vicinity map of the Smith River followed by 6 maps of all the segments of the river.

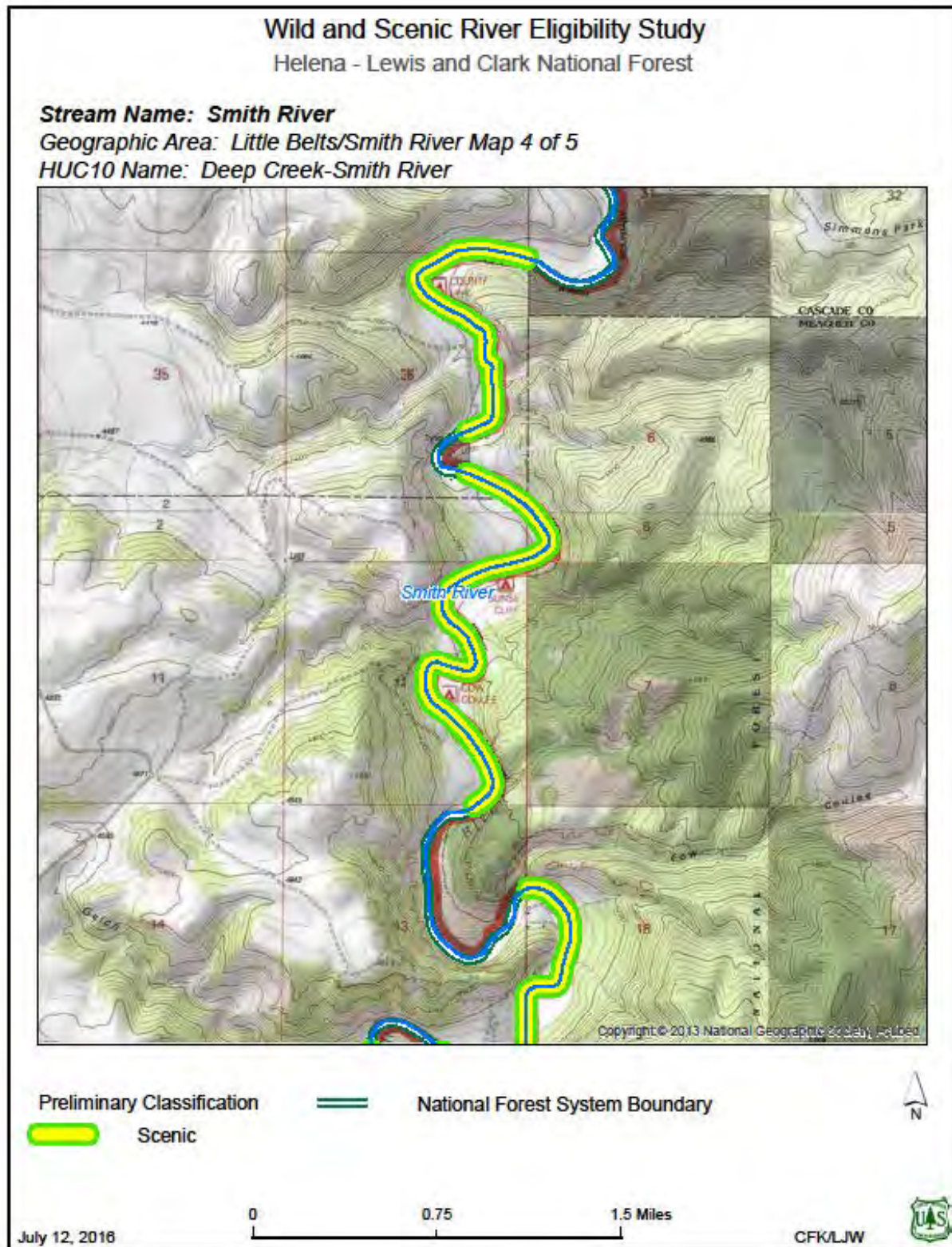
Smith River	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Wildlife, Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	The Smith River is comprised of 14 small segments of Forest Service System lands interspersed with private lands. Only Forest Service System lands are considered for eligibility. See the following maps for details.
Miles of eligible segments	Total segment mileage: 17.1 miles
Potential Classification	For all segments - Scenic
Location	Geographic area: Big Belts/Little Belts HUC 10: Eagle Creek- Smith River/ Deep Creek-Smith River Beginning Point: T16N R4E Section 31
County(ies)	Cascade/Meagher
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	Scenery is tied strongly to the outstanding geology and river setting in the river corridor.
Recreation	Important sport fisheries as people come from across the country to fish here. This is also an important river corridor for floating/camping. Montana FWP has a permit system to regulate numbers of floaters along the river corridor.
Geologic	Spectacular exposures of Madison limestone cliffs. The geology of the Smith River is remarkable because the river cuts "up section" across about 1 billion years of geologic deposition of sedimentary rocks, from the Precambrian Belt Series into the Paleozoic limestones and dolomites, into the Cretaceous shales. These rock sequences occur throughout much of western Montana and into Canada, however, few places are available to see the stratigraphic (layers) section intact. Not to mention the outstanding exposures of the Madison group provide the scenic grey cliffs that are pocked with alcoves and other karst features that are culturally significant.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	Important diversity of raptor nesting. Important as a group.
Cultural	There is a high concentration of cultural sites along both segments. These sites offer excellent examples of culture use of limestone geologic formations highlighting the use of travel routes, river terraces, and occupation sites close to waterways.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.

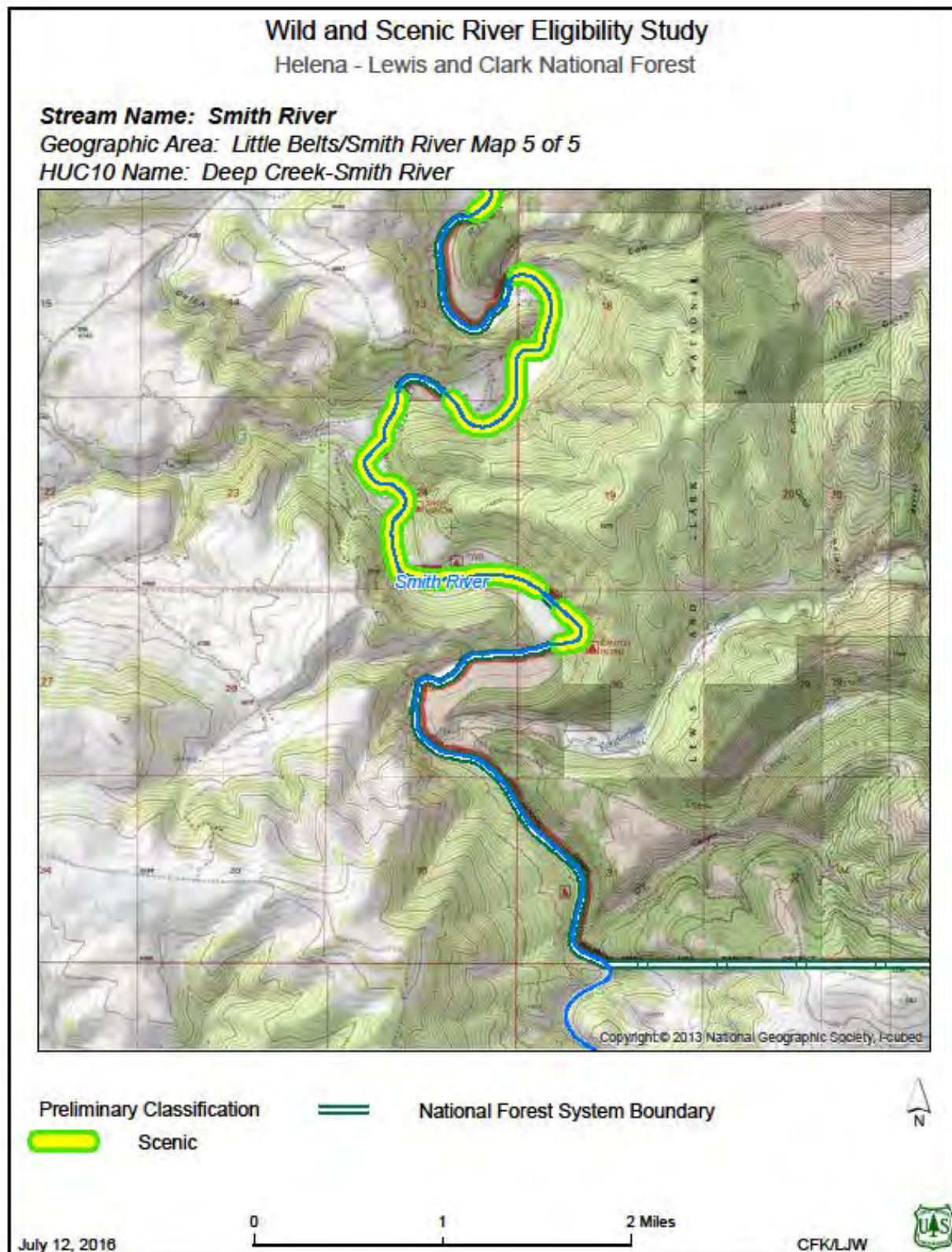


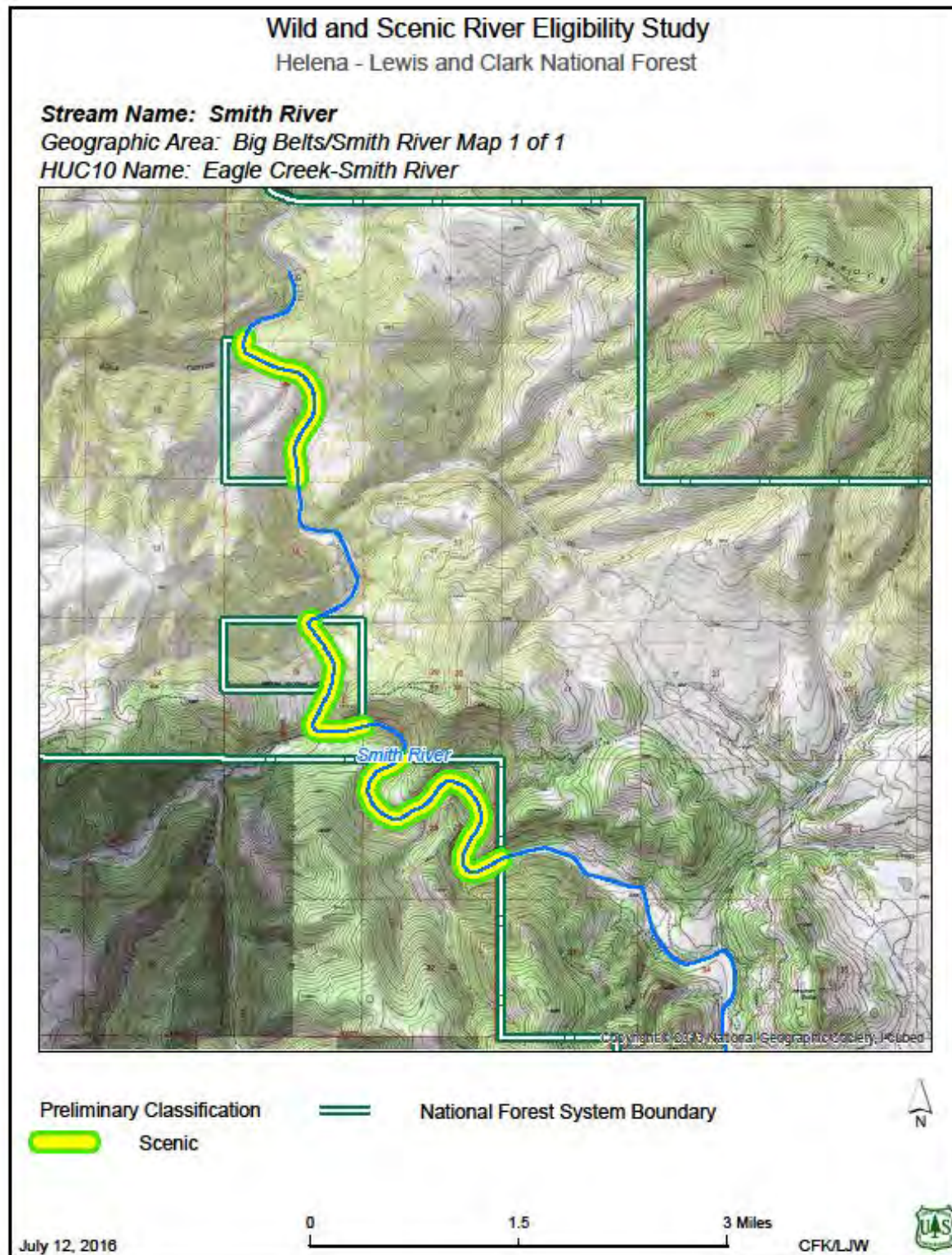












Tenderfoot Creek

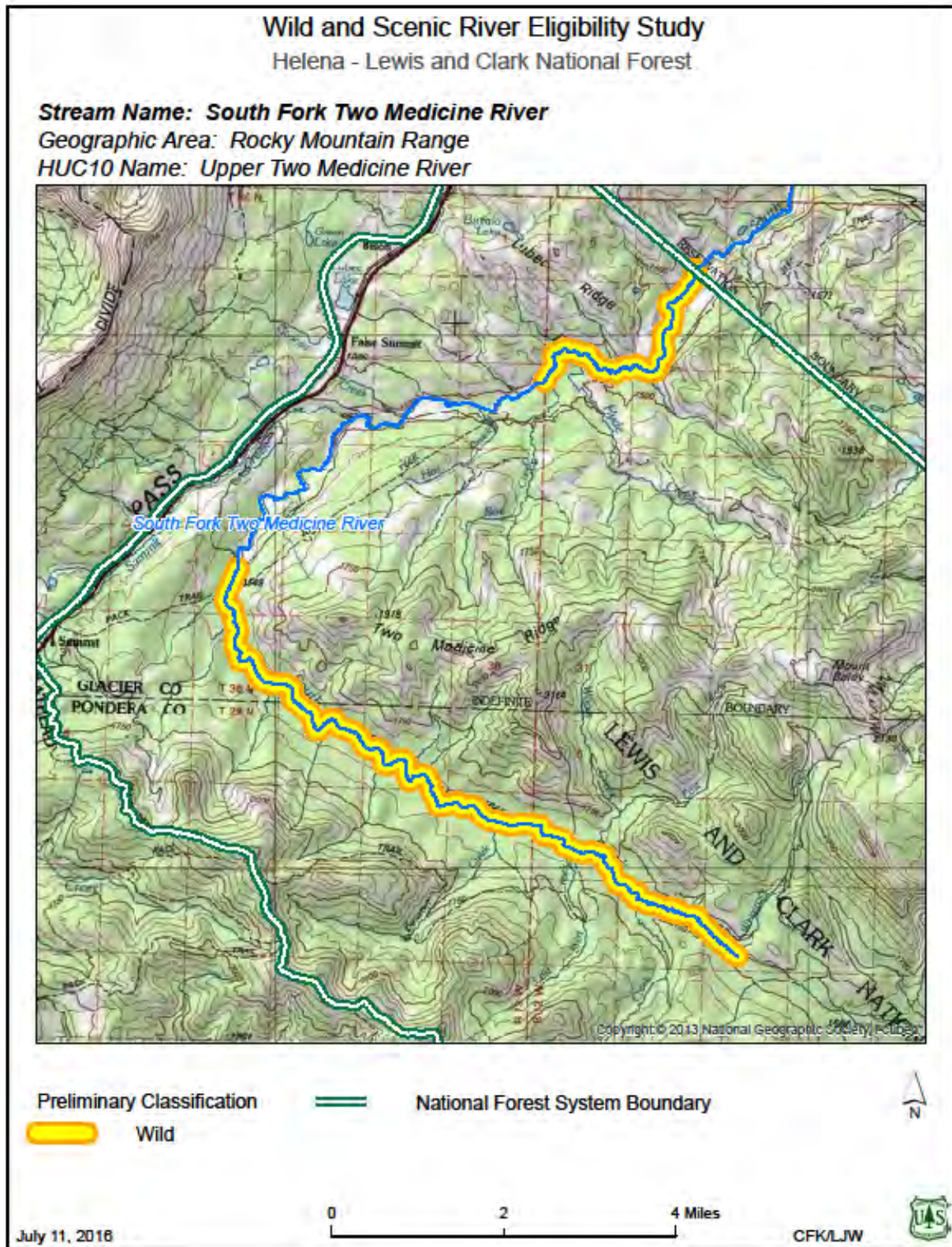
Tenderfoot Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to Iron Mines Creek.
Miles of each segment	21.5 miles
Potential Classification	Scenic
Location	Geographic area: Little Belt Mountains HUC 10: Tenderfoot Creek Beginning Point: T14N R4E Section 30
County(ies)	Meagher
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	Spectacular 20 foot tall waterfall that is very aesthetic.
Recreation	The Tenderfoot Creek area offers exceptional and unique recreational opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, fishing, and camping in a non-motorized, quiet area. The main trail generally follows the stream for most of its length. Tenderfoot Creek also has spectacular waterfalls that are often a focal point for hikers along the trail. Recreational fishing focuses on rainbow trout and whitefish below the waterfall.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Tenderfoot Creek provides a considerable portion of the spawning habitat for the fish in the Smith River. Important spawning habitat for rainbow trout and whitefish below the waterfall. Important habitat for west throat cutthroat trout throughout the drainage.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



Rocky Mountain Range Geographic Area

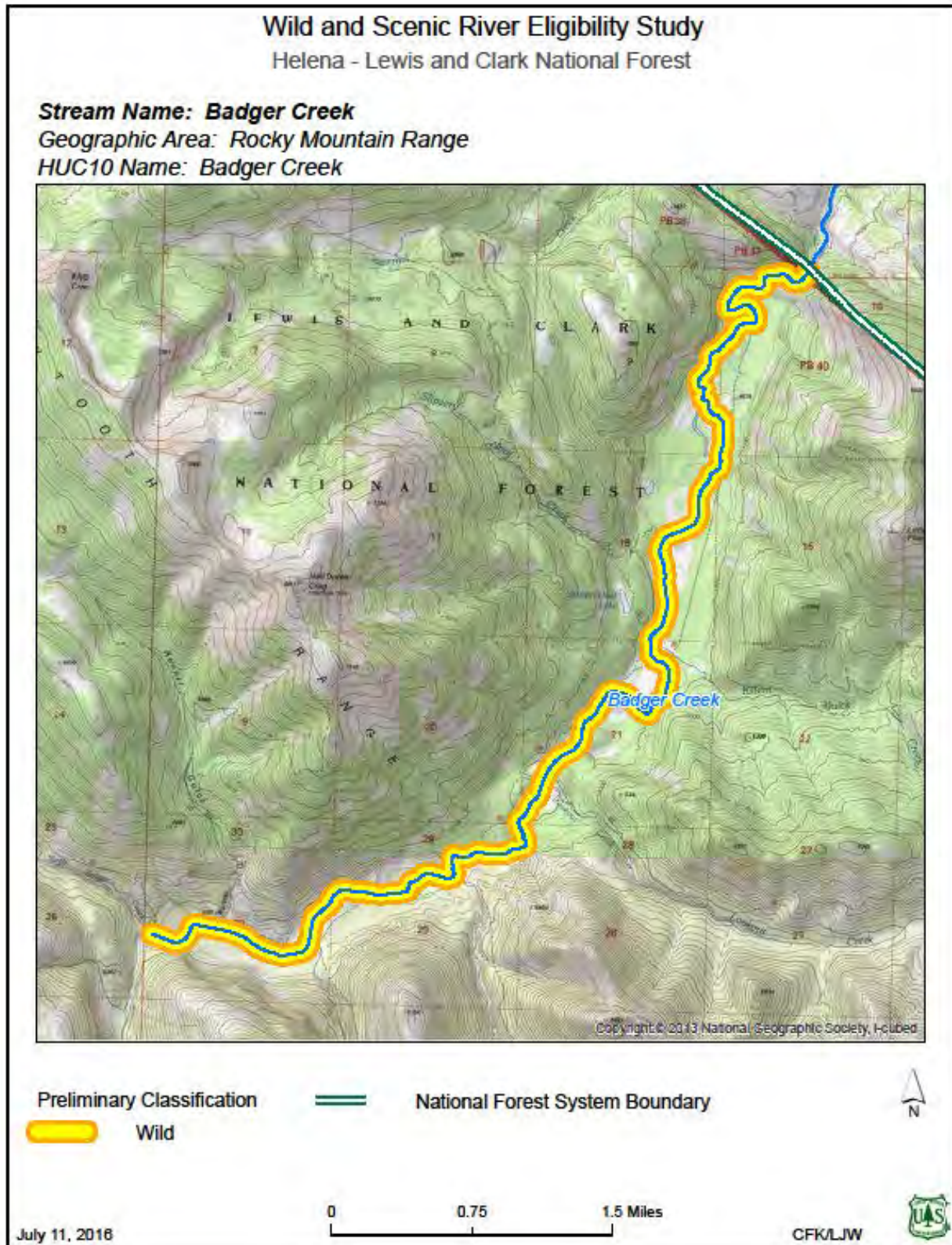
South Fork Two Medicine River

South Fork Two Medicine River	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery, Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	Segment 1 - From FS boundary to Box Creek Segment 2 – From private land boundary to headwaters.
Miles of each segment	Segment 1: 3.4 miles Segment 2: 9.5 miles
Potential Classification	Segment 1 – Wild Segment 2 - Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: Upper Two Medicine River Beginning Point: T30N R12W Section 5
County(ies)	Glacier (Segment 1) /Pondera (Segment 2)
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	Incredible scenery with big canyons and big waterfalls (75 foot).
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Cultural	Located within the Badger Two Medicine Traditional Cultural District. This area holds high importance for the Blackfeet Nation for traditional cultural uses.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV
Natural Other	No ORV



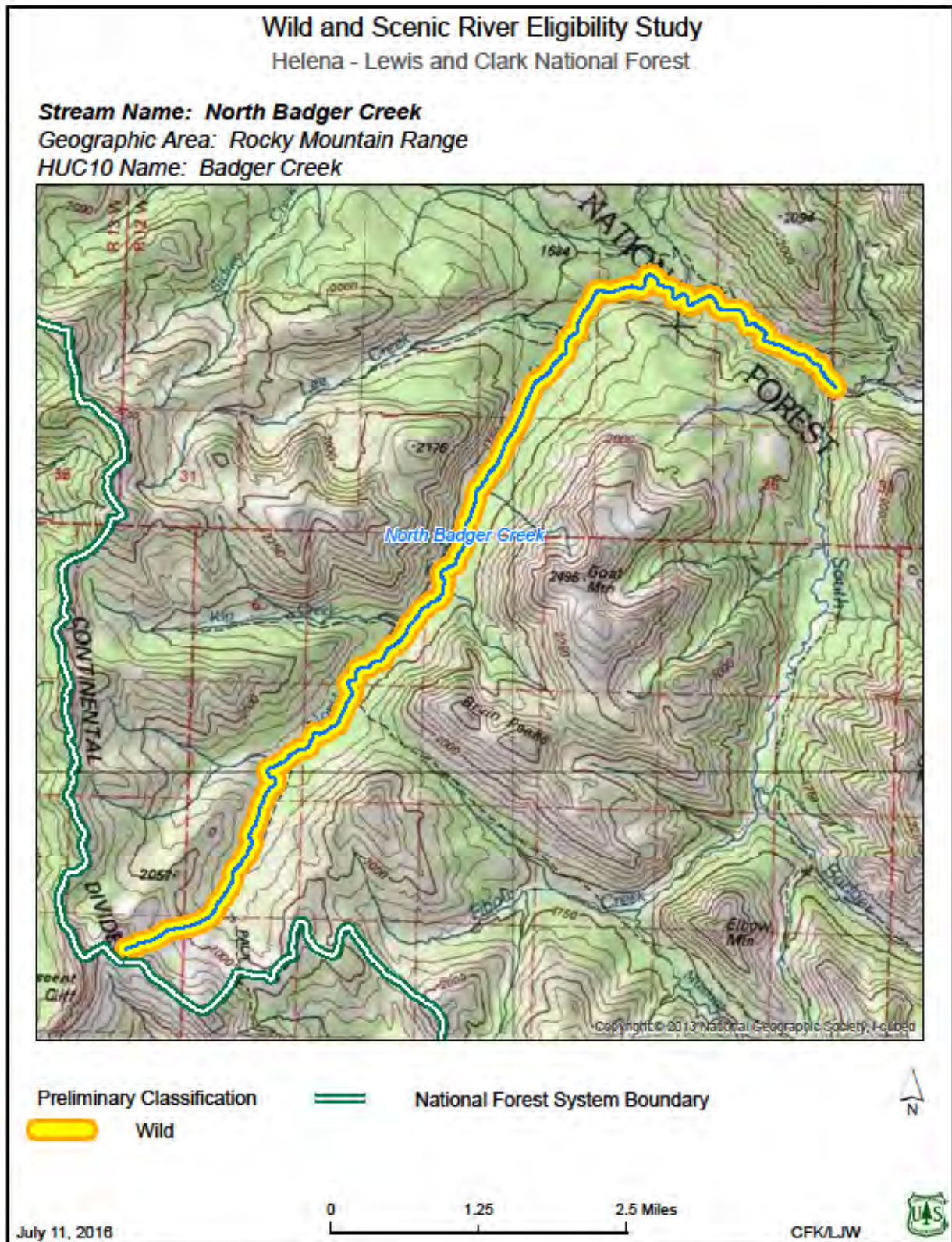
Badger Creek

Badger Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery, Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From the FS boundary to confluence with North and South Badger Creeks.
Miles of each segment	7.2 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: Badger Creek Beginning Point: T29N R11W Section 3
County(ies)	Pondera
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV
Recreation	No ORV
Geologic	No ORV
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Cultural	Located within the Badger Two Medicine Traditional Cultural District. This area holds high importance for the Blackfeet Nation for traditional cultural uses.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV
Natural Other	No ORV



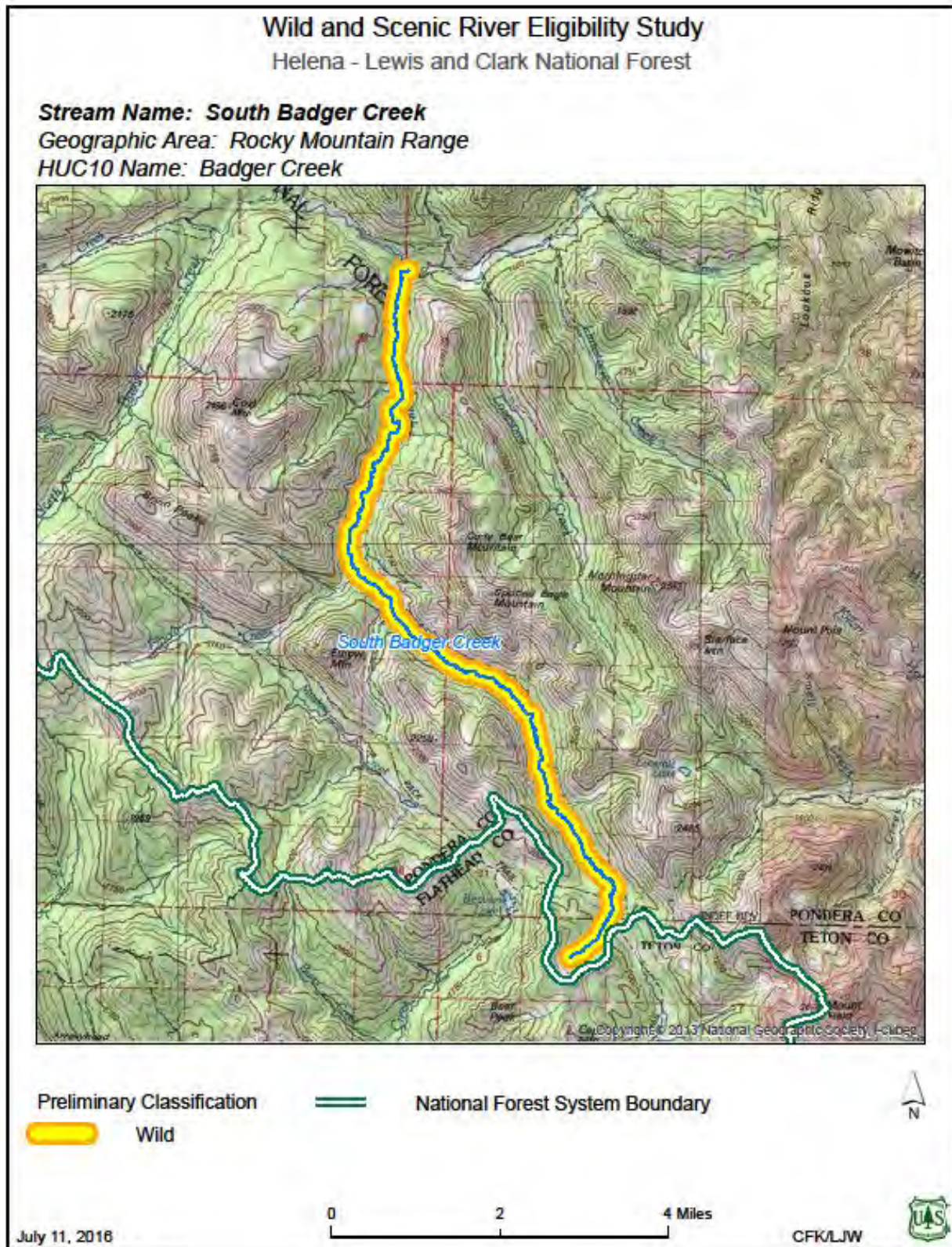
North Badger Creek

North Badger Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From the junction with main Badger and South Badger Creeks to the headwaters.
Miles of each segment	10.4 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: Badger Creek Beginning Point: T29N R12W Section 25
County(ies)	Pondera
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Y/N	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Part of WCT meta- population with North Badger, Badger Cabin, Lee, and Red Poacher Rivers. All of these together form best meta population of pure westslope cutthroat trout on the Rocky Mountain Front.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	Located within the Badger Two Medicine Traditional Cultural District. This area holds high importance for the Blackfeet Nation for traditional cultural uses.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



South Badger Creek

South Badger Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From junction with main Badger and North Badger Creeks to headwaters.
Miles of each segment	10.9 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: Badger Creek Beginning Point: T29N R12W Section 25
County(ies)	Pondera
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	Located within the Badger Two Medicine Traditional Cultural District. This area holds high importance for the Blackfeet Nation for traditional cultural uses.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



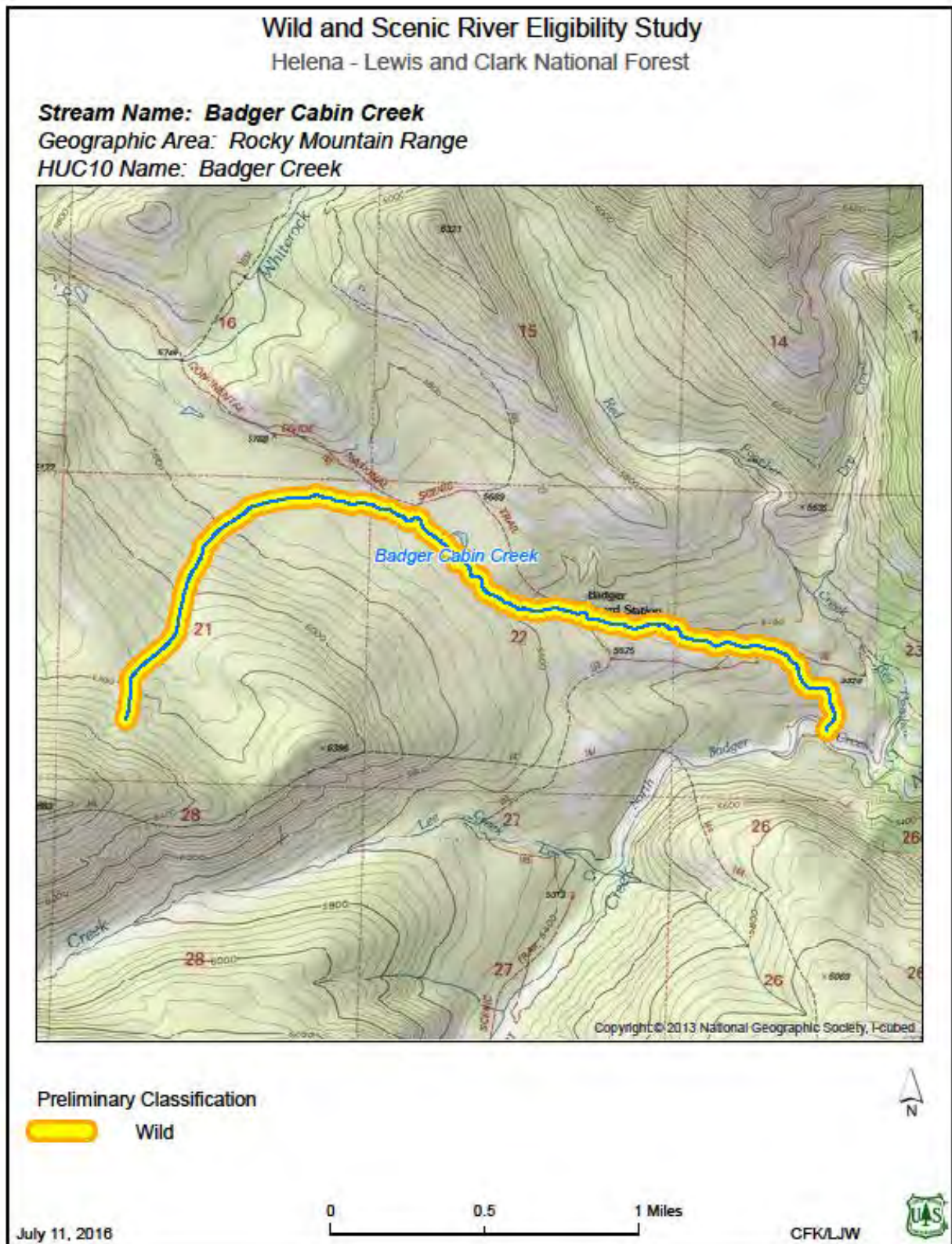
Lee Creek

Lee Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From mouth to the headwaters.
Miles of each segment	4.6 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: Badger Creek Beginning Point: T29N R12W Section 27
County(ies)	Pondera
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Part of a WCT meta- population of fish with North Badger, Badger Cabin, Lee, and Red Poacher Rivers. All of these together form best meta population of pure westslope cutthroat trout on the Rocky Mountain Front.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



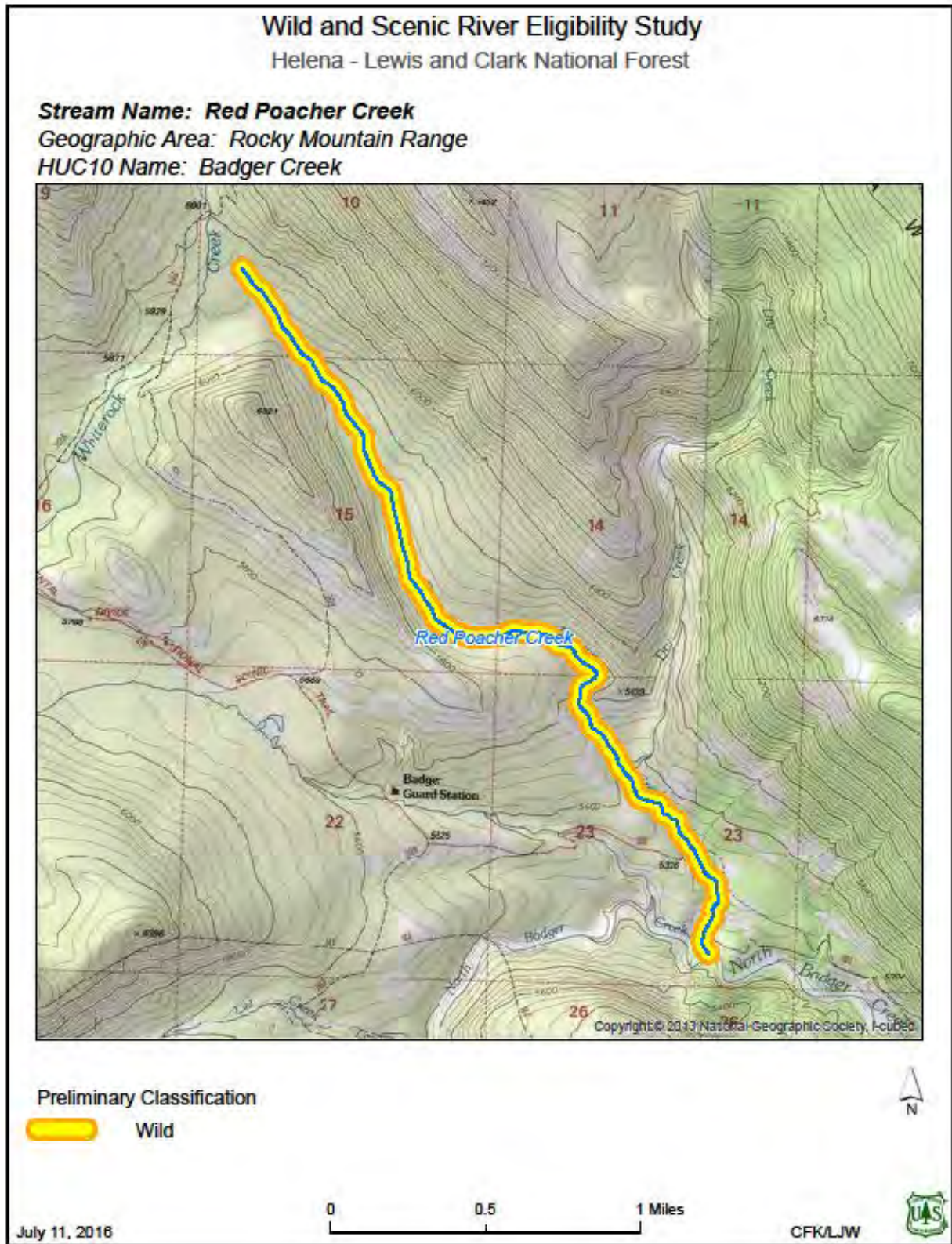
Badger Cabin Creek

Badger Cabin Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From mouth to headwaters.
Miles of each segment	3.2 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: Badger Creek Beginning Point: T29N R12W Section 23
County(ies)	Pondera
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Part of WCT meta- population with North Badger, Badger Cabin, Lee, and Red Poacher Rivers. All of these together form best meta population of pure westslope cutthroat trout on the Rocky Mountain Front.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



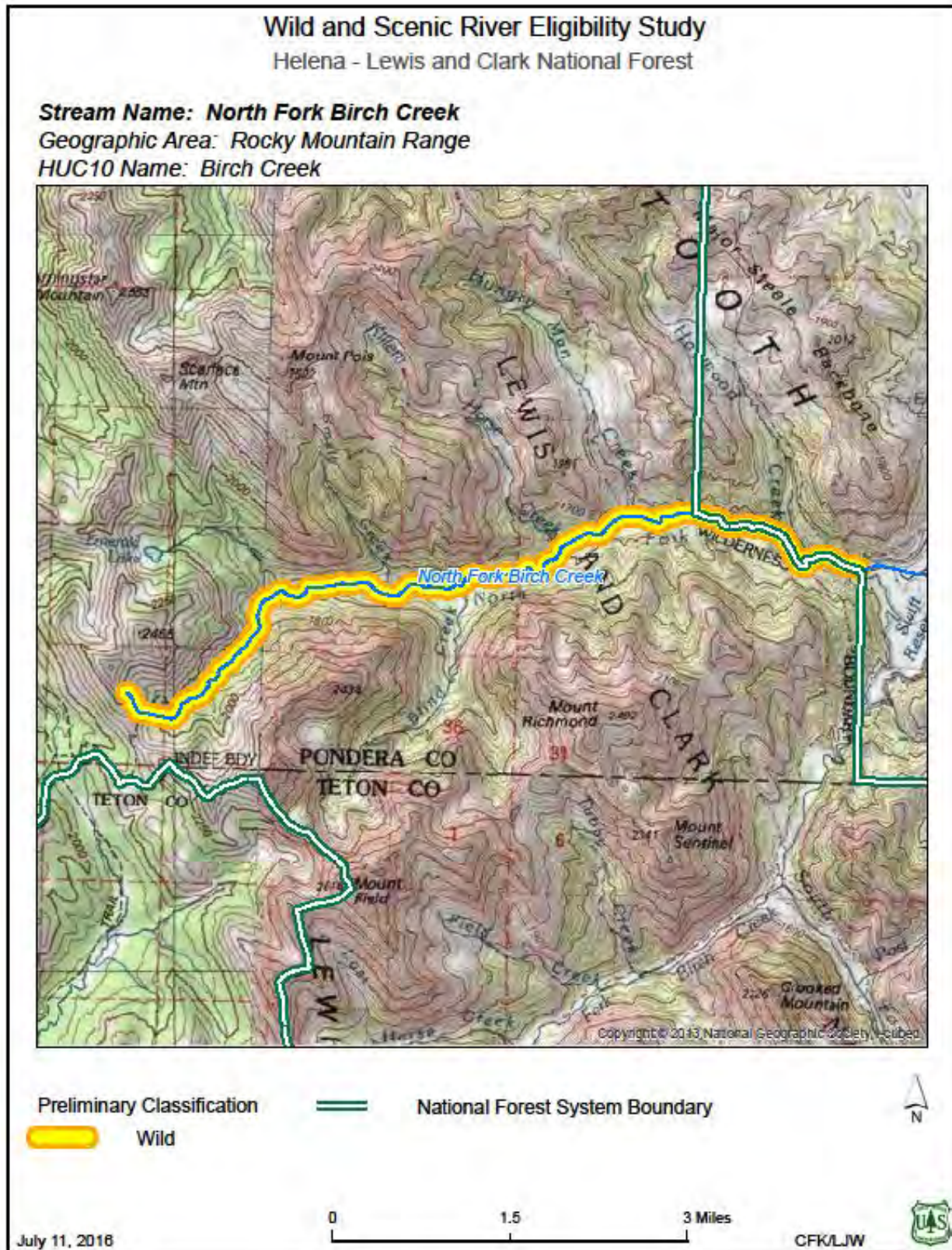
Red Poacher Creek

Red Poacher Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From confluence with North Badger Creek to headwaters.
Miles of each segment	3.1 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: Badger Creek Beginning Point: T29N R12W Section 23
County(ies)	Pondera
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Part of meta- population with North Badger, Badger Cabin, Lee, and Red Poacher Rivers. All of these together form best meta population of pure westslope cutthroat trout on the Rocky Mountain Front.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



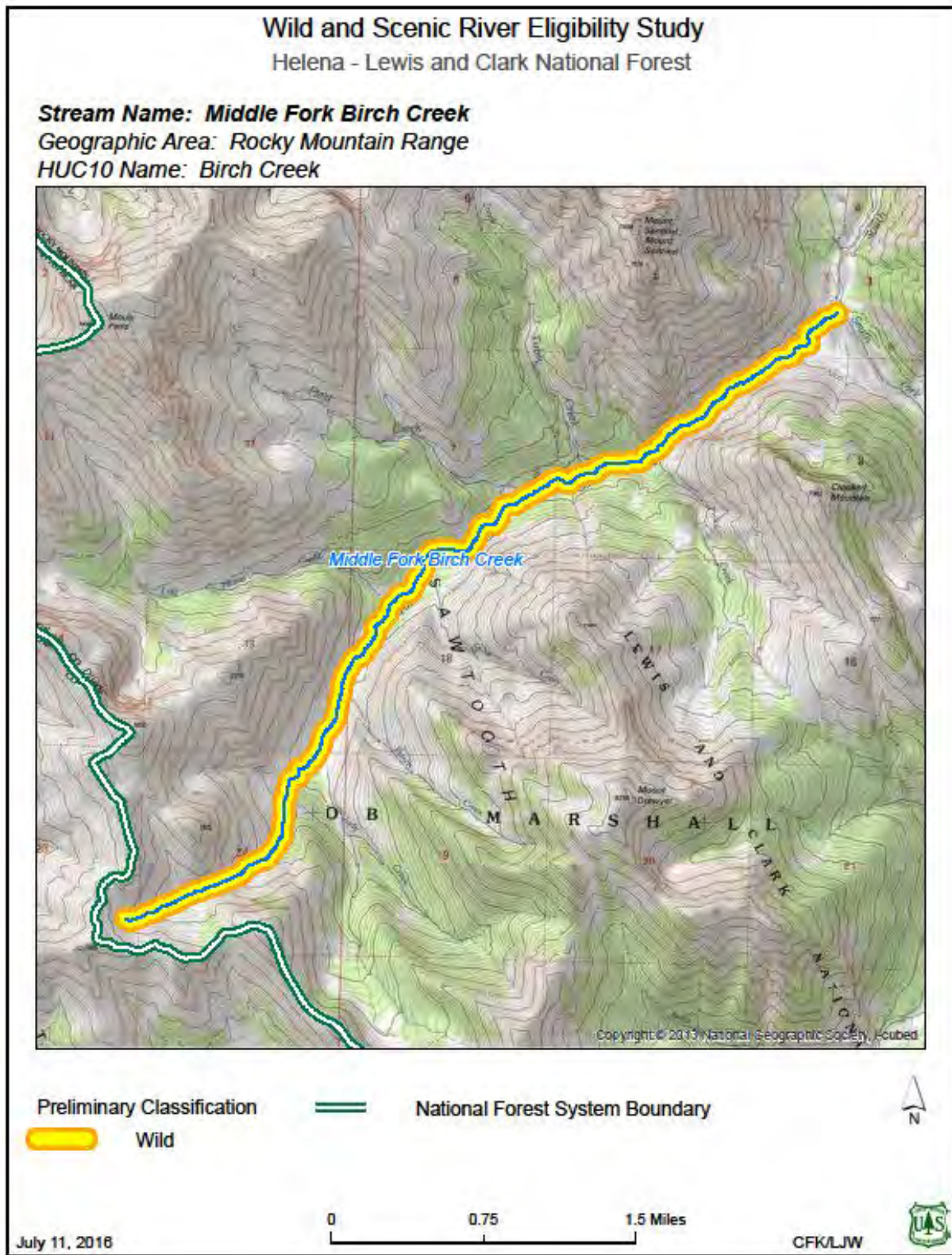
North Fork Birch Creek

North Fork Birch Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery, Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to headwaters.
Miles of each segment	7.8 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: Birch Creek Beginning Point: T28N R10W Section 27
County(ies)	Pondera
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	Located within the Badger Two Medicine Traditional Cultural District. This area holds high importance for the Blackfeet Nation for traditional cultural uses.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



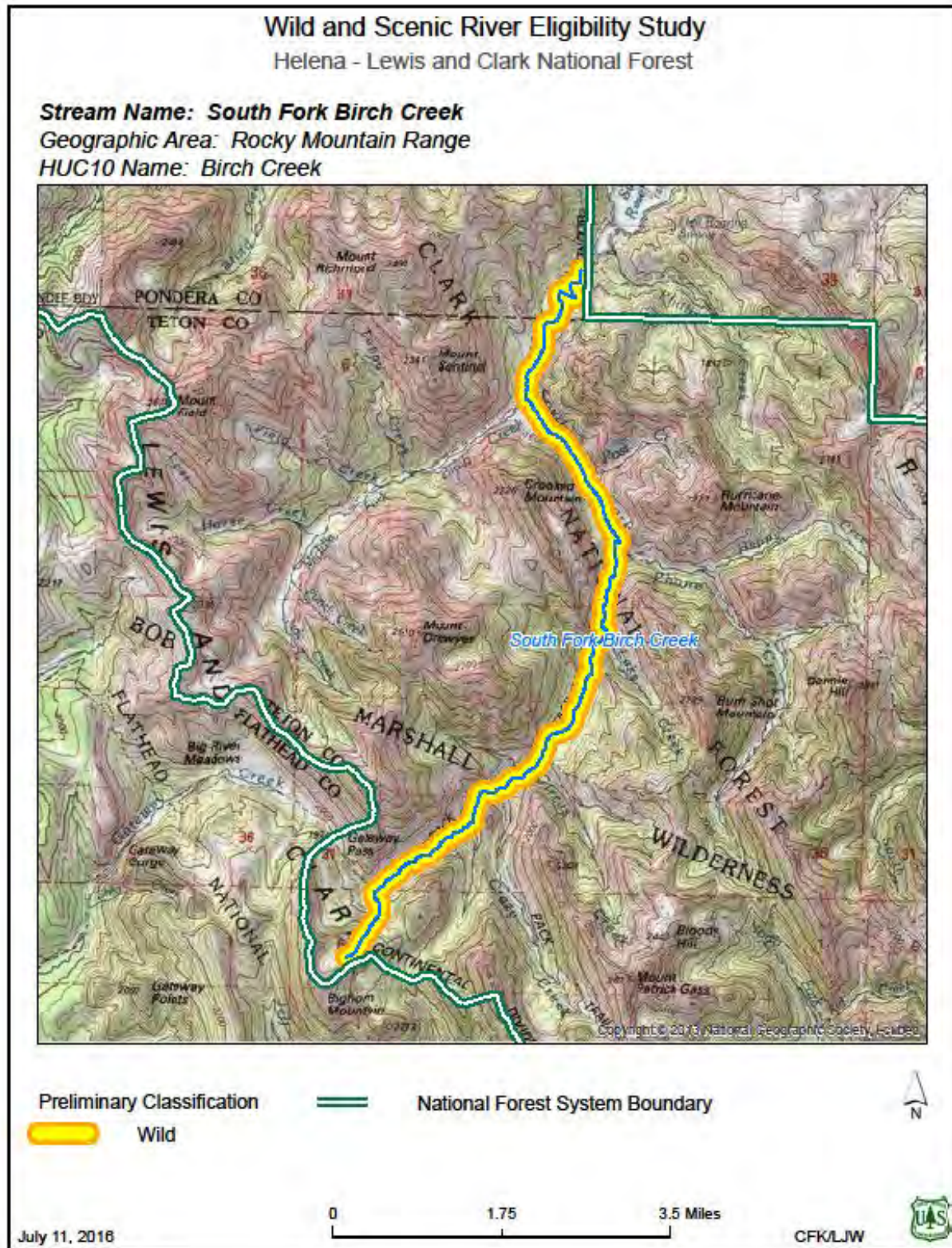
Middle Fork Birch Creek

Middle Fork Birch Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery, Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From confluence to the headwaters.
Miles of each segment	5.2 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: Birch Creek Beginning Point: T27N R10W Section 4
County(ies)	Teton
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	Beautiful waterfalls.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	No ORV
Cultural	Located within the Badger Two Medicine Traditional Cultural District. This area holds high importance for the Blackfeet Nation for traditional cultural uses.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV
Natural Other	No ORV



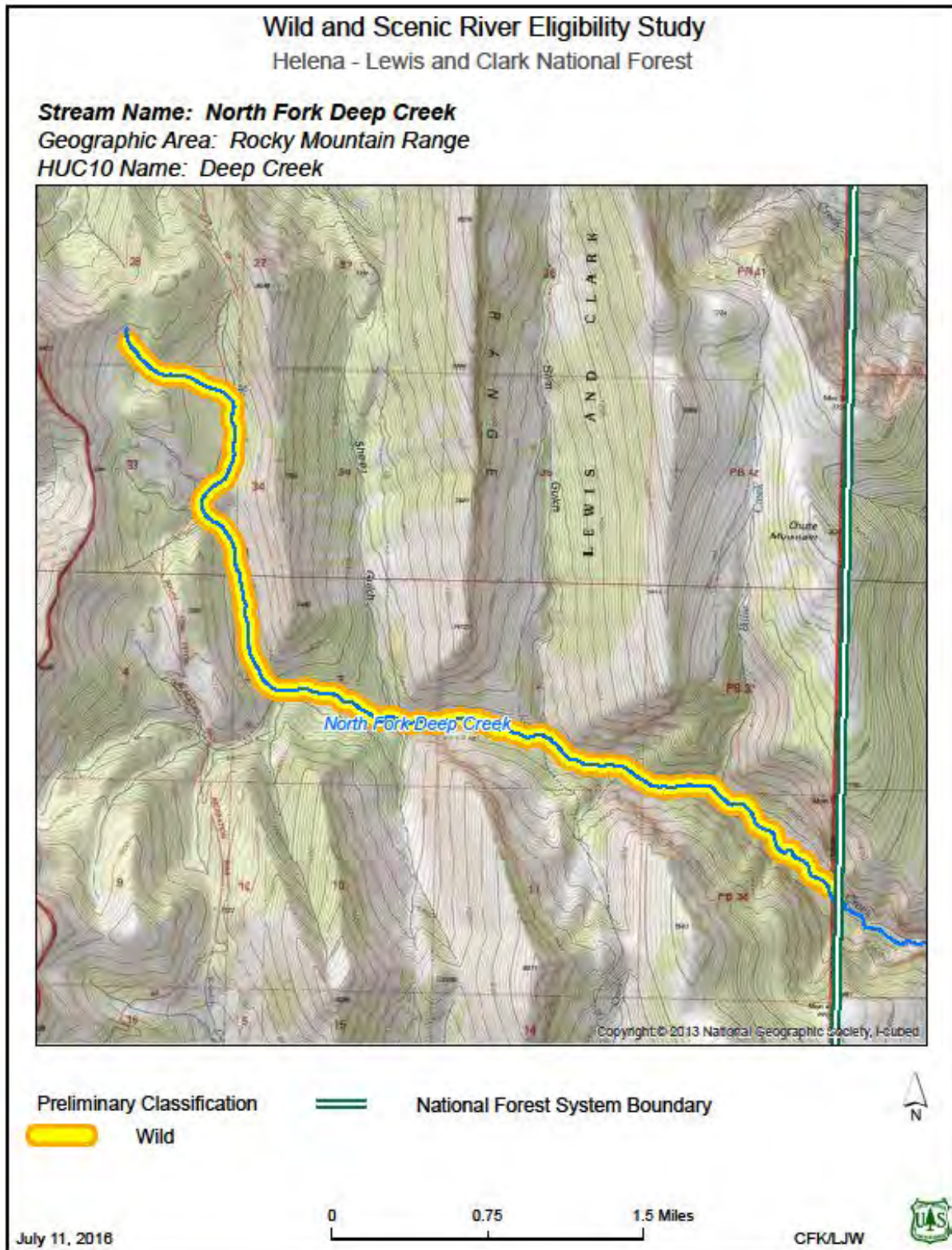
South Fork Birch Creek

South Fork Birch Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery, Recreation, Fish, Wildlife, Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to headwaters
Miles of each segment	9.8 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: Birch Creek Beginning Point: T28N R10W Section 33
County(ies)	Teton
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	Compressed canyon with falls, pools, waterfalls, caves, and cliffs.
Recreation	One of the primary routes to the Chinese Wall within the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Receives a considerable amount of international interest and use.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	Populations of pure westslope cutthroat trout which is protected by waterfalls. One of the most secure populations east of the continental divide. Potential long-term source population.
Wildlife	Harlequin duck breeding, most important duck habitat in region, one of five key breeding streams on the Forest
Cultural	Located within the Badger Two Medicine Traditional Cultural District. This area holds high importance for the Blackfeet Nation for traditional cultural uses.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



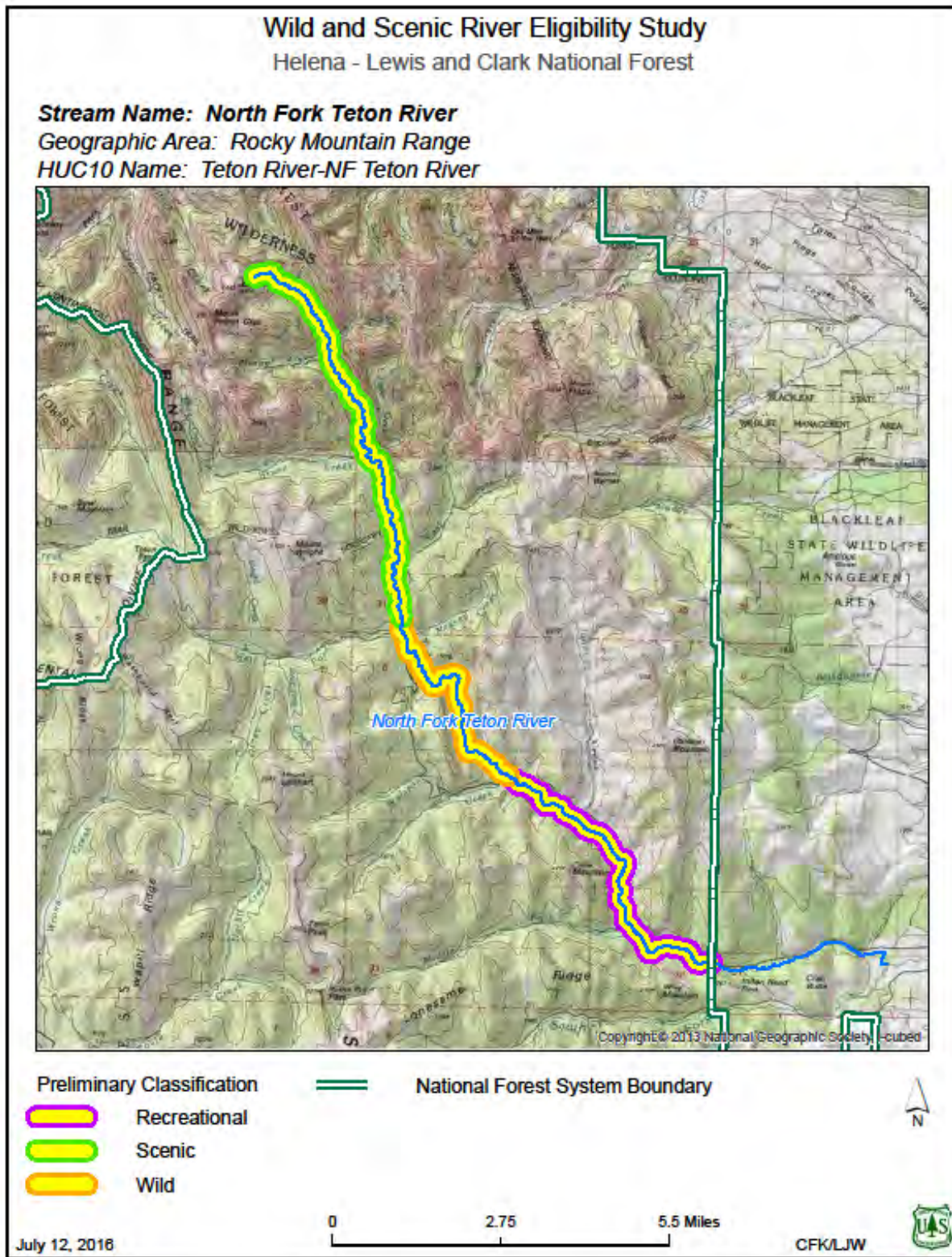
North Fork Deep Creek

North Fork Deep Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to headwater.
Miles of each segment	5.3 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: Deep Creek Beginning Point: T23N R9W Section 12
County(ies)	Teton
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	Scenery is dominated by a limestone canyon with steep sides that drop down to the river bottom.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



North Fork Teton River

North Fork Teton River	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Scenery, and Fishery
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	Segment 1: From FS Boundary to road crossing above Elko Campground (bottom of the box canyon) Segment 2: from road crossing to West Fork Campground (through the box canyon) Segment 3: from West Fork Campground to headwaters
Miles of each segment	Segment 1: 5.5 miles Segment 2: 4.1 miles Segment 3: 7.6 miles
Potential Classification	Segment 1: Recreational Segment 2: Wild Segment 3: Scenic
Location	Geographic area: RM Range HUC 10: Teton River-NF Teton River (1003020501) Beginning Point:
County(ies)	Teton County
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	Exceptional scenery through the box canyon.
Recreation	Recreational floating through the box canyon.
Geologic	No ORV
Fisheries	This meta-population is slightly hybridized. However, it is over 95% pure and is also the strongest WCT population within the entire Teton River drainage. As a meta-population, it is highly productive, at least within the main stem segments. There are fisheries ORVs in all three segments.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



Middle Fork North Fork Teton River

Middle Fork North Fork Teton River	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From the confluence with North Fork Teton River to headwaters
Miles of each segment	6.8 miles
Potential Classification	Scenic
Location	Geographic area: RM Range HUC 10: Teton River-NF Teton River (1003020501) Beginning Point:
County(ies)	Teton County
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV
Geologic	No ORV
Fisheries	This meta-population is slightly hybridized. However, it is over 95% pure and is also the strongest WCT population within the entire Teton River drainage. As a meta-population, it is highly productive, at least within the main stem segments.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



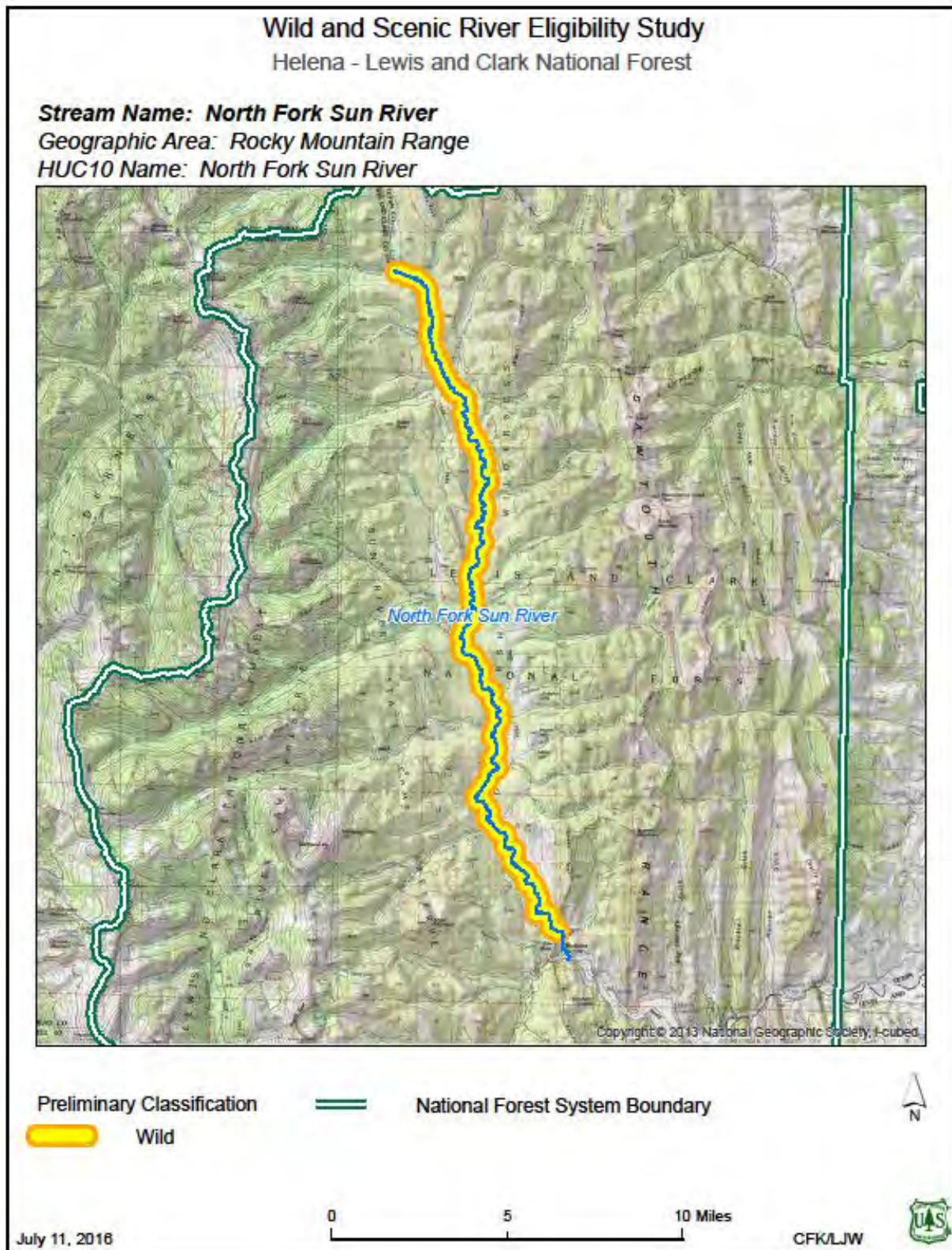
Waldron Creek

Waldron Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From the confluence with North Fork Teton River to headwaters
Miles of each segment	4.3 miles
Potential Classification	Recreational
Location	Geographic area: RM Range HUC 10: Teton River-NF Teton River (1003020501) Beginning Point:
County(ies)	Teton County
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV
Geologic	No ORV
Fisheries	This meta-population is slightly hybridized. However, it is over 95% pure and is also the strongest WCT population within the entire Teton River drainage. As a meta-population, it is highly productive, at least within the main stem segments.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



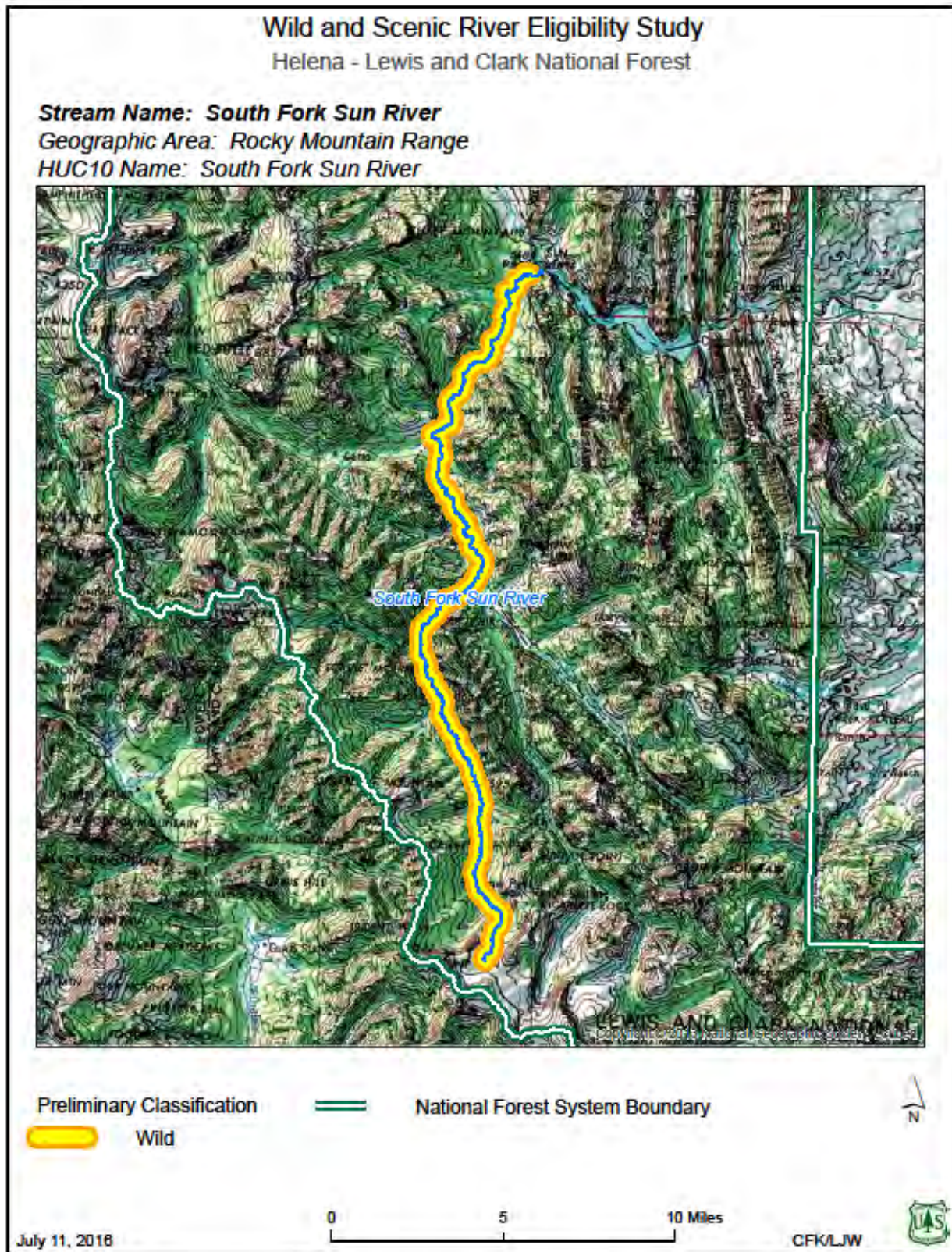
North Fork Sun River

North Fork Sun River	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery, Recreation
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From wilderness boundary to the headwaters.
Miles of each segment	26.2 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: N Fork Sun River Beginning Point: T22N R10W Section 26
County(ies)	Teton
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	Large, broad valley, ringed by peaks and panoramic views.
Recreation	The North Fork of the Sun River is one of the core drainages of Bob Marshall wilderness. Hunting is the primary recreation activity; however, the area is very popular for wildlife viewing, wilderness camping and fishing as well.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	No ORV
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



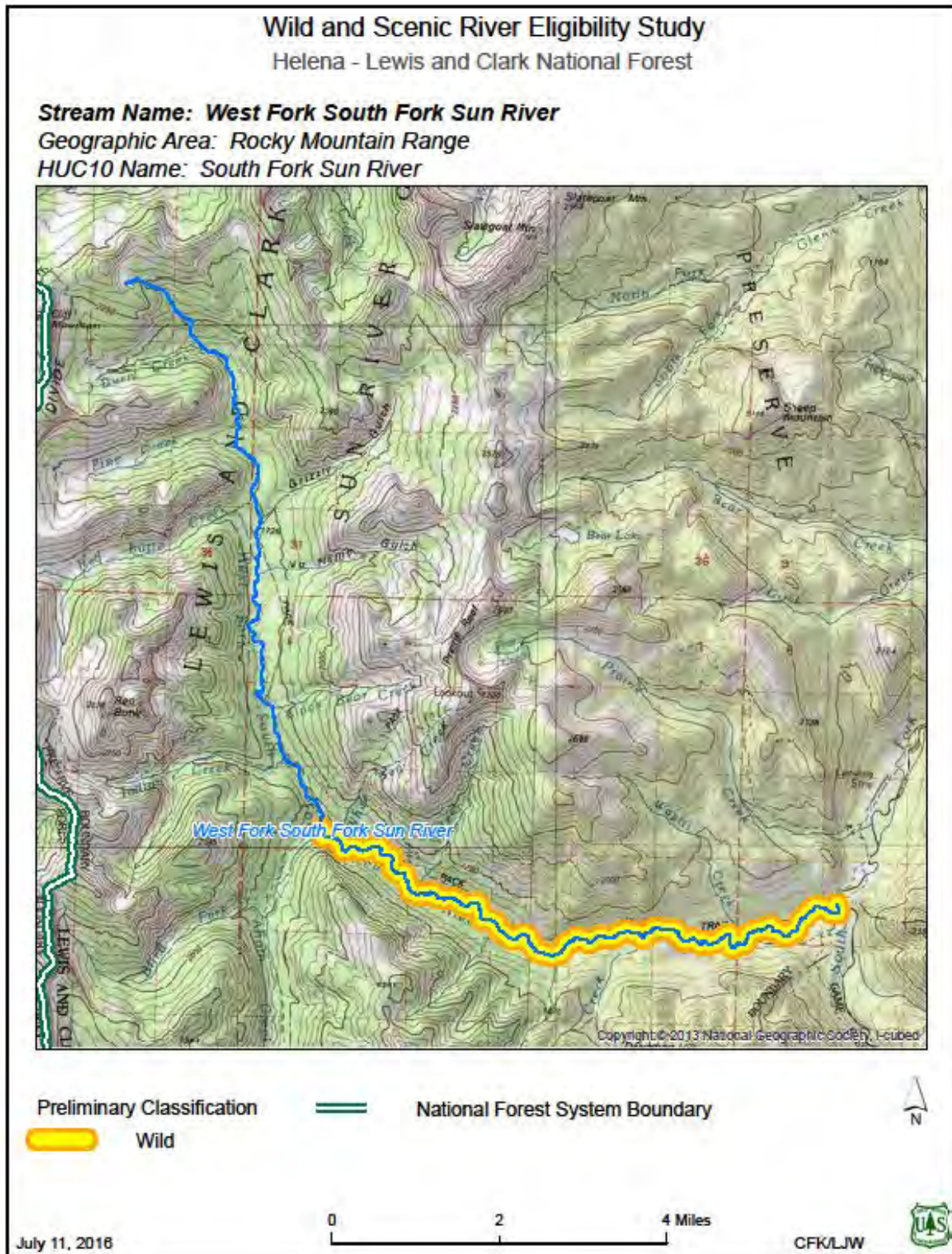
South Fork Sun River

South Fork Sun River	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Wildlife
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From wilderness boundary to headwaters.
Miles of each segment	26.2 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mtn Range HUC 10: S Fork Sun River Beginning Point: T22N R10W Section 26
County(ies)	Teton
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	This area is extremely popular for recreational fishing. The area is also used extensively for hiking, horseback riding, camping, and for the overall wilderness experience.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	Outstanding Harlequin duck habitat. Un-impacted by development, pristine high functioning.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



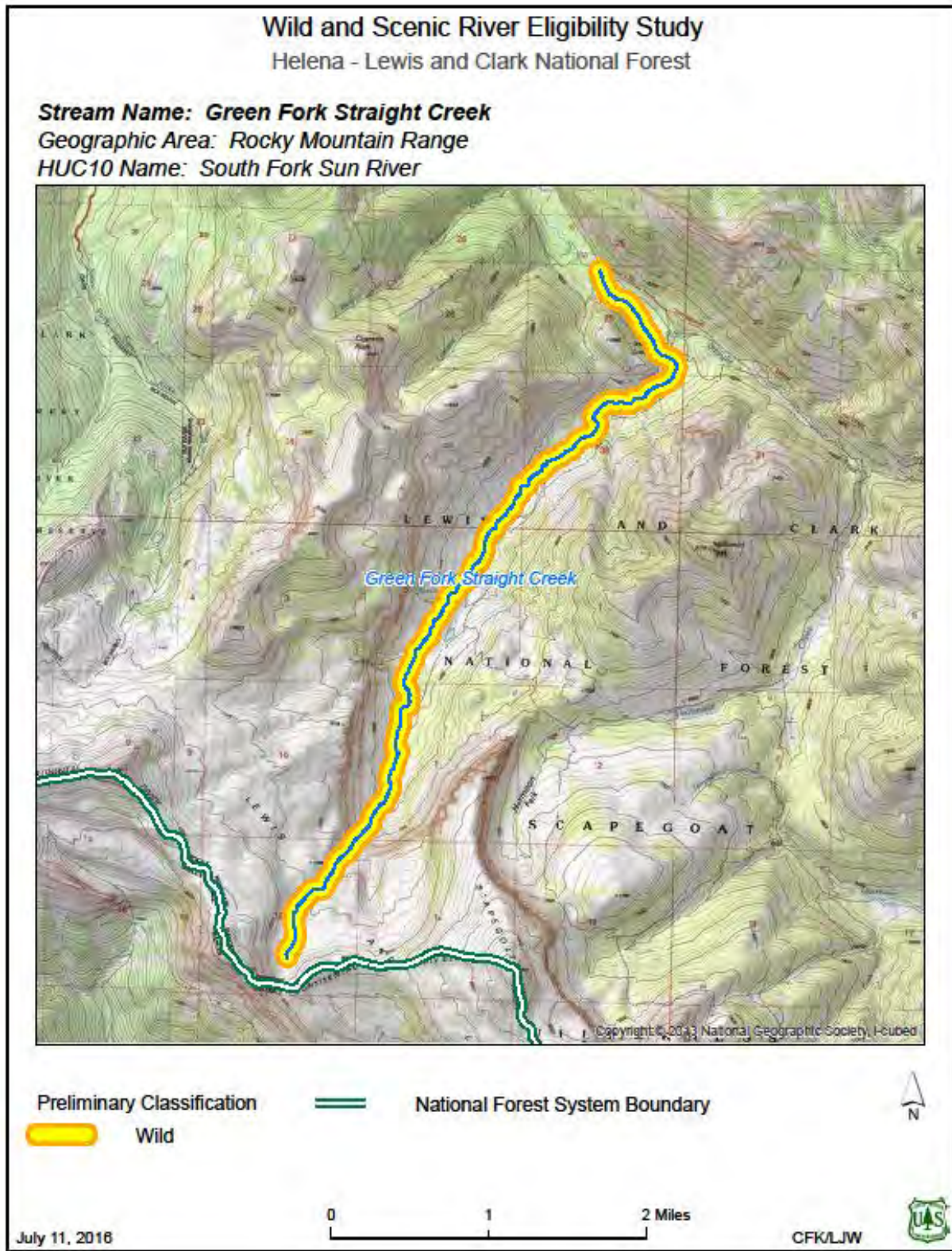
West Fork South Fork Sun River

West Fork South Fork Sun River	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Recreation, Wildlife
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From mouth to junction with Ahorn Creek.
Miles of each segment	8.5 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: South Fork Sun River Beginning Point: T21N R10W Section 20
County(ies)	Lewis and Clark
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	Trails along this river provide one of the primary access routes to the Chinese Wall in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Recreational fishing along this route is also very popular.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	Key harlequin breeding area.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



Green Fork Straight Creek

Green Fork Straight Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery, Geology
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From mouth to the headwaters.
Miles of each segment	5.9 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: S Fork Sun Beginning Point: T19N R10W Section 25
County(ies)	Lewis and Clark
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	Spectacular scenery. River located along a cliff face. In spring runoff, waterfalls shoot out of openings in the cliff face.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	There are a number of caves in the cliffs along this area resulting from the Geology. Geology is the Madison group which is a combination of over thrust structures within the Sawtooth range on the Rocky Mountain front.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	No ORV
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



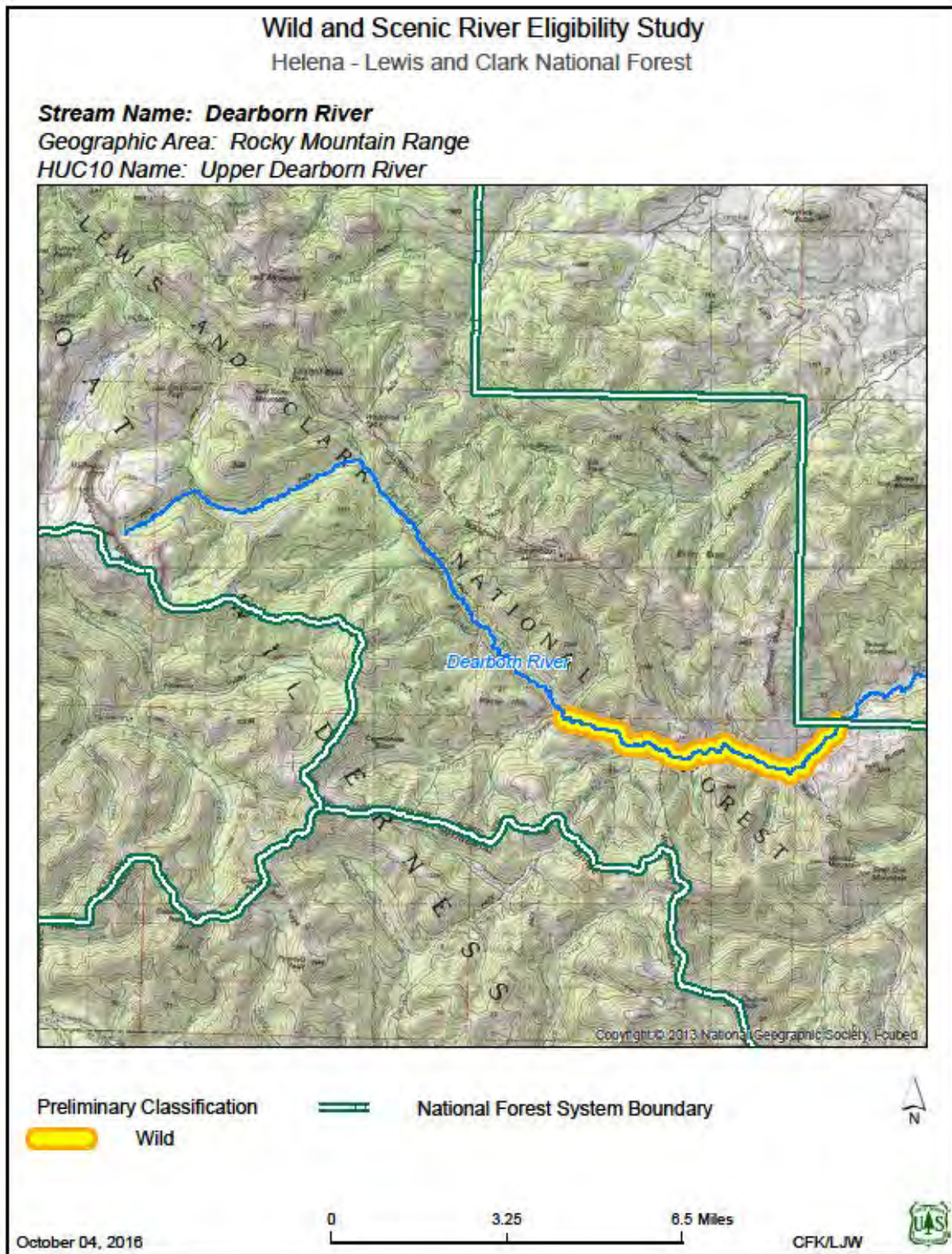
Wood Creek

Wood Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Wildlife
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From below the dam on Wood Lake to the confluence with Straight Creek.
Miles of each segment	7.1 miles
Potential Classification	Recreational
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10:South Fork Sun River Beginning Point: T20N R10W Section 16
County(ies)	Lewis and Clark
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	Unique for the productive diverse habitat. Overall best habitat diversity east of continental divide. Northern bog lemming habitat with only known habitat east of divide. Breeding habitat for western toads and trumpeter swans. Beaver activity has turned it into a complex habitat. Collectively elevates to an ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



Dearborn River

Dearborn River	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to the Whitetail Creek.
Miles of each segment	6.5 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Rocky Mountain Range HUC 10: Upper Dearborn River Beginning Point: T17N R7W Section 6
County(ies)	Lewis and Clark
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	There is spectacular scenery in Devils Glen area, which is located within the in the lower section of the river, just inside the forest boundary.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



Snowies Geographic Area

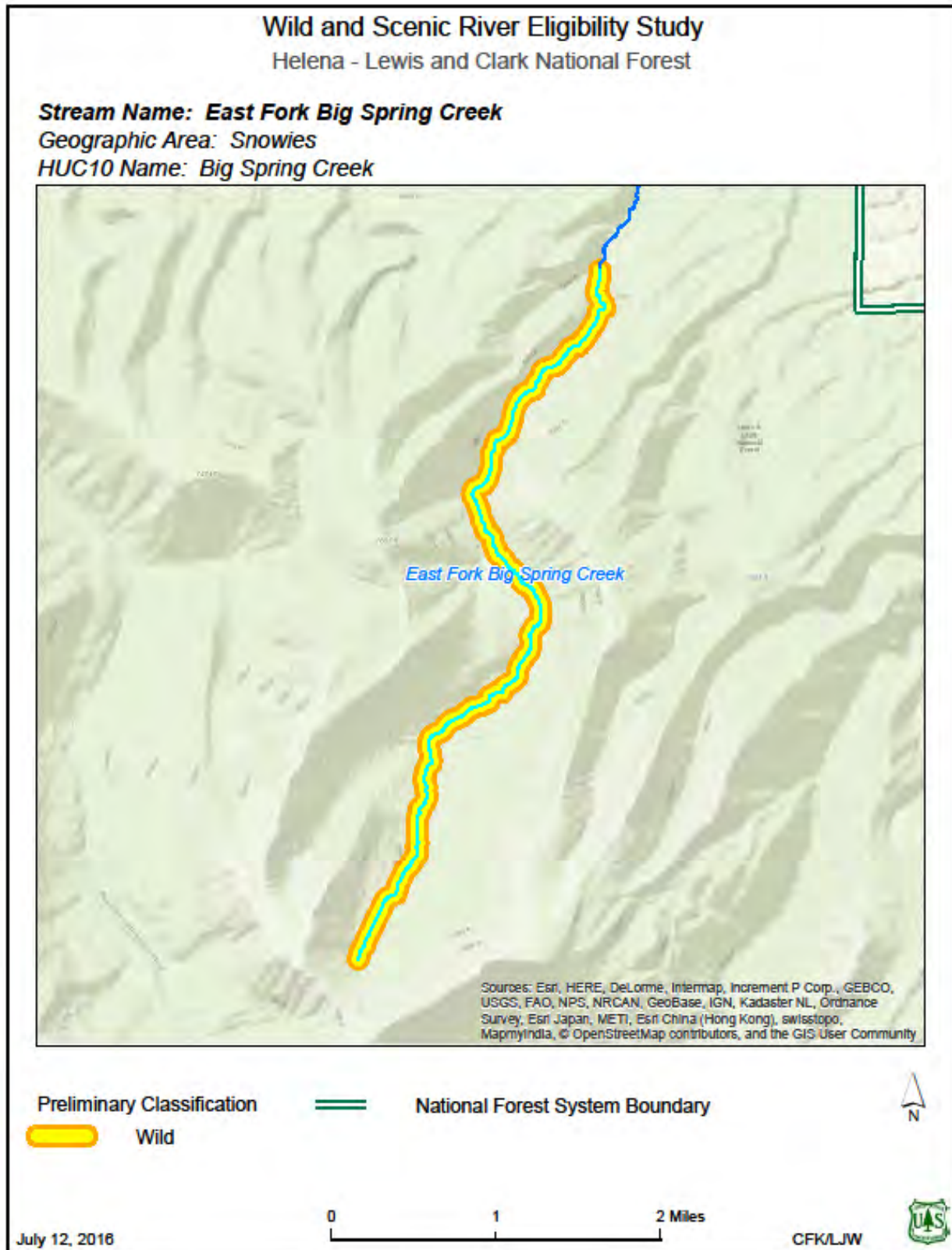
Swimming Woman Creek

Swimming Woman Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Scenery, Geology
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to headwaters
Miles of each segment	3.9 miles
Potential Classification	Scenic
Location	Geographic area: Snowies HUC 10: Careless Creek Beginning Point: T11N R19E Section 16
County(ies)	Golden Valley/Fergus
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	The scenic quality of this area is tied directly to the geologic features located here, which are spectacular and national in significance.
Recreation	No ORV
Geologic	Swimming Woman Creek flows out of a very unique geologic feature called a Pseudo(false)-Cirque formed by Landslide Sapping. This is a process resulting from the head ward erosion of a canyon consisting of hard overlying rocks (Madison Limestone) over softer material (Wolsey Shale). As the lower rock are eroded away the upper rocks slides into the canyon and are carried away by the creek. The entrance to the canyon is very narrow and broadens out into a large steep-walled amphitheater. The canyon is the best known example anywhere in North America and the world.
Fisheries	No ORV
Wildlife	No ORV
Cultural	No ORV
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV
Natural Other	No ORV



East Fork Big Spring Creek

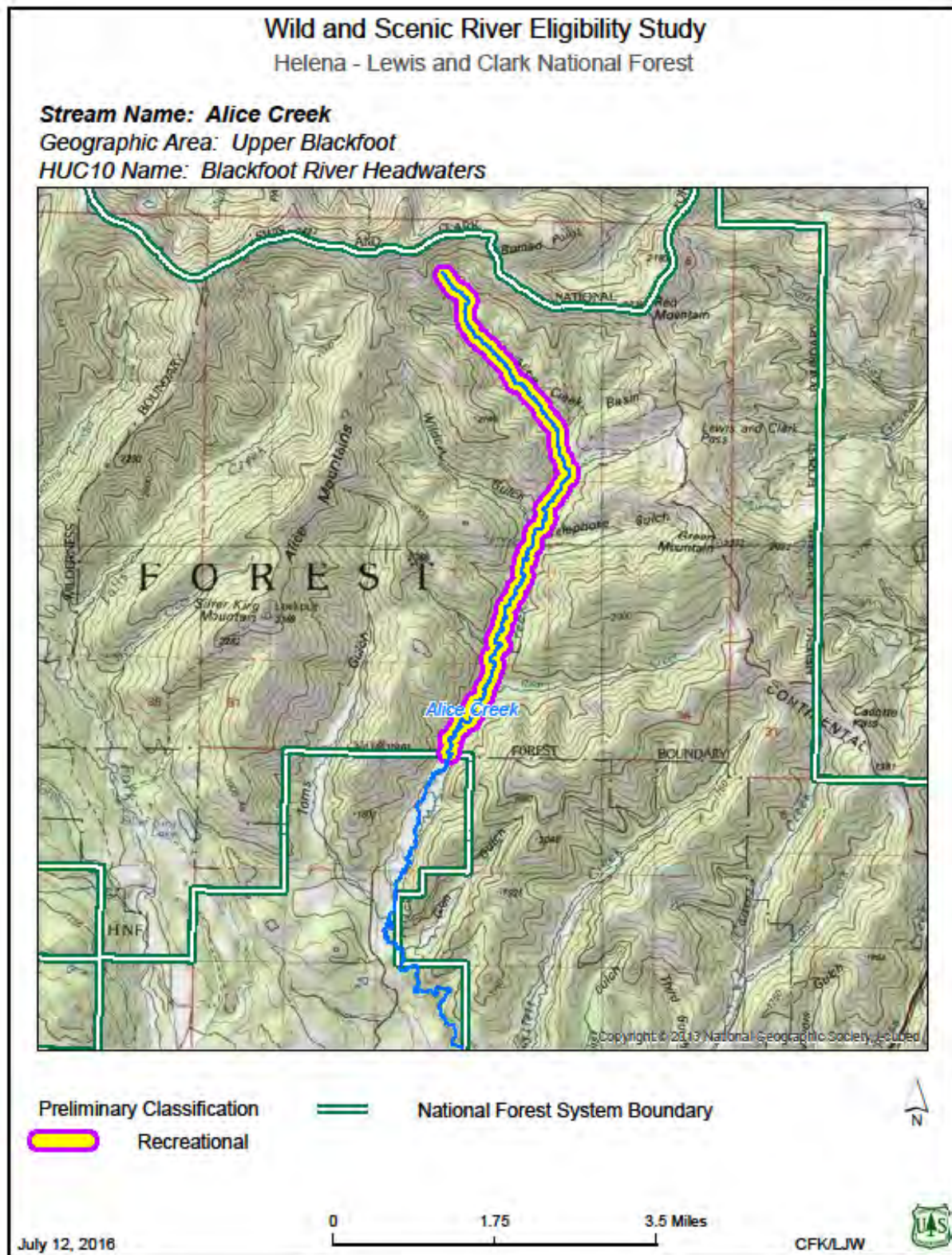
East Fork Big Spring Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From south end of Section 33 (where tributary splits off) to headwaters
Miles of each segment	5.3 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Snowies HUC 10: Big Spring Creek (1004010309) Beginning Point:
County(ies)	Fergus County
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	The most secure population of WCT in the Snowy Mountain Range and potentially the Judith River Basin.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



Upper Blackfoot Geographic Area

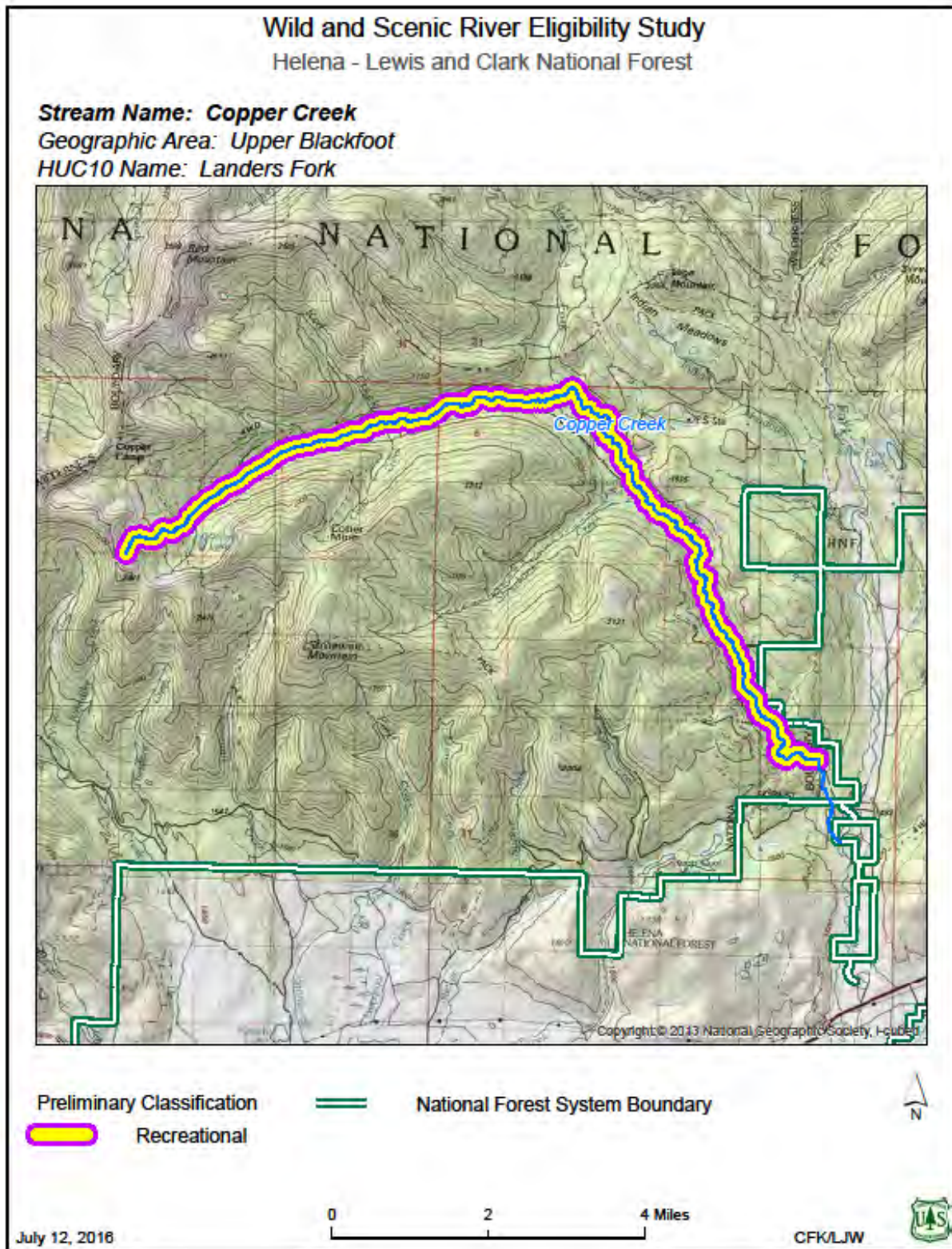
Alice Creek

Alice Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Cultural
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to headwaters.
Miles of each segment	7.0 miles
Potential Classification	Recreational
Location	Geographic area: Upper Blackfoot HUC 10: Blackfoot River Headwaters Beginning Point: T16N R7W Section 33
County(ies)	Lewis and Clark
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	No ORV.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Cultural	This stream is included in the Alice Creek Historic District which is registered on the National Register of Historic Places. The area includes high cultural site concentrations and was used repeatedly as a travel corridor for crossing the divide to hunting grounds east of the mountains. The travel corridor was also used by Captain Lewis on his return journey and the trail is a part of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



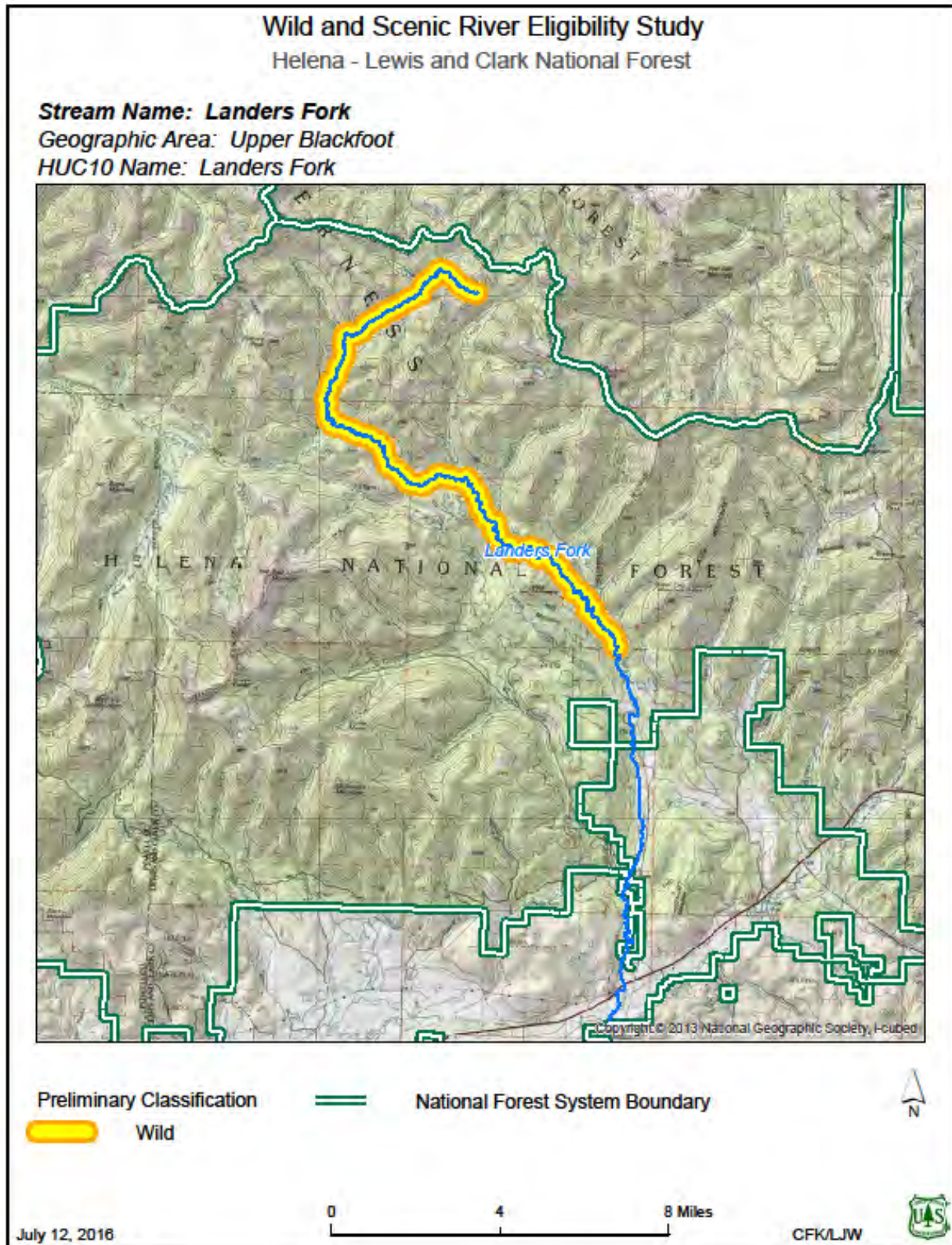
Copper Creek

Copper Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to headwaters.
Miles of each segment	14.0 miles
Potential Classification	Recreational
Location	Geographic area: Upper Blackfoot HUC 10: Landers Fork Beginning Point: T15N R8W Section 26
County(ies)	Lewis and Clark
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	Yes
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	This stream and the tributary of Snowbank Creek are major sources of bull trout spawning and rearing habitat for the entire Blackfoot River drainage.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Historic/ Pre-historic	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



Landers Fork

Landers Fork	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From FS boundary to headwaters.
Miles of each segment	18.8 miles
Potential Classification	Wild
Location	Geographic area: Upper Blackfoot HUC 10: Landers Fork Beginning Point: T16N R8W Section 36
County(ies)	Lewis and Clark
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	This stream is one of the top sources of bull trout spawning and rearing habitat for the entire Blackfoot River drainage.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Historic/ Pre-historic	No ORV on Forest Service.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.



Snowbank Creek

Snowbank Creek	
Is the River free flowing? Yes or No	Yes
Potential Outstanding Remarkable Value(s)	Fish
Area of Comparison	State of Montana
Eligible Segments	From confluence with Copper Creek to headwaters.
Miles of each segment	4.4 miles
Potential Classification	Scenic
Location	Geographic area: Upper Blackfoot HUC 10: Blackfoot River- Keep it Cool Creek Beginning Point: T15N R8W Section 9
County(ies)	Lewis and Clark
Identified in Previous Eligibility Studies. Yes/No	No
Resource Description	
Scenery	No ORV.
Recreation	No ORV.
Geologic	No ORV.
Fisheries	This stream contains the highest density of bull trout spawning in the entire Blackfoot River basin.
Wildlife	No ORV.
Historic/ Pre-historic	No ORV.
Botanical/ Natural	No ORV.
Natural Other	No ORV.

