
Appendix F

Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Report

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**US Department of Agriculture
US Forest Service**

**Ashley National Forest
Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Study and Report**

SUITABILITY REPORT



Prepared in collaboration with Environmental Management and Planning Solutions, Inc.

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Chapter 1. Introduction

Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (WSR Act) (Public Law 90-542; 16 US Code 1271-1287) directs federal agencies to consider potential Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs) in their land and water planning processes: “In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas.” To fulfill this requirement, the United States (US) Department of Agriculture, US Forest Service’s 2012 planning rule requires the agency to identify rivers that may be appropriate for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). This is required whenever the Forest Service undertakes a land management plan action, such as revising a land and resource management plan (LRMP or forest plan).

In order to ensure consistency in WSR suitability determinations across the National Forests and Grasslands within the Forest Service’s Intermountain Region (Region 4), the region developed, with public input, a regional suitability study process that describes the methodology and parameters by which eligible river segments would be evaluated for suitability. The regional process was modified to the minimum extent necessary to meet the unique needs of this forest. The forest-specific suitability study process was then applied to the list of eligible rivers occurring on the forest.

This report captures the results of the suitability phase of the WSR evaluation process and makes determinations on the suitability of the eligible rivers studied. In total, 4 eligible rivers were studied for their suitability as part of this process and 4 were determined to be suitable.

Study Area and Rivers Studied

The Ashley National Forest’s administrative boundary constitutes the study area for this WSR eligibility report. The Forest is located in northeastern Utah and southwestern Wyoming and encompasses 1,400,400 National Forest acres (1,295,700 acres in Utah and 104,700 acres in Wyoming) in seven counties: Daggett, Duchesne, Summit, Uintah, Utah, and Wasatch Counties in Utah and Sweetwater County in Wyoming. Within the administrative boundary of the Ashley National Forest, there are approximately 22,800 acres of non-National Forest System lands (Forest Service 2019).

The Ashley National Forest is located in three major areas: the northern and southern slopes of the Uinta Mountains, the Wyoming Basin, and the Tavaputs Plateau with about 70 percent of the Forest falling within the Uinta Mountains. The Uinta Mountains are the largest east-west trending mountain range in the lower 48 states. Together with the Tavaputs Plateau, the Uinta Mountains provide a unique ecological transition zone connecting the northern and southern Rocky Mountains. Within these diverse areas, the Forest landscape ranges from high desert country to high mountain areas with elevations ranging from a low of 5,500 feet on the Green River below Little Hole to a high of 13,528 feet above sea level at the summit of Kings Peak (the highest point in Utah). Geology and geomorphology are also diverse, including broad glacial plains above treeline, river canyons at lower elevations, and highly dissected plateau lands (Forest Service 2019).

A WSR study process is composed of three main phases: eligibility, classification, and suitability. The eligibility and preliminary classification phases (Forest Service 2019) were conducted in accordance with Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 – Land Management Planning Handbook, Chapter 80 – Wild and Scenic Rivers (Forest Service 2015) and with The Wild and Scenic River Study Process technical report (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council 1999).

Under the eligibility phase, to be considered as outstandingly remarkable under the WSR Act, a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale (region of comparison). Outstandingly remarkable values are scenic, recreational, geological, fish related, wildlife related, historic, cultural, botanical, hydrological, paleontological, scientific, or other values. The determination of ORVs for river segments in the planning area is documented in Ashley National Forest, Draft Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report (Forest Service 2019).

If the eligibility phase determines segments to be eligible, the Forest Service shall also assign a preliminary classification and identify management measures needed to ensure appropriate protection of the values supporting the eligibility and classification. The preliminary classification of an eligible river is based on its condition and that of the adjacent lands at the time of the study. The WSR Act specifies and defines three classification categories for eligible rivers: wild, scenic, and recreational. Classes are based on the type and degree of human development and access associated with the river and adjacent lands at the time of the eligibility determination. The assignment of preliminary classification and interim protection measures are documented in Ashley National Forest, Draft Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report (Forest Service 2019).

There were 40 rivers studied for eligibility, with a cumulative length of 82.0 miles on the Forest. It was determined that 4 rivers eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS, for a total of 14.0 miles on the Forest (Forest Service 2019).

What is a Wild and Scenic River?

Congress enacted the WSR Act on October 2, 1968, to address the need for a national system for river protection. As an outgrowth of a national conservation agenda in the 1950s and 1960s, the WSR Act was enacted in response to the dams, diversions, and water resource development projects that were constructed on America's rivers between the 1930s and 1960s. The WSR Act stipulated that selected rivers should be preserved in a free-flowing condition and be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Since 1968, the WSR Act has been amended many times, primarily to designate additional rivers and to authorize the study of other rivers for possible inclusion.

The WSR Act seeks to protect and enhance a river's natural and cultural values and to provide for public use consistent with its free-flowing character, its water quality, and its outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). Designation affords certain legal protections from development. For instance, new dams cannot be constructed, and federally assisted water resource development projects that might negatively affect the designated river values are not permitted. Each river in the NWSRS is administered to protect and enhance the values that caused the river to be designated. Where private lands are involved, the federal managing agency works with local governments and owners to develop protective measures. Designation neither prohibits development on private lands nor gives the federal government control over those private lands.

As of March 2019 (the last designation), the NWSRS protects 13,412.5 miles of 226 rivers in 41 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; this is a little more than one-quarter of one percent of the nation's rivers (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council 2020). These nationally recognized rivers make up a valuable network of natural and cultural resources, scenic beauty, and recreational opportunities.

Steps in the Wild and Scenic River Study Process

A WSR study process is composed of three main phases: eligibility, classification, and suitability. The phases of the study occur in accordance with Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 – Land Management Planning Handbook, Chapter 80 – Wild and Scenic Rivers (Forest Service 2015) and with The Wild and Scenic River Study Process technical report (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council 1999). Excerpts from FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80 are presented below to explain the process.

Eligibility Phase

The inventory of rivers to be studied must include all named rivers on a standard US Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle map. Each identified segment is evaluated for eligibility for inclusion in the NWSRS. Determinations of eligibility will be documented by a responsible official (usually a Forest Supervisor) prior to the formulation of alternatives but no later than the release of the draft land management plan.

The WSR Act states that, in order to be found eligible, a river must be “free flowing” and contain at least one river-related value considered to be “outstandingly remarkable.”

A summary of eligible river segments on the forest is provided in **Table 1-1** Summary of Ashley National Forest Eligible Rivers.

Table 1-1. Summary of Ashley National Forest Eligible Rivers

| River Name | Length on Forest (miles) | ORVs | Preliminary Classification |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| Dowd Creek | 3.1 | Cultural | Recreational |
| Honslinger Creek | 2.3 | Cultural | Recreational |
| North Skull Creek | 1.8 | Cultural | Wild |
| Spring Creek 2 | 6.8 | Cultural | Recreational |

Source: Forest Service 2019

Preliminary Classification Phase

After a river is identified to be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS, the forest assigned a preliminary classification and identified management measures needed to ensure appropriate protection of the values supporting the eligibility and classification. Interim protection measures are described in **Section 4.1**, Interim Management.

The preliminary classification of an eligible river is based on its condition and that of the adjacent lands at the time of the study. The WSR Act specifies and defines three classification categories for eligible rivers: wild, scenic, and recreational. Classes are based on the type and degree of human development and access associated with the river and adjacent lands at the time of the eligibility determination.

Classification does not reflect the types of values present along a river segment. Determining a preliminary classification establishes a guideline for management until either a suitability determination or a designation decision is reached. The classification assigned during the eligibility phase is tentative. Final classification is a congressional legislative determination that occurs with designation of a river segment as part of the NWSRS.

Suitability Phase

The purpose of the suitability phase is to determine whether eligible river segments are suitable or not for inclusion in the NWSRS, in accordance with the WSR Act. Suitability considerations include the environmental and economic consequences of designation and the manageability of a river if Congress were to designate it. FSH 1909.12 83.2 identifies the various criteria that the Forest Service is to use for determining suitability. The suitability evaluation does not result in actual designation but only a determination of a river's suitability for inclusion in the NWSRS. This is done through evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Forest Service cannot administratively designate a river via a planning decision or other agency decision into the NWSRS; only Congress can designate a river in the NWSRS. In some instances, the Secretary of Agriculture may designate a WSR when the governor of a state, under certain conditions, petitions for a river to be designated. Members of Congress will ultimately choose the legislative language if any suitable segments are presented to them.

River protection standards and guidelines that meet the purposes of the WSR Act will be the responsibility of the Forest administering the river. For any rivers designated by Congress, the Forest will take the following actions:

- Develop a comprehensive river management plan that must define the goals and desired conditions for protecting river values
- Address the capacity of use that the river area can sustain
- Address water quality and instream flow requirements

Rivers found not suitable would be dropped from further consideration and managed according to the objectives outlined in the land management plan. Suitability determinations made in a NEPA document are draft until the decision record for the NEPA document is signed. It is the intention of the Region that forests will make suitability determinations in their land and resource management plans and evaluated in the environmental impact statements (EISs) for those plans.

Chapter 2. Suitability Study Process

This section briefly describes the process used to study eligible river segments for their suitability. The forest-specific suitability study process was developed from the regional suitability study process, modified only to the minimum extent necessary to meet the unique needs of the forest. Both of these processes conform to the guidelines provided in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80 and the WSR Act. However, the regional and forest-specific suitability study processes provide additional methodology, parameters, and recommended data and information sources to ensure that suitability determinations are made consistently.

The suitability study process describes a seven-step approach. Within that process, there are three key analytical steps:

1. Evaluating and documenting the thirteen criteria for determining suitability presented in FSH 1909.12 83.21, which serves as the basis for each river's suitability determination.
2. Using the documentation of the thirteen criteria to answer the five suitability questions in FSH 1909.12 83.2, which speak to the core considerations in a suitability determination.
3. Reviewing the answers to the five questions in light of the purposes of the WSR Act to make a determination on an eligible river's suitability for inclusion in the NWSRS.

The suitability analysis and determination that resulted from the application of the study process are summarized and documented in this report in **Section 3**, Suitability Study Determinations.

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Chapter 3. Suitability Study Determinations

Summary of Suitability Study Determinations

Table 3-1, Summary of Preliminary Suitability Determinations, provides a summary of the suitability determinations resulting from the application of the suitability study process to the eligible rivers on the forest. Of the 4 eligible segments studied for suitability, 4 rivers (14 total miles, 4,700 acres¹) were determined to be not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS.

Table 3-1. Summary of Preliminary Suitability Determinations

| River | Segment | Length (miles) | Preliminary Suitability Determination | Recommended Classification |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Dowd Creek | | 3.1 | Not Suitable | N/A |
| Honslinger Creek | | 2.3 | Not Suitable | N/A |
| North Skull Creek | | 1.8 | Not Suitable | N/A |
| Spring Creek 2 | | 6.8 | Not Suitable | N/A |

¹ Acres (quarter mile buffer) of stream corridors for suitable WSR segments on the Ashley National Forest

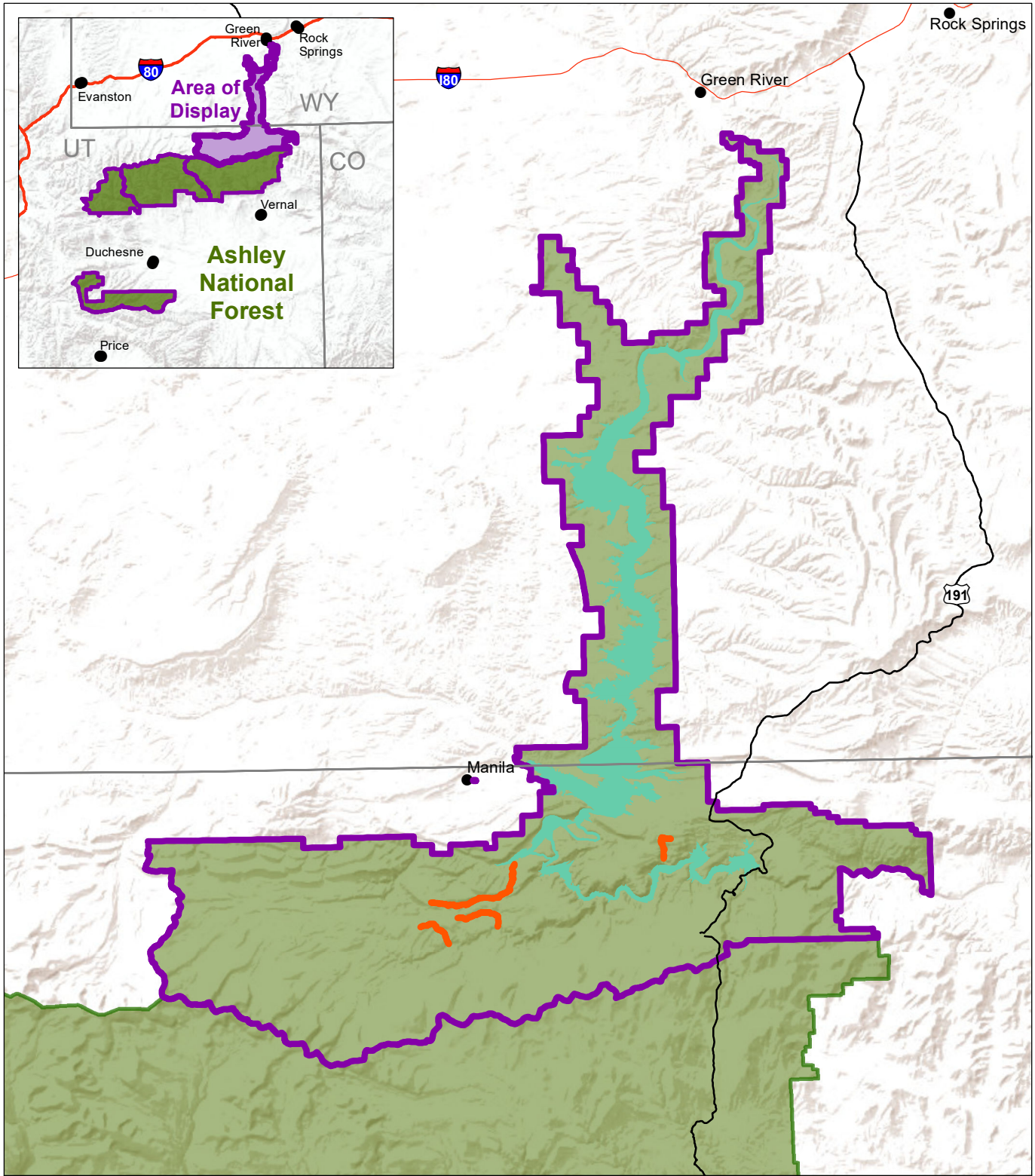



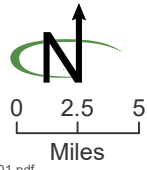


Figure 3-1: All Study Segments

-  Study segment
-  Flaming Gorge Reservoir
-  Flaming Gorge Ranger District



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 October 28, 2021
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Dowd Creek

Legal Description: From the headwaters south of Windy Ridge and south of Spring Creek in Section 25, T.2N., R.19E. to the confluence with Carter Creek northeast quarter of Section 32, T.2N., R.20E.

Total Segment Length: 3.1 miles **Total Segment Area:** 1,082 acres

Length on FS Land: 3.1 miles **Area on FS Land:** 1,082 acres

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

ORVs: Cultural

Suitability Assessment

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

This segment includes 23 previously identified cultural resources. Nineteen are prehistoric sites (10 are eligible to the National Register of Historic Places [NRHP] and 9 are not eligible), several of which are lithic scatters. Two other sites include both prehistoric and historic components and are eligible to the NRHP, and two sites are historic and considered not eligible to the NRHP. Twelve of the NRHP-eligible prehistoric sites are in close proximity to Dowd Creek, and two large prehistoric campsites surround Dowd Spring (the source of the creek), indicating long-term, repeat usage of the creek corridor during prehistory. The sites' clear relationship to Dowd Creek and the prehistoric occupation demonstrate cultural or historic values that are unique, rare, or exemplary within the region of comparison. The preliminary classification for this river is recreational. Multiple access points from roads exist.

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

The segment area is entirely on National Forest System lands. Portions of the area are used for harvesting timber (384 acres in the segment area) and recreation associated with Dowd Mountain Trail (0.7 miles in the segment area out of a total of 3.3 miles) east of the river, Dowds Hole Overlook, and a roadless area (60 acres in the segment area) northeast of the river. The eastern three-quarters of the segment area is in the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. Highway 44 (Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway) with scenic views parallels approximately a quarter of the river in the eastern portion of the segment area.

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

Existing levels of timber harvest and recreation have not been documented to impact the cultural resources along the stretch of river. Therefore, it is not reasonably foreseeable that these uses would need to be curtailed if designated. Recreation and cultural resources activities, such as research and education, could be enhanced.

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

The Forest Service would administer the segment area.

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

The Forest Service would be responsible for all administration of the river.

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

The segment area is entirely on National Forest System lands. The Forest Service already administers all lands in the segment area.

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

The Forest Service would continue all preservation and administration of the river.

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

The Ashley National Forest Plan may address the cultural resources that comprise the ORV for Dowd Creek. Criteria for cultural ORVs includes the following:

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must be rare, have unusual characteristics, or exceptional human-interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare; may represent an area where 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 by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes.

The principal federal law addressing cultural resources is the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (16 USC Section 470), and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800). These regulations, commonly referred to as the Section 106 process, describe the procedures for identifying and evaluating historic properties, for assessing the effects of federal actions on historic properties, and for project proponents consulting with appropriate agencies to avoid, reduce, or minimize adverse effects.

The primary objective of managing cultural resources is the protection of the resource from damage or destruction. To the extent consistent with protection, the Forest Service also manages cultural resources for scientific research, public education and enjoyment. Where interpretation of these sites for public benefit and knowledge is developed, it is required that this use be compatible with the protection of cultural resources.

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

There are no non-federal lands.

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies, and with meeting regional objectives. Designation may help or impede the goals of Tribal governments, or other Federal,

State, or local agencies. For example, designation of a river may contribute to State or regional protection objectives for fish and wildlife resources. Similarly, adding a river that includes a limited recreation activity or setting to the National System may help meet State-wide recreation goals for that activity or setting. Designation might, however, limit irrigation and/or flood control measures in a manner inconsistent with regional socioeconomic goals.

There are no other agency plans, programs, or policies to consider, because the segment area is entirely on National Forest System lands.

11. Support or opposition to designation. Assessment of this factor will define the political context. The interest in designation or nondesignation by other Federal agencies; State, local and Tribal governments; national and local publics; and the State's Congressional delegation should be considered.

The State of Utah opposes the use of interim protection measures for the river segment until specific designation by Congress or the Utah State Legislature.

The Southwest River Protection Program supports the ORV and preliminary classification. It also recommends the additional ORV of wildlife, stating that the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources notes that the Dowd Creek corridor contains seasonal or year-long habitat for dusky grouse, ruffed grouse, and snowshoe. The Southwest River Protection Program also recommends the additional preliminary classification of scenic. The middle portion of the stream is neither crossed nor directly paralleled by roads. The preliminary classification of scenic would enhance protection of the stream and its corridor.

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

Dowd Creek flows into Carter Creek, which was determined eligible in 2005 and later determined not suitable in 2009. Basin integrity is not a factor for consideration for the ORV on this stretch of river.

13. The potential for water resources development. The intent of the Act is to preserve selected rivers in free-flowing condition and to protect their immediate environments.

There is no known potential water resources development.

Suitability Determination

Based on the information contained in this study, the Forest Service finds Dowd Creek to be not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS.

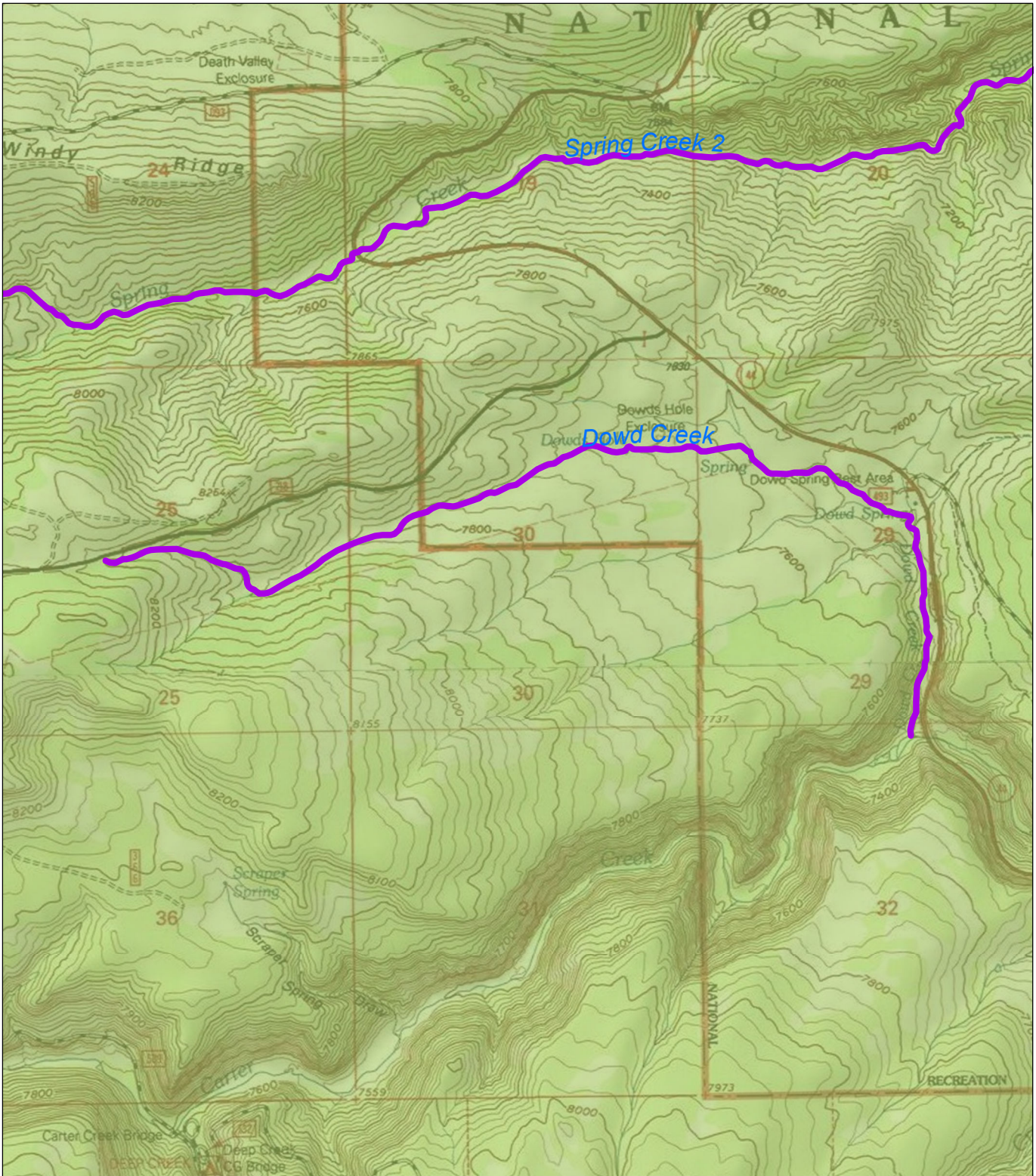

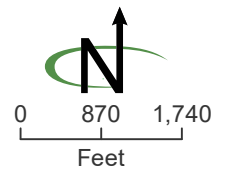


Figure 3-2: Dowd Creek

 Study segment



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Honslinger Creek

Legal Description: From the headwaters east of Ute Mountain in the southwest quarter of Section 27, T.2N., R.19E. to the confluence with Carter Creek west of the Carter Creek Bridge in the southeast quarter of Section 35, T.2N., R.19E.

Total Segment Length: 2.3 miles **Total Segment Area:** 837 acres

Length on FS Land: 2.3 miles **Area on FS Land:** 837 acres

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

ORVs: Cultural

Suitability Assessment

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

This segment includes 18 previously identified cultural resources. Seventeen are prehistoric sites, including rock shelters and artifact scatters (12 are considered eligible to the NRHP and 5 are not eligible). One additional site was a historic road constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and considered not eligible to the NRHP. Because many of these resources are eligible to the NRHP and because their clear relationship to Leona Creek demonstrates use of the river corridor from prehistory to the early twentieth century, there are cultural or historic values that are unique, rare, or exemplary in the region of comparison. Multiple access points from roads exist.

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

The segment area is entirely on National Forest System lands. Portions of the area are used for harvesting timber (236 acres in the segment area). Forest Service roads crisscross the area and river. There is also a roadless area (93 acres in the segment area).

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

Existing levels of timber harvest and recreation have not been documented to impact the cultural resources along the stretch of river. Therefore, it is not reasonably foreseeable that these uses would need to be curtailed if designated. Cultural resources activities, such as research and education, could be enhanced.

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

The Forest Service would administer the segment area.

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

The Forest Service would be responsible for all administration of the river.

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

The segment area is entirely on National Forest System lands. The Forest Service already administers all lands in the segment area.

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

The Forest Service would continue all preservation and administration of the river.

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

The Ashley National Forest Plan may address the cultural resources that comprise the ORV for Honslinger Creek. Criteria for cultural ORVs includes the following:

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must be rare, have unusual characteristics, or exceptional human-interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare; may represent an area where 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 by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes.

The principal federal law addressing cultural resources is the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (16 USC Section 470), and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800). These regulations, commonly referred to as the Section 106 process, describe the procedures for identifying and evaluating historic properties, for assessing the effects of federal actions on historic properties, and for project proponents consulting with appropriate agencies to avoid, reduce, or minimize adverse effects.

The primary objective of managing cultural resources is the protection of the resource from damage or destruction. To the extent consistent with protection, the Forest Service also manages cultural resources for scientific research, public education and enjoyment. Where interpretation of these sites for public benefit and knowledge is developed, it is required that this use be compatible with the protection of cultural resources.

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

There are no non-Federal lands.

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

There are no other agency plans, programs, or policies to consider, because the segment area is entirely on National Forest System lands.

11. Support or opposition to designation. Assessment of this factor will define the political context. The interest in designation or nondesignation by other Federal agencies; State, local and Tribal governments; national and local publics; and the State's Congressional delegation should be considered.

The State of Utah opposes the use of interim protection measures for the river segment until specific designation by Congress or the Utah State Legislature.

The Southwest River Protection Program supports the ORV and preliminary classification. It also recommends the additional ORV of wildlife, stating that the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources notes that the Honslinger Creek corridor contains seasonal or year-long habitat for dusky grouse, ruffed grouse, and snowshoe hare.

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

Dowd Creek flows into Carter Creek, which was determined eligible in 2005 and later determined not suitable in 2009. Basin integrity is not a factor for consideration for the ORV on this stretch of river.

13. The potential for water resources development. The intent of the Act is to preserve selected rivers in free-flowing condition and to protect their immediate environments.


There is no known potential water resources development.

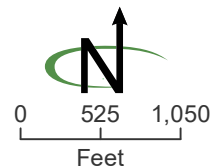
Suitability Determination

Based on the information contained in this study, the Forest Service finds Honslinger Creek to be not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS.



Figure 3-3: Honslinger Creek

 Study segment



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 October 28, 2021
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North Skull Creek

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------|
| Legal Description: | From the headwaters south of Antelope Flat and east of Bear Top Mountain in the east half of Section 2, T.2N., R.21E. to the junction with the Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Section 11, T.2N., R.21E. | | |
| Total Segment Length: | 1.8 miles | Total Segment Area: | 675 acres |
| Length on FS Land: | 1.8 miles | Area on FS Land: | 675 acres |
| Preliminary Classification: | Wild | | |
| ORVs: | Cultural | | |

Suitability Assessment

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

This segment includes four previously identified cultural resources, all of which are NRHP-eligible prehistoric sites, including rare prehistoric storage features and a possible burial. The river-related cultural or historic values along this segment are unique, rare, or exemplary in the region of comparison based on these rare, NRHP-eligible resources related to North Skull Creek. There is no access from roads or trails, and it is within a roadless area.

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

The segment area is entirely on National Forest System lands. There are 573 acres of roadless area in the segment area. The segment area is in the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area.

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

Cultural resources activities, such as research and education, could be enhanced.

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

The Forest Service would administer the segment area.

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

The Forest Service would be responsible for all administration of the river.

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

The segment area is entirely on National Forest System lands. The Forest Service already administers all lands in the segment area.

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

The Forest Service would continue all preservation and administration of the river.

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

The Ashley National Forest Plan may address the cultural resources that comprise the ORV for North Skull Creek. Criteria for cultural ORVs includes the following:

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must be rare, have unusual characteristics, or exceptional human-interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare; may represent an area where 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 by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes.

The principal federal law addressing cultural resources is the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (16 USC Section 470), and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800). These regulations, commonly referred to as the Section 106 process, describe the procedures for identifying and evaluating historic properties, for assessing the effects of federal actions on historic properties, and for project proponents consulting with appropriate agencies to avoid, reduce, or minimize adverse effects.

The primary objective of managing cultural resources is the protection of the resource from damage or destruction. To the extent consistent with protection, the Forest Service also manages cultural resources for scientific research, public education and enjoyment. Where interpretation of these sites for public benefit and knowledge is developed, it is required that this use be compatible with the protection of cultural resources.

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

There are no non-Federal lands.

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

There are no other agency plans, programs, or policies to consider, because the segment area is entirely on National Forest System lands.

11. Support or opposition to designation. Assessment of this factor will define the political context. The interest in designation or nondesignation by other Federal agencies; State, local and Tribal governments; national and local publics; and the State's Congressional delegation should be considered.

The State of Utah opposes the use of interim protection measures for the river segment until specific designation by Congress or the Utah State Legislature.

The Southwest River Protection Program supports the ORV and preliminary classification. It also recommends the additional ORV of wildlife, stating that the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources notes that the North Skull Creek corridor contains seasonal or year-long habitat for imperiled greater sage-grouse. Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep also use the area (Greenwood et. al. 1999).

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

North Skull Creek flows into Green River in Flaming Gorge Reservoir, a popular reservoir for boating, fishing, skiing, jet skiing, houseboating, and other water sports.

13. The potential for water resources development. The intent of the Act is to preserve selected rivers in free-flowing condition and to protect their immediate environments.

There is no known potential water resources development.

Suitability Determination

Based on the information contained in this study, the Forest Service finds North Skull Creek to be not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS.

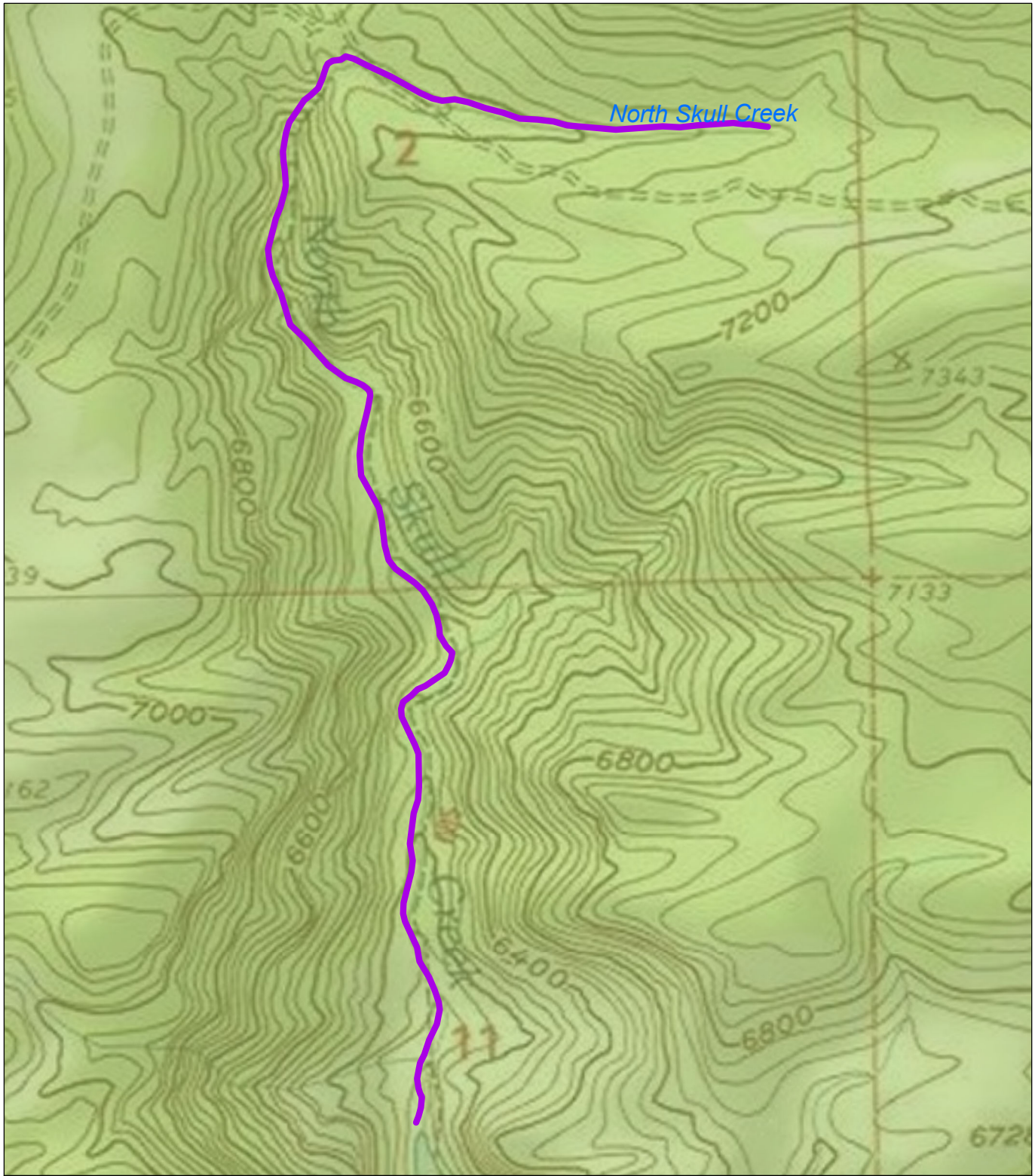

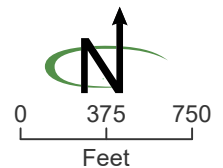


Figure 3-4: North Skull Creek

 Study segment



Source: Forest Service GIS 2017
October 28, 2021
R4WSR_Ashley_2020suitable_North Skull_V01.pdf
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Spring Creek 2

Legal Description: From the headwaters south of Windy Ridge in the southeast quarter of Section 22, T.2N., R.19E. to the junction with the Flaming Gorge reservoir near the Sheep Creek Boat Ramp in the south half of Section 9, T.2N., R.20E.

Total Segment Length: 6.8 miles **Total Segment Area:** 2,151 acres

Length on FS Land: 6.8 miles **Area on FS Land:** 2,151 acres

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

ORVs: Cultural

Suitability Assessment

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

This segment includes 11 previously identified cultural resources. Ten are prehistoric sites (eight are considered eligible to the NRHP and two are not eligible), most of which are artifact scatters or rock shelters. There is also one site with both prehistoric and historic occupations that is considered eligible to the NRHP. Nine of the NRHP-eligible sites are in close proximity to the creek and include prehistoric storage structures and rock shelters that demonstrate long-term usage of the drainage during prehistory. The prehistoric use of the Spring Creek 2 corridor as a significant resource indicates there are cultural or historic values that are unique, rare, or exemplary within the region of comparison. Spring Creek 2 is accessible from the Flaming Gorge Uinta Scenic Byway, Sheep Creek Bay Road, and Death Valley Road.

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

The segment area is entirely on National Forest System lands. Isolated patches are used for harvesting timber (89 acres in the segment area). Approximately two-thirds of the segment area is in roadless area (1,250 acres). The eastern two-thirds of the segment area is in the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. Highway 44 (Flaming Gorge-Uintas National Scenic Byway) with scenic overlooks and a few Forest Service roads pass through the area.

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

Existing levels of timber harvest and recreation have not been documented to impact the cultural resources along the stretch of river. Therefore, it is not reasonably foreseeable that these uses would need to be curtailed if designated. Cultural resources activities, such as research and education, could be enhanced.

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

The Forest Service would administer the segment area.

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

The Forest Service would be responsible for all administration of the river.

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

The segment area is entirely on National Forest System lands. The Forest Service already administers all lands in the segment area.

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

The Forest Service would continue all preservation and administration of the river.

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

The Ashley National Forest Plan may address the cultural resources that comprise the ORV for Spring Creek 2. Criteria for cultural ORVs includes the following:

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must be rare, have unusual characteristics, or exceptional human-interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare; may represent an area where 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 by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes.

The principal federal law addressing cultural resources is the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (16 USC Section 470), and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800). These regulations, commonly referred to as the Section 106 process, describe the procedures for identifying and evaluating historic properties, for assessing the effects of federal actions on historic properties, and for project proponents consulting with appropriate agencies to avoid, reduce, or minimize adverse effects.

The primary objective of managing cultural resources is the protection of the resource from damage or destruction. To the extent consistent with protection, the Forest Service also manages cultural resources for scientific research, public education and enjoyment. Where interpretation of these sites for public benefit and knowledge is developed, it is required that this use be compatible with the protection of cultural resources.

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

There are no non-Federal lands.

10. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies, and with meeting regional objectives. Designation may help or impede the goals of Tribal governments, or other Federal, State, or local agencies. For example, designation of a river may contribute to State or regional protection objectives for fish and wildlife resources. Similarly, adding a river that includes a limited recreation activity or setting to the National System may help meet State-wide recreation goals for that

activity or setting. Designation might, however, limit irrigation and/or flood control measures in a manner inconsistent with regional socioeconomic goals.

There are no other agency plans, programs, or policies to consider, because the segment area is entirely on National Forest System lands.

11. Support or opposition to designation. Assessment of this factor will define the political context. The interest in designation or nondesignation by other Federal agencies; State, local and Tribal governments; national and local publics; and the State's Congressional delegation should be considered.

The State of Utah opposes the use of interim protection measures for the river segment until specific designation by Congress or the Utah State Legislature.

The Southwest River Protection Program supports the ORV and preliminary classification. It also recommends the additional preliminary classification of scenic, especially for the middle portion of the stream because it is neither crossed nor directly paralleled by roads, in order to enhance protection of the stream and its corridor.

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

Spring Creek 2 flows into Sheep Creek Bay in Flaming Gorge Reservoir, a popular reservoir for boating, fishing, skiing, jet skiing, houseboating, and other water sports.

13. The potential for water resources development. The intent of the Act is to preserve selected rivers in free-flowing condition and to protect their immediate environments.

There is no known potential water resources development.

Suitability Determination

Based on the information contained in this study, the Forest Service finds Spring Creek 2 to be not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS.

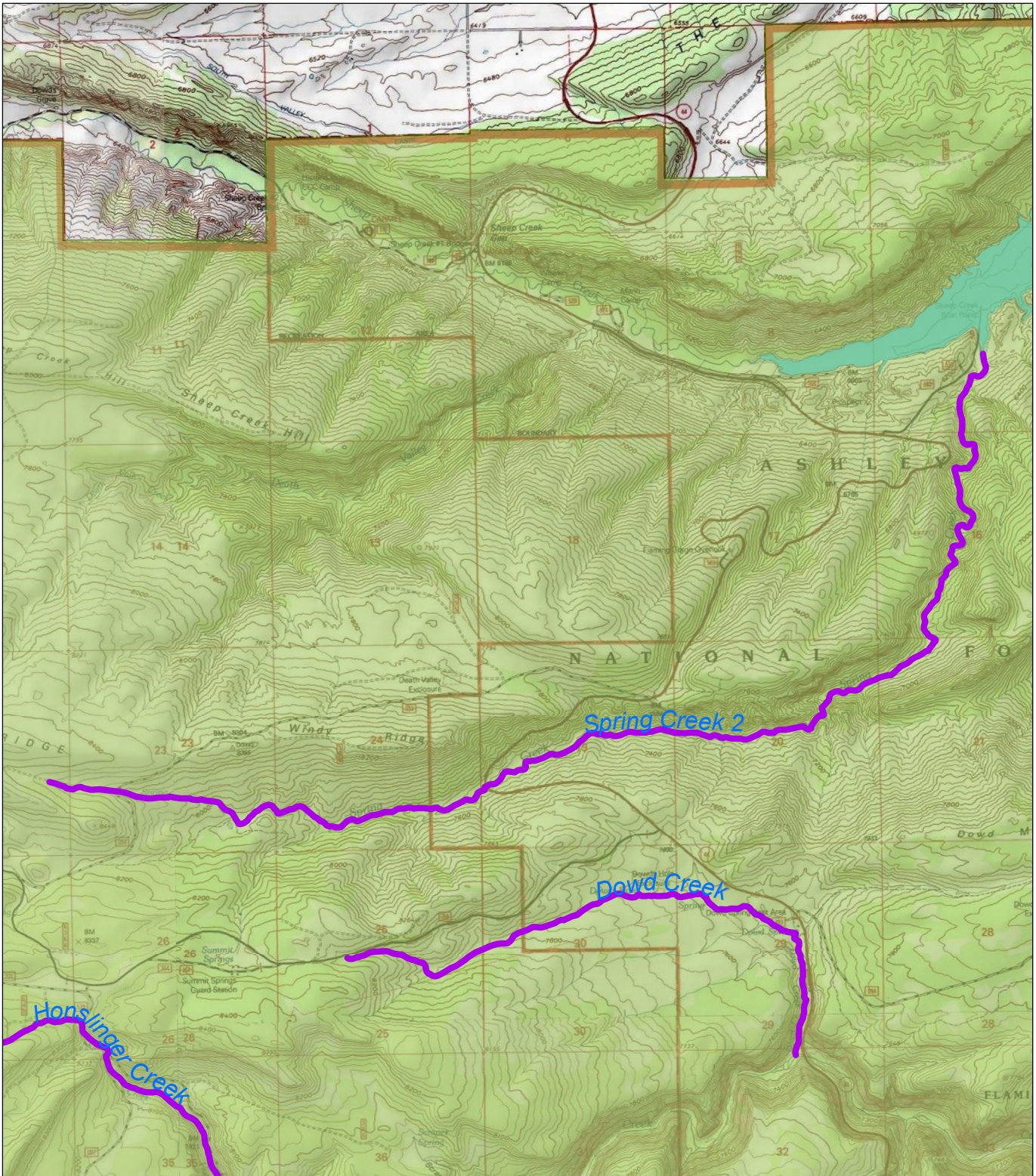


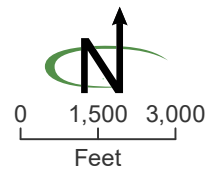


Figure 3-5: Spring Creek 2

-  Study segment
-  Flaming Gorge Reservoir



Source: Forest Service GIS 2017
 October 28, 2021
 R4WSR_Ashley_2020suitable_SpringCreek2_V01.pdf
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Chapter 4. Next Steps

Next Steps

The forest will incorporate each of the eligible rivers into one or more alternatives (see example plan components in **Section 4.2**). The draft forest plan and EIS will provide an assessment of potential impacts from recommending each river as either suitable or not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. The forest will then seek public review and comment on the draft forest plan and EIS. The proposed forest plan and final EIS will include suitability determinations for the eligible rivers. Legislative action by Congress would be required for actual designation and final classification of river segments into the NWSRS.

Until an eligible river is released from its status as eligible through the record of decision on the proposed forest plan and final EIS, interim management for the protection of the river's ORVs and free-flowing condition will continue (see **Section 4.3**). For river segments determined to be suitable, management sufficient to maintain its ORVs and free-flowing condition will occur via the plan components identified in the record of decision for the forest plan.

Alternatives Plan Components

In accordance with FSH 1909.12 83.32d, during the forest planning process the suitability of the river for designation should be evaluated with the alternatives. An analysis of the existing situation provides the foundation for alternative development. The type and range of alternatives to consider will vary depending on the affected environment, issues, and opportunities associated with each specific river. The array of alternatives presented must be broad enough to encompass all reasonable proposals for use of the river area. Each alternative should be clear as to whether the river segment is found suitable or not suitable. If the emphasis of an alternative is to protect ORVs by means other than designation, included in that alternative should be any plan components needed to do so.

Generally, the following types of alternatives should be considered:

1. The no action alternative, which maintains current management; this alternative is required.
2. An alternative in which all eligible river segments are found suitable and are recommended for Congressional designation.
3. An alternative in which some eligible segments are found suitable and are recommended for Congressional designation, while other eligible segments are found not suitable. This type of alternative may also include a recommendation to designate eligible segment(s) at a less restrictive classification (for example, scenic to recreational) to allow a specific resource activity.
4. An alternative in which no eligible segments are found suitable and in which protection of river values in eligible segments will be by means other than Congressional designation. This type of alternative could also conclude that all or part of the river is not suitable for designation and no longer needs interim protection measures.
5. An alternative in which no eligible river segments are found suitable for designation.

Interim Management

Forest Service-identified rivers determined to be eligible and suitable are afforded interim protective management until a decision is made on the future use of the river and adjacent lands through an act of

Congress or a determination that the river is not suitable. It is the Forest Service’s policy to manage and protect the free-flowing character, preliminary classification, and identified ORVs of eligible or suitable rivers. The planning rule at 36 CFR 219.10 provides for interim management of Forest Service-identified eligible or suitable rivers or segments to protect their values. Interim protective measures for eligible or suitable segments are identified in FSH 1909.12 84. Interim protections for suitable segments are provided administratively by the management agency and are not provided legislative protection under the WSR Act. Legislative protection is provided only by formal designation by Congress. Once final determinations have been made, the Forest Service will draft protective management measures for each suitable segment.

A suitability determination requires environmental evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Responsible Official may authorize site-specific projects and activities on National Forest System lands in the corridors of eligible or suitable rivers only where the project and activities are consistent with all of 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.
- ORVs of the identified river area are protected.
- For all Forest Service-identified rivers, classification of an eligible river must be maintained as inventoried unless a suitability study is completed that recommends management at a less restrictive classification (such as from wild to scenic or scenic to recreational; Forest Service 2015).

Additional statutory, regulatory, or policy requirements may apply if the study river is located within a wilderness area or other designated area (see FSM 2354.42e).

Table 4-1, below, describes the interim protection standards for Forest Service-identified eligible and suitable study rivers. Forest Plan components must meet the intent of these interim river protection measures (Forest Service 2015).

Table 4-1. Interim Protection for Eligible or Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers

| Issue | Management Prescription/Action |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Water Resources Projects | These projects will be analyzed as to their effect on a river’s free flow, water quality, and ORVs, with adverse effects to be prevented to the extent of existing agency authorities (such as special-use authority). |
| Hydroelectric Power Facilities | Forest Service-identified eligible rivers are to be protected pending a suitability determination. Forest Service-identified suitable rivers are to be protected for their free-flowing condition, water quality, and ORVs pending a designation by Congress. |
| Minerals | <p>Locatable Minerals: Existing or new mining activity on a Forest Service-identified eligible or suitable 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.</p> <p>Leasable Minerals: For all eligible or suitable rivers, leases, licenses, and permits under mineral leasing laws must include conditions necessary to</p> |

| Issue | Management Prescription/Action |
|------------------------|---|
| | <p>protect the values of the river corridor that make it eligible or suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS.</p> <p>Saleable Minerals: Disposal of saleable mineral materials is prohibited for eligible or suitable rivers tentatively classified as wild. For segments tentatively classified as scenic or recreational, disposal of saleable mineral materials is allowed if the values for which the river may be included in the NWSRS are protected.</p> |
| Transportation System | <p>Wild: Roads and railroads are generally not compatible with a wild classification. 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 nonmotorized uses. However, limited motorized uses that are compatible with identified values and unobtrusive trail bridges may be allowed. New airfields may not be developed.</p> <p>Scenic: New roads and railroads are permitted to parallel the river for short segments or bridge the river if such construction fully protects its values, including its free-flowing character. Bridge crossings and river water access are allowed. New trail construction or airfields must be compatible with and fully protect identified values.</p> <p>Recreational: New roads and railroads are permitted to parallel the river if such construction fully protects the river’s values, including its free-flowing character. Bridge crossings and river access are allowed. New trail construction or airfields must be compatible with and fully protect identified values.</p> |
| Utility Proposals | <p>New transmission lines such as gas lines, water lines, and similar linear facilities are not compatible and are discouraged. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way would be necessary for a utility line, the proposed project must be evaluated as to its effect on the river’s ORVs and classification. 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.</p> |
| Recreation Development | <p>Wild: As stated in the US Department of Agriculture/US Department of the Interior Guidelines, major public-use areas such as large campgrounds, interpretive centers, or administrative headquarters must be located outside the river corridor.</p> <p>Minimum facilities, such as toilets and refuse containers, may be provided if necessary to protect and enhance water quality and other identified river values, while also providing for public recreation uses that do not adversely impact or degrade those values. All facilities must be located and designed to harmonize with the primitive character, natural, and cultural settings of the river corridor. The facilities must protect identified river values, including water quality, and be screened from view from the river to the extent possible.</p> |

| Issue | Management Prescription/Action |
|----------------------------|--|
| | <p>Scenic: Public-use facilities such as moderate-size campgrounds, simple sanitation and convenience facilities, public information centers, administrative sites, river access developments, and so forth are allowed within the river corridor. All facilities must be located and designed to harmonize with their natural and cultural settings, protect identified river values, including water quality, and be screened from view from the river to the extent possible.</p> <p>Recreational: Recreation, administrative, and river access facilities may be located in close proximity to the river. However, recreational classification does not require extensive recreation development. All facilities must be located and designed to harmonize with their natural and cultural settings, protect identified river values, including water quality, and be screened from view from the river to the extent possible.</p> |
| Motorized Travel | <p>Wild: Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted but is generally not compatible with this classification. Where motorized travel options are deemed to be necessary, such uses should be carefully defined and impacts mitigated.</p> <p>Scenic and Recreational: Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited, or restricted to protect the river values.</p> |
| Wildlife and Fish Projects | <p>Wild: Construction of minor structures and vegetation management to protect and enhance wildlife and fish habitat should harmonize with the area's essentially primitive character and fully protect identified river values. Any portion of a proposed wildlife or fisheries restoration or enhancement project that has the potential to affect the river's free-flowing character must be evaluated as a water resources project.</p> <p>Scenic: 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 fully protect identified river values. Any portion of a wildlife or fisheries restoration or enhancement project that has the potential to affect the free-flowing character must be evaluated as a water resources project.</p> <p>Recreational: Construction of structures and vegetation management to protect and enhance wildlife and fish habitat should fully protect identified river values. Any portion of a wildlife or fisheries restoration or enhancement project that has the potential to affect the river's free-flowing character must be evaluated as a water resources project.</p> |
| Vegetation Management | <p>Wild: 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. Examples of such exceptions include activities to maintain trails or suppress wildfires. Prescribed fire and wildfires managed to meet resource objectives may be used to restore or maintain habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or restore the natural range of variability.</p> <p>Scenic and Recreational: A range of vegetation management and timber harvest practices are allowed, if these practices are designed to protect</p> |

| Issue | Management Prescription/Action |
|----------------------------|---|
| | users or protect, restore, or enhance the river environment, including the long-term scenic character. |
| Domestic Livestock Grazing | <p>Wild: Domestic livestock grazing should be managed to protect identified river values. Existing structures may be maintained. New facilities may be developed to facilitate livestock management so long as they maintain the values for which a river was found eligible or suitable, including the area’s essentially primitive character.</p> <p>Scenic: Domestic livestock grazing should be managed to protect identified river values. Existing structures may be maintained. New facilities may be developed to facilitate livestock management so long as they maintain the values for which a river was found eligible or suitable, including the area’s largely undeveloped character.</p> <p>Recreational: Domestic livestock grazing should be managed to protect identified river values. Existing structures may be maintained. New facilities may be developed to facilitate livestock management so long as they maintain the values for which a river was found eligible or suitable.</p> |

Source: Forest Service 2015

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Chapter 5. List of Preparers

| ASHLEY NATIONAL FOREST | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Name | Title/Role |
| <i>Ryan Buerkle</i> | Recreation Program Manager, Technical Point of Contact |
| <i>Jeff Rust</i> | Archaeologist |
| <i>Allen Huber</i> | Botanist/Ecologist |
| <i>Dan Abeyta</i> | Wildlife Biologist |
| <i>Bob Christensen</i> | Wildlife Biologist |
| <i>Dave Olsen</i> | Wildlife Biologist |
| <i>Chris Plunkett</i> | Hydrologist |

| CONTRACTOR | |
|--|---|
| Name | Role/Responsibility |
| ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING SOLUTIONS, INC. | |
| <i>WWW.EMPSI.COM</i> | |
| Kate Krebs | Project Manager |
| Amanda Biedermann | Deputy Project Manager |
| Jenna Jonker | GIS |
| Derek Holmgren | Scenic ORV Specialist |
| Peter Gower | Recreational ORV Specialist |
| Morgan Trieger | Fish, Wildlife, Botanic, and Ecological ORVs Specialist |
| Kevin Doyle | Cultural/Historic ORV Specialist |
| Francis Craig | Geologic ORV Specialist |

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Acronyms

| Acronym or Abbreviation | Full Term |
|-------------------------|---|
| EIS | environmental impact statement |
| Forest Service FSH | United States Forest Service Forest Service Handbook |
| LRMP | land and resource management plan |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NHD | National Hydrography Dataset |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| NWSRS | National Wild and Scenic Rivers System |
| ORV | outstandingly remarkable value |
| US | United States |
| USGS | United States Geological Survey |
| WSR | Wild and Scenic River |
| WSR Act | Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 |

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Glossary

Classification. Identification of the class (wild, scenic, or recreational) that appropriately describes an eligible river, based on the criteria established in section 2(b) of the WSR Act (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 80.5).

Determination. A finding in a study report that a river segment does, or does not, meet the criteria found in this chapter to be eligible; or a finding that an eligible river is or is not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 80.5).

Eligible river. A river segment that has been evaluated, and found to be free-flowing and, in combination with its adjacent land area, possesses one or more ORVs (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 80.5).

Forest Service-identified study rivers. Rivers that the Forest Service has identified for study to determine potential inclusion in the NWSRS, as directed under section 5(d)(1) of the WSR Act. These include the inventory of rivers being studied for eligibility, the eligible rivers being studied for suitability, and the rivers determined to be suitable and recommended for inclusion in the NWSRS but that are not yet designated (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 80.5).

Outstandingly remarkable value (ORV). A scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar river-related value that is a unique, rare, or exemplary feature and is significant when compared with similar values from other rivers at a regional or national scale (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 80.5).

River. A flowing body of water or estuary, or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 80.5).

River corridor. The geographic area generally encompassed within one-quarter mile on either side of the river's ordinary high water mark that is studied for eligibility or suitability and that contains the river and its ORVs (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 80.5).

River segment. A distinct section of a river; in the context of wild and scenic river planning, refers to a distinct portion of a river that has a beginning, an endpoint, and specific classification. A river may be one segment with a classification or have multiple segments, each with a different classification (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 80.5).

Study process. The generic term applied to both the process of inventorying rivers to determine if they are eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS or evaluating eligible rivers to determine if they are suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 80.5).

Study report. The documentation for the inventory and evaluation of wild and scenic river eligibility or suitability (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 80.5).

Study river. See Forest Service-identified study rivers.

Suitable river. A river that a federal agency has studied and determined to be suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS but that has not been statutorily designated. A river found suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS is one that the Forest Service will recommend or has recommended for inclusion in the NWSRS (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80, Section 80.5).

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