

**Malheur National Forest
Wild and Scenic River Inventory Documentation
Last Updated 03/23/2010**

BIG BOULDER CREEK

Location: This area lies in Grant County, Oregon between its origin in Section 36, T9S.,R33E., W.M. and the confluence of the mainstem Malheur River in Section 27, T.10S.,R.33E., W.M. The elevation ranges from 6,800 feet to 3,800 feet above sea level.

River Mileage:

Studied: 7.3 miles (miles approximate)

Eligible: 0 miles

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of Free-flow:

The upper 1/3 of the creek is virtually undisturbed. In the lower 2/3, there is a high degree of cultural modification, including diversions. The diversions do not de-water the creek.

The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

SCENERY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The upper 1/3 of the creek is virtually undisturbed as it is within the Vinegar Hill – Indian Rock Scenic Area. The lower 2/3 of the drainage has a high degree of human modification resulting from logging activity, high road densities and past wild fires.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Boulder Creek was initially identified as having locally valuable scenery and that scenery was well above average. However, there was nothing unique or unusual about it nor are the scenic values unique to the region. ***A determination was made of no outstandingly remarkable values for scenery.***

In 2005, the scenic values of Big Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. In 1996, Summit Fire burned approximately 10,302 acres in the Big Boulder subwatershed. Approximately 67% of the acres received a high intensity burn. This activity, resulting in fire salvage activities and associated roads, further affected the scenery in the area. Therefore, nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the scenery values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

RECREATION

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation opportunities within the Big Boulder Creek corridor are primarily locally recognized as important for big game hunting and dispersed recreation.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Boulder Creek was initially identified as having no recreation values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the recreation values of Big Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the recreation values of Big Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the recreation values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WILDLIFE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The forest-meadow ecotone attracts diverse populations of wildlife species and big game species such as deer and elk.

FINDING:

The wildlife habitat and population diversity of Big Boulder Creek area offers opportunities for sport and viewing. The size and components of the area provide a secure ecosystem for sustainability of many species. In 1995, Big Boulder Creek was initially identified as having no wildlife values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the wildlife populations and habitat values of Big Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the wildlife habitat and population diversity of Big Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the wildlife populations and habitat values of Big Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

FISHERIES

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Big Boulder Creek contains redband and summer steelhead trout.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Boulder Creek was initially identified as being a regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species and that it does contain wild stocks and/or federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species. In 1995, fish habitat was determined to be an outstandingly remarkable value (ORV). In 1997, the forest fish biologist, in a letter to the files stated that "...compared to other streams of similar size, Big Boulder creek, along with other

tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River, has some of the best sources of cool water and fish habitat. However, there are several other rivers already designated as W&SR, which provide similar fisheries outstandingly remarkable values and that it was not necessary at this time to pursue W&SR eligibility status for tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River based on fisheries values.”

In 2005, the fisheries habitat and population diversity of Big Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change to the 1997 recommendation to drop eligibility status for Big Boulder Creek. Two major changes happened between the original 1995 determination and the re-evaluation of the creek in 2005. The first major change was the 1996 Summit Fire, affecting a large portion of the vegetation in the subwatershed. The second major change was the federal listing of steelhead trout as a threatened fish species under the Endangered Species Act in 1999. In spring 2005, the IDT recommended continuation of the original 1995 identification of fish habitat as an ORV. At that time, a fish biologist was not part of the IDT. Subsequent review by a fisheries biologist, who reviewed the existing documentation provided by the forest fish biologist in 1997, taking into account the change in status of fish species within Big Boulder Creek, made the determination that the change in status was not enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the fisheries populations and habitat values of Big Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value***

HERITAGE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Results of cultural resource surveys conducted in the Big Boulder Creek corridor, as well as ethnographic information, attests to both historic and prehistoric use of this area.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having no unusual known occupation sites, exceptional human interest values, national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory nor are there sites or features associated with significant events, important persons or rare or unusual past cultural activities. ***A determination was made that the cultural values of Big Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the cultural values of Big Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the cultural resource values of Big Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

GEOLOGY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The headwaters of Big Boulder Creek originate in the Vinegar Hill Scenic Area but there are no examples of rare or unusual geologic or hydrologic features.

FINDING

In 1995, Big Boulder Creek was initially identified as having no geologically significant features unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the geologic values of Big Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the geologic values of Big Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the geologic values of Big Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

BOTANY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Several portions of Big Boulder Creek have not been surveyed for rare or sensitive plant species.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Boulder Creek was initially identified as having no botanical values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the botanical values of Big Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the botanical values of Big Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the botanical values of Big Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WATER QUALITY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Big Boulder Creek has good, clear, and clean water; however the water is similar in character to all the streams in this basin

FINDING

In 1995, Big Boulder Creek was initially identified as having no water quality values unique to the region; however it does provide exceptionally high quality water value for fisheries as stated by the forest fish biologist. In 1997, the forest fish biologist, in a letter to the files, stated that "...compared to other streams of similar size, Big Boulder Creek, along with other tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River, has some of the best sources of cool water and fish habitat. However, there are several other rivers already designated as W&SR, which

provide similar fisheries outstanding remarkable values and that it was not necessary at this time to pursue W&SR eligibility status for tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River based on fisheries values.”

In a re-evaluation of Big Boulder Creek in 2005, the creek was re-assessed to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination of water quality values. Although the water quality is important to the quality fisheries habitat, when looked at for regional importance, a determination was made that water quality populations was not regionally significant. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the water quality values of Big Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

CLASSIFICATION

Determination:

This section of river has the following attributes:

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Upper 1/3 is essentially undeveloped while the lower 2/3 has more human developments.

Accessibility: Generally Inaccessible in the upper 1/3.

Water Quality: Water basically unpolluted.

WSR Classification: None

WSR Summary Information Documentation

BIG CREEK – Blue Mountain Ranger District

Location: This area lies in Grant County, Oregon between its origin in Section 11, T.19S.,R.33E., W.M. and the confluence of the main stem Middle Fork John Day River in Section 21, T.19S.,R.32E., W.M. The elevation ranges from 6,400 feet to 3,400 feet above sea level.

River Mileage:

Studied: 10.4 miles (miles approximate)

Eligible: 0 miles

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of Free-flow:

The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

SCENERY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Due to the different geology and ecotones, there is a high degree of diversity in the landscape. There is also a high degree of human modification resulting from logging activity and road densities in the lower 2/3 of the watershed.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having locally valuable scenery. However, there is nothing unique or unusual about it nor do they have scenic values unique to the region. ***A determination was made of no outstandingly remarkable values for scenery.***

In 2005, the scenic values of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. In 1996, Summit Fire burned approximately 6,342 acres in the Big Creek subwatershed. Approximately 55% of those acres received a high intensity burn. Nothing was found to change the 1995 determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the scenery values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

RECREATION

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation opportunities within the Big Creek corridor are primarily locally recognized as important for big game hunting and dispersed recreation. Viewpoint opportunities are found at Indian Rock Lookout along with the outstanding fall colors.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having no recreation values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the recreation values of Big Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the recreation values of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the recreation values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WILDLIFE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The forest-meadow ecotone attracts diverse populations of wildlife species and big game species such as deer and elk. In addition, there are known populations of goshawk. There is a possibility that wolverine may be found in the area.

FINDING:

The wildlife habitat and population diversity of the Big Creek area offers opportunities for sport and viewing. The size and components of the area provide a secure ecosystem for sustainability of many species. In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having no wildlife values unique to the region. **A determination was made that the wildlife populations and habitat values of Big Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable resource.**

In 2005, the wildlife habitat and population diversity of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. **Based on existing knowledge and data, the wildlife populations and habitat values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.**

FISHERIES

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Big Creek contains redband and bull trout.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as being a regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species and that it does contain wild stocks and/or federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species. **In 1995, fish habitat was determined to be an outstandingly remarkable value (ORV).** In 1997, the forest fish biologist, in a letter to the files stated that "...compared to other streams of similar size, Big Creek, along with other tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River, has some of the best sources of cool water and fish habitat. However, there are several other rivers already designated as W&SR, which provide similar fisheries outstandingly remarkable values and that it was not necessary at this time to pursue W&SR eligibility status for tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River based on fisheries values."

In 2005, the fisheries habitat and population diversity of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change to the 1997 recommendation to drop eligibility status for Big Creek. Two major changes happened between the original 1995 determination and the re-evaluation of the creek in 2005. The first major change was the 1996 Summit Fire, affecting a large portion of the subwatershed. The second major change was the Federal listing of bull trout as a threatened fish species under the Endangered Species Act in 1998. In spring 2005, the IDT recommended continuation of the original 1995 identification of fish habitat as an ORV. At that time, a fish biologist was not part of the IDT. Subsequent review by a fisheries biologist, who reviewed the existing documentation provided by the forest fish biologist in 1997, taking into account the change in status of fish species within Big Creek, made the determination that the change in status was not enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination. **Based on existing knowledge and data, the fisheries populations and habitat values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value**

HERITAGE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Results of cultural resource surveys conducted in the Big Creek corridor, as well as ethnographic information, attests to both historic and prehistoric use of this area.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having no unusual known occupation sites, exceptional human interest values, national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory nor are there sites or features associated with significant events, important persons or rare or unusual past cultural activities. ***A determination was made that the cultural values of Big Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the cultural values of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the cultural resource values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable.***

GEOLOGY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Big Creek originates in the Jumpoff Joe roadless area, but there are no examples of rare or unusual geologic or hydrologic features.

FINDING

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having no rare or unusual geologically significant features. ***A determination was made that the geologic values of Big Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the geologic values of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the geologic values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

BOTANY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Several portions of Big Creek have not been surveyed for rare or sensitive plant species.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having no botanical values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the botanical values of Big Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the botanical values of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the botanical values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WATER QUALITY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Big Creek has good, clear, and clean water; however the water is similar in character to all the streams in this basin

FINDING

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having no water quality values unique to the region; however it does provide exceptionally high quality water value for fisheries as stated by the Forest fish biologist. In 1997, the forest fish biologist, in a letter to the files stated that "...compared to other streams of similar size, Big Creek, along with other tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River, has some of the best sources of cool water and fish habitat. However, there are several other rivers already designated as W&SR, which provide similar fisheries ORVs and that it was not necessary at this time to pursue W&SR eligibility status for tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River based on fisheries values."

In 2005, the water quality values of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 or the 1997 determinations. Nothing was found to change this determination. Although the water quality is important to the area, when looked at for regional importance, a determination was made that the water quality values were not regionally significant. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the water quality values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

CLASSIFICATION

Determination:

This section of river has the following attributes:

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Upper 1/3 is essentially undeveloped while the lower 2/3 has more human developments.

Accessibility: Generally Inaccessible in the upper 1/3.

Water Quality: Water basically unpolluted.

WSR Classification: None

BUTTE CREEK

Location: This area lies in Grant County, Oregon between its origin in Section 30, T11S.,R.34E., W.M. and the confluence of the mainstem Middle Fork John Day River in Section 5, T.11S.,R.34E., W.M. The elevation ranges from 5,600 feet to 3,700 feet above sea level.

River Mileage:

Studied: 5.1 miles (miles approximate)

Eligible: 0 miles

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of Free-flow:

There are log weirs constructed to enhance fisheries habitat within Butte Creek. The study reach is found to be free-flowing even with these additions.

SCENERY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Butte Creek has its headwaters in the Dixie Butte Wildlife Emphasis Area, which was part of the original Dixie Butte Roadless Area. The upper portion of Butte Creek is in a steep, unroaded area, however, the majority of the creek flows through an area that exhibits heavy human modification resulting from logging activity, road densities, historic mining and historic railroad logging. There is very little diversity in the landscape.

FINDING:

In 1995, Butte Creek was initially identified as not having locally valuable scenery, as there is nothing unique or unusual about it nor do they have scenic values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the scenery values of Butte Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the scenery values of Butte Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the scenery values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

RECREATION

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation opportunities within the Butte Creek corridor are primarily locally recognized as important for big game hunting and dispersed recreation.

FINDING:

In 1995, Butte Creek was initially identified as having no recreation values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the recreation values of Butte Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the recreation values of Butte Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the recreation values of Butte Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WILDLIFE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The forest-meadow ecotone attracts diverse populations of wildlife species and big game species such as deer and elk.

FINDING:

The wildlife habitat and population diversity of the Butte Creek area offers opportunities for sport and viewing. The size and components of the area provide a secure ecosystem for sustainability of many species. In 1995, Butte Creek was initially identified as having no wildlife values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the wildlife populations and habitat values of Butte Creek were not identified as outstandingly remarkable values.***

In 2005, the wildlife habitat and population diversity of Butte Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the wildlife populations and habitat values of Butte Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

FISHERIES

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Butte Creek contains redband, summer steelhead and Chinook salmon.

FINDING:

In 1995, Butte Creek was determined to be a regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species and that it does contain wild stocks and/or federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species. ***In 1995, fish habitat was determined to be an outstandingly remarkable value (ORV).*** In 1997, the forest fish biologist, in a letter to the files stated that "...compared to other streams of similar size, Butte Creek, along with other tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River, has some of the best sources of cool water and fish habitat. However, there are several other rivers already designated as W&SR, which provide similar fisheries outstandingly remarkable

values and that it was not necessary at this time to pursue W&SR eligibility status for tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River based on fisheries values.”

In 2005, the fisheries habitat and population diversity of Butte Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change to the 1997 recommendation to drop eligibility status for Butte Creek. The main change between 1997 and 2005 was the federal listing of steelhead trout as a threatened fish species under the Endangered Species Act in 1999. In spring 2005, the IDT recommended continuation of the original 1995 identification of fish habitat as an ORV. At that time, a fish biologist was not part of the IDT. Subsequent review by a fisheries biologist, who reviewed the existing documentation provided by the forest fish biologist in 1997, taking into account the change in status of fish species within Butte Creek, made the determination that the change in status was not enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the fisheries populations and habitat values of Butte Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value***

HERITAGE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Results of cultural resource surveys conducted in the Butte Creek corridor, as well as ethnographic information, attests to both historic and prehistoric use of this area.

FINDING:

In 1995, Butte Creek was initially identified as having no unusual known occupation sites, exceptional human interest values, national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory nor are there sites or features associated with significant events, important persons or rare or unusual past cultural activities. ***A determination was made that the cultural values of Butte Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the cultural values of Butte Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the cultural resource values of Butte Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

GEOLOGY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

There are no examples of rare or unusual geologic or hydrologic features associated with Butte Creek.

FINDING

In 1995, Butte Creek was initially identified as having no rare or unusual geologically significant features. ***A determination was made that the geologic values of Butte Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the geologic values of Butte Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the geologic values of Butte Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

BOTANY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Several portions of Butte Creek have not been surveyed for rare or sensitive plant species.

FINDING:

In 1995, Butte Creek was initially identified as having no botanical values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the botanical values of Butte Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the botanical values of Butte Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this information. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the botanical values of Butte Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WATER QUALITY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Butte Creek has good, clear and clean water, however, the water shares that characteristic with all the streams in this basin

FINDING

In 1995, Butte Creek was initially identified as having no water quality values unique to the region, however it does provide exceptionally high quality water value for fisheries as stated by the forest fisheries biologist. In 1997, the forest fish biologist, in a letter to the files stated that "...compared to other streams of similar size, Butte creek, along with other tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River, has some of the best sources of cool water and fish habitat. However, there are several other rivers already designated as W&SR, which provide similar fisheries outstandingly remarkable values and that it was not necessary at this time to pursue W&SR eligibility status for tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River based on fisheries values."

In 2005, Butte Creek in 2005 was re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination of water quality values. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the water quality values of Butte Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

CLASSIFICATION

Determination:

This section of river has the following attributes:

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Low degree of human modification in the upper ¼, high degree of human modification along the majority of Butte Creek.

Accessibility: Generally accessible by vehicle.

Water Quality: Water basically unpolluted.

WSR Classification: None

CAMP CREEK

Location: This area lies in Grant County, Oregon between its origin in Section 6, T.11S., R.33E., W.M. and the confluence of the mainstem Middle Fork John Day River in Section 19, T.10S., R33E., W.M. The elevation ranges from 3600 feet to 5400 feet above sea level.

River Mileage:

Studied: 16.6 miles (miles approximate)

Eligible: 0 miles

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of Free-flow:

There are log weirs constructed to enhance fisheries habitat within Camp Creek. In addition, there are several irrigation diversions on Camp Creek. The study reach is found to be free-flowing even with these additions.

SCENERY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

There is not a high degree of diversity in the landscape. In addition, there is a high degree of human modification resulting from logging activity and road densities. A main forest access road is located adjacent to Camp Creek for the majority of its length.

FINDING:

In 1995, Camp Creek was initially identified as having no locally valuable scenery, as there is nothing unique or unusual about it nor does it have scenic values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the scenery values of Camp Creek were not identified as outstandingly remarkable values.***

In 2005, the scenery values of Camp Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the scenery values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

RECREATION

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation opportunities within the Camp Creek corridor are primarily locally recognized as important for big game hunting and dispersed recreation. In addition, a developed campground is located adjacent to Camp Creek.

FINDING:

In 1995, Camp Creek was initially identified as having no recreation values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the recreation values of Camp Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the recreation values of Camp Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the recreation values of Camp Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

WILDLIFE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The forest-meadow ecotone attracts diverse populations of wildlife species and big game species such as deer and elk.

FINDING:

The wildlife habitat and population diversity of the Camp Creek area offers opportunities for sport and viewing. The size and components of the area provide a secure ecosystem for sustainability of many species. In 1995, Camp Creek was initially identified as having no wildlife values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the wildlife populations and habitat values of Big Boulder Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the wildlife habitat and population diversities of Camp Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the wildlife populations and habitat values of Camp Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

FISHERIES

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Camp Creek contains redband, summer steelhead and Chinook salmon.

FINDING:

In 1995, Camp Creek was initially identified to be a regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species and that it does contain wild stocks and/or federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species. It was also determined to provide exceptionally high quality fish habitat for indigenous fish species. However there was a determination on the Forest that the fisheries habitat and populations in Camp Creek were not outstandingly remarkable features. In 1997, the forest fish biologist, in a letter to the files about other tributaries to the Middle Fork River stated that “.....However, there are several other rivers already designated as W&SR, which provide similar fisheries outstanding remarkable values and that it was not necessary at this time to pursue W&SR eligibility status for tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River based on fisheries values.” ***This upheld the original determination of no outstandingly remarkable values found in 1995.***

In 2005, the fisheries habitat and population diversity of Camp Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change to the 1995 and 1997 recommendation to drop eligibility status for Camp Creek. The main change between 1995 and 2005 was the federal listing of steelhead trout as a threatened fish species under the Endangered Species Act in 1999. In spring 2005, the IDT recommended addition of fish habitat as an outstandingly remarkable value. At that time, a fish biologist was not part of the IDT. Subsequent review by a fisheries biologist, who reviewed the existing documentation provided by the forest fish biologist in 1997, taking into account the change in status of fish species within Camp Creek, made the determination that the change in status was not enough to warrant a change in the 1995 and 1997 determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the fisheries populations and habitat values of Camp Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value***

HERITAGE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Results of cultural resource surveys conducted in the Camp Creek corridor, as well as ethnographic information, attests to both historic and prehistoric use of this area.

FINDING:

In 1995, Camp Creek was initially identified as having no unusual known occupation sites, exceptional human interest values, national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory nor are there sites or features associated with significant events, important persons or rare or unusual past cultural

activities. ***A determination was made that the cultural values of Camp Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the cultural values of Camp Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the cultural resource values of Camp Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

GEOLOGY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

There are no examples of rare or unusual geologic or hydrologic features associated with Camp Creek.

FINDING

In 1995, Camp Creek was initially identified as having no rare or unusual geologically significant features. ***A determination was made that the geologic values of Camp Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the geologic values of Camp Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the geologic values of Camp Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

BOTANY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Several portions of Camp Creek have not been surveyed for rare or sensitive plant species.

FINDING:

In 1995, Camp Creek was initially identified as having no botanical values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the botanical values of Camp Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the botanical values of Camp Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the botanical values of Camp Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WATER QUALITY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Camp Creek has good, clear, and clean water, however the water is similar in character to all the streams in this basin

FINDING

In 1995, Camp Creek was initially identified as having no water quality values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the water quality values of Camp Creek were not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

In 2005, the water quality values of Camp Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination of water quality values. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the water quality values of Camp Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

CLASSIFICATION

Determination:

This section of river has the following attributes:

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: The majority of the length shows heavy human modifications.

Accessibility: Entire length is generally accessible.

Water Quality: Water basically unpolluted.

WSR Classification: None

GRANITE BOULDER CREEK

Location: This area lies in Grant County, Oregon between its origin in Section 3, T.9S., R.34E., W.M. and the confluence of the mainstem Middle Fork John Day River in Section 5, T.11S., R.34E., W.M. The elevation ranges from 4000 feet to 6800 feet above sea level.

River Mileage:

Studied: 7.2 miles (miles approximate)

Eligible: 0 miles

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of Free-flow:

The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

SCENERY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Due to the different geology and ecotones, there is a high degree of diversity in the landscape. The upper 1/3 of the creek is virtually undisturbed as it is within the Vinegar Hill-Indian Rock Scenic Area. The lower 2/3 of the drainage has a high degree of human modification resulting from logging activity, road densities and past wild fires.

FINDING:

In 1995, Granite Boulder Creek was initially identified as having locally valuable scenery and that scenery is well above average. ***However, there is nothing unique or unusual about it nor do they have scenic values unique to the region.***

In 2005, the scenic values of Granite Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the scenery values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

RECREATION

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation opportunities within the Granite Boulder corridor are primarily locally recognized as important for big game hunting and dispersed recreation.

FINDING:

In 1995, Granite Boulder was initially identified as having no recreation values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the recreation values of Granite Boulder Creek were not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

In 2005, the recreation values of Granite Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the recreation values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value***

WILDLIFE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The forest-meadow ecotone attracts diverse populations of wildlife species and big game species such as deer and elk.

FINDING:

The wildlife habitat and population diversity of the Granite Boulder Creek area offers opportunities for sport and viewing. The size and components of the area provide a secure ecosystem for sustainability of many species. In 1995, Granite

Boulder Creek was initially identified as having no wildlife values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the wildlife populations and habitat values of Granite Boulder Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the wildlife habitat and population diversity of Granite Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the wildlife populations and habitat values of Granite Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value***

FISHERIES

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Granite Boulder Creek contains redband and bull trout.

FINDING:

In 1995, Granite Boulder Creek was initially identified to be a regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species and that it does contain wild stocks and/or federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species. ***In 1995, fish habitat was determined to be an outstandingly remarkable value (ORV).*** In 1997, the forest fish biologist, in a letter to the files stated that "...compared to other streams of similar size, Granite Boulder creek, along with other tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River, has some of the best sources of cool water and fish habitat. However, there are several other rivers already designated as W&SR, which provide similar fisheries ORVs and that it was not necessary at this time to pursue W&SR eligibility status for tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River based on fisheries values."

In 2005, the fisheries habitat and population diversity of Granite Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change to the 1997 recommendation to drop eligibility status for Granite Boulder Creek. The main change between 1997 and 2005 was the federal listing of bull trout as a threatened fish species under the Endangered Species Act in 1998. In spring 2005, the IDT recommended continuation of the original 1995 identification of fish habitat as an ORV. At that time, a fish biologist was not part of the IDT. Subsequent review by a fisheries biologist, who reviewed the existing documentation provided by the forest fish biologist in 1997, taking into account the change in status of fish species within Granite Boulder Creek, made the determination that the change in status was not enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the fisheries populations and habitat values of Granite Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value***

HERITAGE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Results of cultural resource surveys conducted in the Granite Boulder Creek corridor, as well as ethnographic information, attests to both historic and prehistoric use of this area.

FINDING:

In 1995, Granite Boulder Creek was initially identified as having no unusual known occupation sites, exceptional human interest values, national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory nor are there sites or features associated with significant events, important persons or rare or unusual past cultural activities. A determination was made that ***the cultural values of Granite Boulder Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the cultural values of Granite Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the cultural resource values of Granite Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

GEOLOGY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Granite Boulder Creek originates in the Vinegar Hill Scenic Area but there are no examples of rare or unusual geologic or hydrologic features.

FINDING

In 1995, Granite Boulder Creek was initially identified as having no rare or unusual geologically significant features. ***A determination was made that the geologic values of Granite Boulder Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the geologic values of Granite Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the geologic values of Granite Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

BOTANY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Several portions of Granite Boulder Creek have not been surveyed for rare or sensitive plant species.

FINDING:

In 1995, Granite Boulder Creek was initially identified as having no botanical values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the botanical values of Granite Boulder Creek were not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

In 2005, the botanical values of Granite Boulder Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the botanical values of Granite Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

WATER QUALITY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Granite Boulder Creek has good, clear and clean water, however, the water is similar in character to all the streams in this basin

FINDING

In 1995, Granite Boulder Creek was initially identified as having no water quality values unique to the region, however, it does provide exceptionally high quality water value for fisheries. In 1997, the forest fish biologist, in a letter to the files stated that "...compared to other streams of similar size, Granite Boulder Creek, along with other tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River, has some of the best sources of cool water and fish habitat. However, there are several other rivers already designated as W&SR, which provide similar fisheries outstandingly remarkable values and that it was not necessary at this time to pursue W&SR eligibility status for tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River based on fisheries values." ***A determination was made that the botanical values of Granite Boulder Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In a re-evaluation of Granite Boulder Creek in 2005, the creek was re-assessed to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination of water quality values. Although the water quality is important to the quality fisheries habitat, when looked at for regional importance, a determination was made that water quality was not regionally significant. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the water quality values of Granite Boulder Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

CLASSIFICATION

Determination:

This section of river has the following attributes:

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Upper 1/3 is essentially undeveloped while the lower 2/3 has more human developments.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible in the upper 1/3.

Water Quality: Water basically unpolluted.

WSR Classification: None

SOUTH FORK LONG CREEK

Location: This area lies in Grant County, Oregon between its origin in Section 22, T.11S., R.31E., W.M. and the confluence of the mainstem Long Creek in Section 17, T.10S., R.31E., W.M. The elevation ranges from 5,500 feet to 2,500 feet above sea level.

River Mileage:

Studied: 7.5 miles (miles approximate)

Eligible: 0 miles

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of Free-flow: The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

SCENERY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

There is a high degree of diversity in the landscape including Columbia River basalt bluffs and canyons. In addition, there is a high degree of human modification resulting from logging activity and road densities.

FINDING:

In 1995, South Fork Long Creek was initially identified as having a high degree of diversity in the landscape, but the scenery is not unique regionally. In addition, there has been a high degree of cultural modification due to the amount of past logging and the high road densities. ***In 1995, the scenery values of South Fork Long Creek were tentatively identified as having outstanding remarkable values. A caveat to this was that the area would be re-reviewed by a landscape architect to determine if the scenery values were unique to the region rather than to the local area.***

After 1999, the Malheur National Forest did not have the services of a landscape architect on the Forest and the re-evaluation of the scenery did not happen. In 2005, the scenic values of South Fork Long Creek were re-evaluated by the forest recreation planner and the revision team recreation planner, who are both familiar with scenery rating techniques, to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. The field review discovered a relatively un-disturbed creek. Although there is evidence of past timber sale harvesting and high road densities in the uplands, the steep sideslopes into South Fork Long Creek precluded any direct modification throughout the majority of the length of the creek. Access to the creek is limited to the headwaters and to approximately 1/4 mile from the western forest boundary. The contrast between the cool, green creek bottom and the arid, rocky uplands provides a high degree of diversity in the landscape, however, the scenic characteristics are present to some degree in the designated rivers in the region of comparison such as the South Fork and main stem of the John Day Rivers, North Powder or the North Fork and main stem of the Malheur River. While the stream provides interesting vegetative and landform contrasts, and few human

intrusions, the views are common to other rivers in the region and better represented in those streams. The scale of the stream's features is smaller and less significant when compared to designated streams of a similar character, and are not considered to be rare or unusual in nature. The views are attractive, but not exemplary. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the scenery values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

RECREATION

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation opportunities within the South Fork Long Creek corridor are primarily locally recognized as important for big game hunting and dispersed recreation.

FINDING:

In 1995, South Fork Long Creek was initially identified as having no recreation values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the recreation values of South Fork Long Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the recreation values of South Fork Long Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the recreation values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WILDLIFE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The forest-meadow ecotone attracts diverse populations of wildlife species and big game species such as deer and elk.

FINDING:

The wildlife habitat and population diversity of the South Fork Long Creek area offers opportunities for sport and viewing. The size and components of the area provide a secure ecosystem for sustainability of many big game species. In 1995, South Fork Long Creek was initially identified as having no wildlife values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the wildlife populations and habitat values of South Fork Long Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the wildlife habitat and population diversity of South Fork Long Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the wildlife populations and habitat values of South Fork Long Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value***

FISHERIES

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

South Fork Long Creek contains redband trout.

FINDING:

In 1995, South Fork Long Creek was determined to be a regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species and that it does contain wild stocks and/or federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species. It did not have a diversity of species or habitat unique to the region. It was also determined to provide exceptionally high quality fish habitat for indigenous fish species. ***However there was a determination on the Forest that the fisheries habitat and populations in South Fork Long Creek were not outstandingly remarkable features.***

In a re-evaluation of South Fork Long Creek in 2005, the creek was re-assessed to determine if conditions had changed to warrant a change in the 1995 determination of fisheries values. Although the habitat is unique to the area, when looked at for regional importance, a determination was made that fisheries habitat and populations was not regionally significant. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the fisheries populations and habitat values of the South Fork Long Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable resource.***

HERITAGE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Results of cultural resource surveys conducted in the South Fork Long Creek corridor, as well as ethnographic information, attests to both historic and prehistoric use of this area.

FINDING:

In 1995, South Fork Long Creek was initially identified as having no unusual known occupation sites, exceptional human interest values, national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory nor are there sites or features associated with significant events, important persons or rare or unusual past cultural activities. ***A determination was made that the cultural values of South Fork Long Creek were not identified as outstandingly remarkable values.***

In 2005, the cultural values of South Fork Long Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the cultural resource values of South Fork Long Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

GEOLOGY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

There are no examples of rare or unusual geologic or hydrologic features associated with South Fork Long Creek.

FINDING

In 1995, South Fork Long Creek was initially identified as having no geologically significant features unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the geologic values of South Fork Long Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the geologic values of South Fork Long Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the geologic values of South Fork Long Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

BOTANY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Several portions of South Fork Long Creek have not been surveyed for rare or sensitive plant species.

FINDING:

In 1995, South Fork Long Creek was initially identified as having no botanical values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the botanical values of South Fork Long Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the botanical values of South Fork Long Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the botanical values of South Fork Long Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

WATER QUALITY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

South Fork Long Creek has good, clear, and clean water; however the water is similar in character to all the streams in this basin

FINDING

In 1995, South Fork Long Creek was initially identified as having no exceptionally pure, clear or clean water when compared to other similar tributaries nor is it recognized as providing exceptionally high quality water critical for fish, wildlife, recreation or community uses. ***A determination was made that the water quality values of South Fork Long Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In a re-evaluation of South Fork Long Creek in 2005, the creek was re-assessed to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination of water quality values. A determination was made that water quality values was not regionally significant. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the water quality values of South Fork Long Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

CLASSIFICATION

Determination:

This section of river has the following attributes:

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: There is a high degree of human modification throughout much of the length of the creek in the uplands, little to no modification adjacent to the creek.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible.

Water Quality: Water basically unpolluted.

WSR Classification: None

VINEGAR CREEK

Location: This area lies in Grant County, Oregon between its origin in Section 18, T.10S., R.35E., W.M. and the confluence of the mainstem Middle Fork John Day River in Section 19, T11., R.35E., W.M. The elevation ranges from 7,000 feet to 4,000 feet above sea level.

River Mileage:

Studied: 9.8 miles (miles approximate)

Eligible: 0 miles

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of Free-flow:

The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

SCENERY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Due to the different geology and ecotones, there is a high degree of diversity in the landscape. Although the tip of the headwaters start in the Vinegar Hill-Indian Rock scenic area, the majority of the creek flows through an area that contains a high degree of human modification resulting from logging activity, road densities, historic mining and historic railroad logging.

FINDING:

In 1995, Vinegar Creek was initially identified as having locally valuable scenery. However, there is nothing unique or unusual about it nor do they have scenic values unique to the region. ***A determination was made of no outstandingly remarkable values for scenery.***

In 2005, the scenic values of Vinegar Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the scenery values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

RECREATION

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation opportunities within the Vinegar Creek corridor are primarily locally recognized as important for big game hunting and dispersed recreation. Viewpoint opportunities are found at Indian Rock Lookout along with the outstanding fall colors.

FINDING:

In 1995, Vinegar Creek was initially identified as having no recreation values unique to the region. A determination was made that ***the recreation values of Vinegar Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the recreation values of Vinegar Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the recreation values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WILDLIFE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The forest-meadow ecotone attracts diverse populations of wildlife species and big game species such as deer and elk.

FINDING:

The wildlife habitat and population diversity of the Vinegar Creek area offers opportunities for sport and viewing. The size and components of the area provide a secure ecosystem for sustainability of many species. In 1995, Vinegar Creek was initially identified as having no wildlife values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the wildlife populations and habitat values of Vinegar Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the wildlife habitat and population diversity of Vinegar Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the wildlife populations and habitat values of Vinegar Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

FISHERIES

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Vinegar Creek contains redband trout, summer steelhead trout, bull trout and Chinook salmon.

FINDING:

In 1995, Vinegar Creek was determined to be a regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species and that it does contain wild stocks and/or federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species. ***In 1995, fish habitat was determined to be an outstandingly remarkable value (ORV).*** In 1997, the forest fish biologist, in a letter to the files stated that "...compared to other streams of similar size, Vinegar creek, along with other tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River, has some of the best sources of cool water and fish habitat. However, there are several other rivers already designated as W&SR, which provide similar fisheries ORVs and that it was not necessary at this time to pursue W&SR eligibility status for tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River based on fisheries values."

In 2005, the fisheries habitat and population diversity of Vinegar Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change to the 1997 recommendation to drop eligibility status for Vinegar Creek. The main change between 1997 and 2005 was the federal listing of bull trout as a threatened fish species under the Endangered Species Act in 1998 and the federal listing of steelhead trout as a threatened fish species under the Endangered Species Act in 1999. In spring 2005, the IDT recommended continuation of the original 1995 identification of fish habitat as an ORV. At that time, a fish biologist was not part of the IDT. Subsequent review by a fisheries biologist, who reviewed the existing documentation provided by the forest fish biologist in 1997, taking into account the change in status of fish species within Vinegar Creek, made the determination that the change in status was not enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the fisheries populations and habitat values of Vinegar Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value***

HERITAGE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Results of cultural resource surveys conducted in the Vinegar Creek corridor, as well as ethnographic information, attests to both historic and prehistoric use of this area.

FINDING:

In 1995, Vinegar Creek was initially identified as having no unusual known occupation sites, exceptional human interest values, national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory nor are there sites or features associated with significant events, important persons or rare or unusual past cultural activities. ***A determination was made that the cultural values of Vinegar Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the cultural values of Vinegar Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the cultural resource values of Vinegar Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

GEOLOGY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The headwaters of Vinegar Creek originate in the Vinegar Hill Scenic Area, but the majority of the creek is outside the scenic area. There are no examples of rare or unusual geologic or hydrologic features adjacent to Vinegar Creek.

FINDING

In 1995, Vinegar Creek was initially identified as having no rare or unusual geologically significant features. ***A determination was made that the geologic values of Vinegar Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the geologic values of Vinegar Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the geologic values of Vinegar Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

BOTANY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Several portions of Vinegar Creek have not been surveyed for rare or sensitive plant species.

FINDING:

In 1995, Vinegar Creek was initially identified as having no botanical values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the botanical values of Vinegar Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the botanical values of Vinegar Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the botanical values of Vinegar Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WATER QUALITY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Vinegar Creek has good, clear, and clean water, however, the water is similar in character to all the streams in this basin

FINDING

In 1995, Vinegar Creek was initially identified as having no water quality values unique to the region, however it does provide exceptionally high quality water value for fisheries as stated by the forest fish biologist. In 1997, the forest fish biologist, in a letter to the files stated that "...compared to other streams of similar size, Vinegar creek, along with other tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River, has some of the best sources of cool water and fish habitat. However, there are several other rivers already designated as W&SR, which provide similar fisheries ORVs and that it was not necessary at this time to pursue W&SR eligibility status for tributaries to the Middle Fork John Day River based on fisheries values."

In a re-evaluation of Vinegar Creek in 2005, the creek was re-assessed to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination of water quality values. Although the water quality is important to the quality fisheries habitat, when looked at for regional importance, a determination was made that water quality was not regionally significant. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the water quality values of Vinegar Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

CLASSIFICATION

Determination:

This section of river has the following attributes:

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Upper 1/3 is essentially undeveloped while the lower 2/3 has more human developments.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible in the upper 1/3.

Water Quality: Water basically unpolluted.

WSR Classification: None

BIG CREEK - Prairie City Ranger District

Location: This area lies in Grant County, Oregon between its origin in Section 4, T.15S.,R.34E., W.M. and the confluence of the mainstem Malheur River in Section 35, T.16S.,R.33 1/2E., W.M. Big Creek flows through private land starting in Section 23, T.16S., R.33 1/2E. to where it joins with the Malheur River in Section 35. The elevation ranges from 7,600 feet to 5,500 feet above sea level.

River Mileage:

Studied: 13.4 miles (miles approximate)

Eligible: 0 miles

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of Free-flow: The stream bed and bank are affected only by natural processes within the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness. Outside wilderness, diversions can be found on both private and federal lands. These diversions do not de-water the creek.

The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

SCENERY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Portions of the study corridor exhibits little influence by humans. The portion of Big Creek within the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness exhibits undeveloped visual quality featuring a mosaic of mostly burned vegetation, meadows, a rugged landscape including rock escarpments, and a variety of wildlife. Outside the wilderness the study corridor begins to exhibit influence by humans as evidence of past fire salvage activities begin at the wilderness boundary. In addition, historic logging activities, campgrounds, road construction, rangeland seedings in Logan Valley, water diversions and ditches for irrigation and livestock grazing are other human modifications that Big Creek flows past.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having a high degree of diversity in the landscape due to the subalpine meadow and grasslands, mixed conifer forests, rock escarpments, hardwood riparian, stream bottoms, open park-like ponderosa pine stands, remnant aspen islands, and lodgepole pine stands. However the lower end of the area has been modified by historic and recent logging activities, interpretive sites, campgrounds, road construction, rangeland seedings in Logan Valley, water diversions and ditches for irrigation (both on and off forest), and livestock grazing. The upper end is within Strawberry Mountain Wilderness and has only received minor modifications. The scenery is locally

unique to the region. ***A determination was made that there were outstandingly remarkable values for scenery.***

In 2005, the scenic values of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. In 2005 the High Roberts Fire burned approximately 6,822 acres in the Big Creek subwatershed. This activity further affected the scenery in the area. Based on the fire occurrence, the IDT made the determination that most of the vegetation diversity found prior to the fire did not exist after the fire. Therefore due to the changes wrought by the fire, the IDT reversed the 1995 determination that scenery was an outstandingly remarkable resource. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the scenery values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

RECREATION

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation opportunities within the Big Creek corridor are primarily locally recognized as important for big game hunting, dispersed recreation, and general wilderness recreational activities. Big Creek Trail #377 allows access into the heart of the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness, generally following Big Creek to its headwaters. Outside the wilderness, recreation opportunities are similar however developed and motorized activities are also important. Big Creek Campground is a heavily used campground adjacent to Big Creek.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having no recreation values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the recreation values of Big Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the recreation values of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the recreation values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable.***

WILDLIFE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The forest-meadow ecotone attracts diverse populations of sensitive wildlife species and big game species such as antelope and elk, in a combination which is unique to the region. Within the wilderness, habitat provides a corridor for wolverines. In the lower elevations adjacent to Big Creek (outside the wilderness) the area provides high quality habitat which is locally important for sandhill cranes, upland sandpipers and long billed curlew, which are all sensitive species.

FINDING:

The wildlife habitat and population diversity of Big Creek area offers opportunities for sport and viewing. The size and components of the area provide a secure ecosystem for sustainability of many species. In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having nationally or regionally important populations of upland

sandpipers. In addition, there are known populations of sandhill cranes, upland sandpipers and long billed curlew, which are sensitive species. In addition, the area provides high quality habitat which are locally important for those sensitive species, especially nesting habitat for upland sandpipers in Logan Valley. It also provides a corridor for wolverines in the wilderness. The diversity of habitat for sandhill cranes, upland sandpipers and long bill curlews is unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the wildlife populations and habitat values of Big Creek are identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the wildlife habitat and population diversity of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Although the Logan Valley area in general provides high quality wildlife species habitat and diverse wildlife populations, the wildlife resource is NOT necessarily directly river-related or uniquely tied to the stream corridor. ***Big Creek is not found to have wildlife population diversity or population diversity that is an outstandingly remarkable value tied to the stream corridor.***

FISHERIES

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Big Creek, tributary of the Malheur River is located partially within the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness. Within the Malheur River Sub-basin bulltrout is the primary aquatic species listed as threatened. Threatened status means that the listed group is likely to become endangered (in danger of extinction) within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range or Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU). Following is a record of when these species were listed as threatened:

- Bull Trout in the Columbia Basin, including the Malheur River, were listed as threatened under ESA in 1998.

FINDING:

The Malheur River system including Big Creek contains Bull trout, which is listed as threatened under the Threatened and Endangered Species Act. Fisheries habitat was not listed as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Malheur Wild and Scenic River. Although the bull trout fisheries in Big Creek is important locally, they are not unique on a State or regional basis. The Malheur Wild and Scenic River provides similar fisheries outstandingly remarkable values. In 1995, Big Creek was determined to have no fisheries habitat or population values unique to the region.

In 2005, the fisheries habitat and population diversity of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change to the 1995 determination. A major change affecting Big Creek was the federal listing of bull trout as a threatened fish species under the Endangered Species Act in 1998. The second major change was the 2002 High Roberts Fire, affecting a large portion of the vegetation in the subwatershed. In spring 2005, the IDT recommended no changes to the original 1995 determination. At that time, a fish biologist was not part of the IDT. Subsequent review by a fisheries biologist taking into account the change in status of fish species within Big Creek, made

the determination that the change in status was not enough to reverse the 1995 determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the fisheries populations and habitat values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value***

HERITAGE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Results of cultural resource surveys conducted in the Big Creek corridor, as well as ethnographic information, attests to both historic and prehistoric use of this area.

FINDING:

Logan Valley, on the southern end of the study area, as a whole is a large occupational site. In addition, the Hines Railroad Grade and Umatilla Pony Race Track both have local importance as potential interpretive sites. In 1995, Big Creek tributary corridor, of which encompasses Logan Valley, was determined to contain known occupation sites used by Native Americans that are unusual, have exceptional human interest value, have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory, been used for sacred purposes and is listed as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the tributary corridors contains known sites and features that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places have some cultural value unique to the region, but the value was not confined specifically to the Big Creek corridor. ***A determination was made that the cultural values of Big Creek are identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the cultural values of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. At that time an archeologist was not part of the IDT and the ORV of a cultural ORV was not recognized. In further review of the 1995 determination by the Forest Archeologist, the original determination of a cultural ORV was re-examined. The extensive area surrounding Logan Valley, while eligible for National Historic Register nomination, is much larger than the portion directly influenced by Big Creek itself. The unique features found in Logan Valley provide a wealth of information for current and future study of prehistoric and historic cultures of the area, however, the Big Creek stream corridor does not have unique, rare, or unusual components of the potential historic district that are not also contained outside the stream corridor. ***Because the heritage resources which are unique to Logan Valley are not necessarily dependent on Big Creek itself or directly stream-relate; they are not considered to be outstandingly remarkable values.***

GEOLOGY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Big Creek is a low gradient stream in the southern end that climbs to an elevation of 7,600 feet in the Strawberry Mountain Range of the Blue Mountains. It is similar to the majority of the streams that find it's headwaters in the Strawberry Mountains.

FINDING

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having no geologically significant features unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the geologic values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the geologic values of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the geologic values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

BOTANY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Several portions of Big Creek have not been surveyed for rare or sensitive plant species.

FINDING:

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having no botanical values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the botanical values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the botanical values of Big Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the botanical values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WATER QUALITY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Big Creek is one of the cold headwater tributaries to the Malheur River. Water temperature and sediment load have not been influenced by human actions in the portion within the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness and are the result of natural processes. Lower elevations have been influenced by human actions. In 2002, the High Roberts Fire swept across the area which has affected the water quality in the Big Creek headwaters. Many examples of cold high quality water regimes exist within the northern Blue Mountains.

FINDING

In 1995, Big Creek was initially identified as having no water quality values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the water quality values of Big Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In a re-evaluation of Big Creek in 2005, the creek was re-assessed to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination of

water quality values. Although the water quality is important to the quality fisheries habitat, when looked at for regional importance, a determination was made that water quality populations was not regionally significant. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the water quality values of Big Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

CLASSIFICATION

Determination:

This section of river has the following attributes:

Water Resources Development: The stream bed and bank are affected only by natural processes within the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness. Outside wilderness, diversions can be found on both private and federal lands. These diversions do not de-water the creek.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive within the wilderness, developed outside the wilderness.

Accessibility: Generally Inaccessible within the wilderness, accessible outside the wilderness.

Water Quality: Could be affected in the headwaters by High Roberts Fire and by development in the lower reaches.

WSR Classification: None

LAKE CREEK

Location: This area lies in Grant County, Oregon between its origin in Section 7, T.15S., R.34E., W.M. and the confluence of Big Creek in Section 35, T.16S., R.33 1/2E., W.M. Lake Creek flows through private land starting in Section 16, T.16S., R.33 1/2E. to where it joins with Big Creek in Section 35 The elevation ranges from 5,500 feet to 8,150 feet above sea level.

River Mileage:

Studied: x miles (miles approximate)

Eligible: 0 miles

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of Free-flow: The stream bed and bank are affected only by natural processes within the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness. Outside wilderness, diversions can be found on both private and federal lands. These diversions do not de-water the creek.

The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

SCENERY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Portions of the study corridor exhibits little influence by humans. Lake Creek starts at High Lake, a very scenic and popular destination in the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness. The portion of Lake Creek within the wilderness exhibits undeveloped visual quality featuring unique rock escarpments behind High Lake to a mosaic of mostly burned vegetation, meadows and a variety of wildlife. Outside the wilderness the study corridor begins to exhibit influence by humans as evidence of past fire salvage activities begin south of the wilderness boundary. In addition, historic logging activities, campgrounds, an organization camp, road construction, rangeland seedings in Logan Valley, water diversions and ditches for irrigation and livestock grazing are other human modifications that Lake Creek flows past.

FINDING:

In 1995, Lake Creek was initially identified as having a high degree of diversity in the landscape due to the subalpine meadow and grasslands, mixed conifer forests, rock escarpments, hardwood riparian, stream bottoms, open-parklike ponderosa pine stands, remnant aspen islands, and lodgepole pine stands. However the lower end of the area has been modified by historic and recent logging activities, interpretive sites, campgrounds, road construction, rangeland seedings in Logan Valley, water diversions and ditches for irrigation (both on and off forest), and livestock grazing. The upper end is within Strawberry Mountain Wilderness and has only received minor modifications. The scenery is locally unique to the region. ***A determination was made that there were outstandingly remarkable values for scenery.***

In 2005, the scenic values of Lake Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. In 2005 the High Roberts Fire burned approximately 3,095 acres in the Lake Creek subwatershed. This activity further affected the scenery in the area. Based on the fire occurrence, the IDT made the determination that most of the vegetation diversity found prior to the fire did not exist after the fire. Therefore due to the changes wrought by the fire, the IDT reversed the 1995 determination that scenery was an outstandingly remarkable resource. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the scenery values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

RECREATION

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation opportunities within the Lake Creek corridor are primarily locally recognized as important for big game hunting, dispersed recreation, and general wilderness recreational activities. Lake Creek Trail #378 allows access into the heart of the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness, generally following Lake Creek to its headwaters at High Lake. Outside the wilderness, recreation opportunities are similar however developed and motorized activities are also important. Murray Campground and Lake Creek Organization Camp are heavily used developed sites adjacent to Lake Creek.

FINDING:

In 1995, Lake Creek was initially identified as having no recreation values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the recreation values of Lake Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the recreation values of Lake Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the recreation values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable.***

WILDLIFE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The forest-meadow ecotone attracts diverse populations of sensitive wildlife species and big game species such as antelope and elk, in a combination which is unique to the region. Within the wilderness, habitat provides a corridor for wolverines. In the lower elevations adjacent to Lake Creek (outside the wilderness) the area provides high quality habitat which is locally important for sandhill cranes, upland sandpipers and long billed curlew, which are all sensitive species.

FINDING:

The wildlife habitat and population diversity of Lake Creek area offers opportunities for sport and viewing. The size and components of the area provide a secure ecosystem for sustainability of many species. In 1995, Lake Creek was initially identified as having nationally or regionally important populations of upland sandpipers. In addition, there are known populations of sandhill cranes, upland sandpipers and long billed curlew, which are sensitive species. In addition, the area provides high quality habitat which are locally important for those sensitive species, especially nesting habitat for upland sandpipers in Logan Valley. It also provides a corridor for wolverines in the wilderness. The diversity of habitat for sandhill cranes, upland sandpipers and long bill curlews is unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the wildlife populations and habitat values of Lake Creek were identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the wildlife habitat and population diversity of Lake Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Although the Logan Valley area in general provides high quality wildlife species habitat and diverse wildlife populations, the wildlife resource is NOT necessarily directly river-related or uniquely tied to the stream corridor. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the wildlife populations and habitat values of Lake Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

FISHERIES

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Lake Creek, tributary of the Malheur River, is located partially within the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness. Within the Malheur River Subbasin, bulltrout is an aquatic species listed as threatened. Threatened status means that the listed group is likely to become endangered (in danger of extinction) within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range or Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU). Following is a record of when this species was listed as threatened:

- Bull Trout in the Columbia Basin, including the Malheur River, were listed as threatened under ESA in 1998.

FINDING:

The Malheur River system including Lake Creek contains Bull trout, which is listed as threatened under the Threatened and Endangered Species Act. Fisheries habitat was not listed as an outstandingly remarkable value for the Malheur Wild and Scenic River. Although the bull trout fisheries in Lake Creek is important locally, they are not unique on a State or regional basis. The Malheur Wild and Scenic River provides similar fisheries outstandingly remarkable values. In 1995, Lake Creek was determined to have no fisheries habitat or population values unique to the region.

In 2005, the fisheries habitat and population diversity of Lake Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change to the 1995 determination. A major change affecting Lake Creek was the federal listing of bull trout as a threatened fish species under the Endangered Species Act in 1998. The second major change was the 2002 High Roberts Fire, affecting a large portion of the vegetation in the subwatershed. In spring 2005, the IDT recommended no changes to the original 1995 determination. At that time, a fish biologist was not part of the IDT. Subsequent review by a fisheries biologist taking into account the change in status of fish species within Lake Creek, made the determination that the change in status was not enough to reverse the 1995 determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the fisheries populations and habitat values of Lake Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value***

HERITAGE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Results of cultural resource surveys conducted in the Lake Creek corridor, as well as ethnographic information, attests to both historic and prehistoric use of this area.

FINDING:

Logan Valley, on the southern end of the study area, as a whole, is a large occupational site. In addition, the Hines Railroad Grade and Lake Creek Forest

Service Administrative site located at the Lake Creek Organization Camp location have local importance as potential interpretive sites. In 1995, Lake Creek tributary corridor, of which encompasses Logan Valley, was determined to contain known occupation sites used by Native Americans that are unusual, have exceptional human interest value, have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory, been used for sacred purposes and is listed as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the tributary corridors contains known sites and features that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places have some cultural value unique to the region, but the value was not confined specifically to the Lake Creek corridor. ***A determination was made that the cultural values of Lake Creek are identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the cultural values of Lake Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. At that time an archeologist was not part of the IDT and the ORV of a cultural ORV was not recognized. In further review of the 1995 determination by the Forest Archeologist, the original determination of a cultural ORV was changed. Although the area has a variety of interesting and important cultural sites and links, they are not stream dependent or necessarily within the stream corridor. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the cultural resource values of Lake Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

GEOLOGY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Lake Creek is a low gradient stream in the southern end that climbs to an elevation of 8,150 feet in the Strawberry Mountain Range of the Blue Mountains. It is similar to the majority of the streams that find it's headwaters in the Strawberry Mountains.

FINDING

In 1995, Lake Creek was initially identified as having no geologically significant features unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the geologic values of Lake Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the geologic values of Lake Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the geologic values of Lake Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value***

BOTANY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Several portions of Lake Creek have not been surveyed for rare or sensitive plant species.

FINDING:

In 1995, Lake Creek was initially identified as having no botanical values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the botanical values of Lake Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the botanical values of Lake Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the botanical values of Lake Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WATER QUALITY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Lake Creek is one of the cold headwater tributaries to the Malheur River. Water temperature and sediment load have not been influenced by human actions in the portion within the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness and are the result of natural processes. Lower elevations have been influenced by human actions. In 2002, the High Roberts Fire swept across the area which has affected the water quality in the Lake Creek headwaters. Many examples of cold high quality water regimes exist within the northern Blue Mountains.

FINDING

In 1995, Lake Creek was initially identified as having no water quality values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the water quality values of Lake Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In a re-evaluation of Lake Creek in 2005, the creek was re-assessed to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination of water quality values. Although the water quality is important to the quality fisheries habitat, when looked at for regional importance, a determination was made that water quality populations was not regionally significant. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the water quality values of Lake Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

CLASSIFICATION

Determination:

This section of river has the following attributes:

Water Resources Development: The stream bed and bank are affected only by natural processes within the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness. Outside wilderness, diversions can be found on both private and federal lands. These diversions do not de-water the creek.

Shoreline Development: Essentially primitive within the wilderness, developed outside the wilderness.

Accessibility: Generally inaccessible within the wilderness, accessible outside the wilderness.

Water Quality: Could be affected in the headwaters by High Roberts Fire and by development in the lower reaches.

WSR Classification: None

MIDDLEFORK JOHN DAY RIVER

Location: This area lies in Grant County, Oregon between its origin northwest of Phipps meadows in Section 36, T9S., R.33E., W.M. and 32 miles downriver to the Malheur Forest boundary (at Armstrong creek) in Section 34, T.9S., R.32E., W.M. The elevation ranges from 3,800 feet to 6,800 feet above sea level.

River Mileage:

Studied: 32 miles (miles approximate)

Eligible: 0 miles

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of Free-flow:

Throughout the majority of the river length, there is a high degree of cultural modification, including irrigation diversions, bank stabilization projects and fish habitat improvement work. The diversions do not de-water the stream.

The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

SCENERY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The large, open valley that the majority of the river flows through shows a wide range of diversity ranging from the flat floodplains in the river bottom to the steep wooded slopes away from the river. The deciduous trees along the river add to the diversity of the vegetation colors as the seasons change. The majority of the river shows a high degree of human modification since much of it flows through private land. Farmhouses, private roads, ditches and livestock are common sights. On public land, past wildfires, developed campgrounds and public roads add to the sights of human modification. This area was designated as a visuals corridor in the 1990 Malheur Forest Plan. In addition, the State of Oregon designated Middle Fork John Day River as a State Scenic Waterway in 1990.

FINDING:

During the eligibility study completed for the Middle Fork John Day River in 1988, scenery was initially identified as average. In addition, there was nothing unique or unusual about it nor are the scenic values unique to the region. **A**

determination was made that the scenery values of the Middle Fork John Day River were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.

In 2005, the scenic values of the Middle Fork John Day River were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1988 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the scenery values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

RECREATION

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation opportunities within the Middle Fork John Day River corridor are primarily locally recognized as important for a variety of recreation activities including big game hunting, developed recreation and dispersed recreation. Public lands next to the Middle Fork John Day River offer developed amenities such as two campgrounds plus quite a bit of undeveloped, dispersed sites for the public using the lands within and adjacent to the river. County Road 21 adjacent to the river is a popular scenic route.

FINDING:

During the eligibility study completed for the Middle Fork John Day River in 1988, recreation was initially identified as above average. However, there was nothing unique or unusual about it nor are the recreation values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the recreation values of the Middle Fork John Day River were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable resource.***

In 2005, the recreation values of the Middle Fork John Day River were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1988 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the recreation values of the Middle Fork John Day River are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WILDLIFE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The forest-meadow ecotone attracts diverse populations of wildlife species and big game species such as deer and elk.

FINDING:

The wildlife habitat and population diversity of Middle Fork John Day River area offers opportunities for sport and viewing. The size and components of the area provides a secure ecosystem for sustainability of many species. During the eligibility study completed for the Middle Fork John Day River in 1988, wildlife habitat and population was initially identified as above average. However, there was nothing unique or unusual about it nor are the wildlife species and habitat values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the wildlife populations and habitat values of the Middle Fork John Day River were not identified as outstandingly remarkable values.***

In 2005, the wildlife habitat and population diversity of Middle Fork John Day River were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1988 determination. Nothing was found to change this

determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the wildlife populations and habitat values of the Big Middle Fork John Day River are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value***

FISHERIES

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Middle Fork John Day River is part of the largest wild run of anadromous fish (spring and summer steelhead) in the Columbia River Basin. These species have a viable, unique and wild gene pool. Bull trout is also found within the Middle Fork John Day River.

FINDING:

In 1988, Middle Fork John Day River was initially identified as being a regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species and that it does contain wild stocks and/or federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species. ***In 1988, fish habitat was determined to be an outstandingly remarkable value (ORV). In the 1990 Forest Plan, Affected Environment (p III-64), Middle Fork John Day River was recommended by a Forest committee for further consideration for Wild and Scenic River eligibility due to an outstandingly remarkable value of fisheries species/habitat.***

In 2005, the fisheries habitat and population diversity of Middle Fork John Day River were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change to the 1988 recommendation of eligible. The main change between 1988 and 2005 was the federal listing of bullhead trout as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act in 1998 and the federal listing of steelhead trout as a threatened fish species under the Endangered Species Act in 1999. In spring 2005, the IDT recommended continuation of the original 1995 identification of fish habitat as an ORV. At that time, a fish biologist was not part of the IDT. Subsequent review in the summer of 2005 by a fisheries biologist made the determination that the change in status was not enough to warrant listing the fish species or habitat as an outstandingly remarkable value. ***The fisheries values present in the Middle Fork John Day River are also present in the North Fork John Day River, a previously designated Wild and Scenic River. The values are similar, and not rare, unique or unusual on a regional scale, and they are determined to not be outstandingly remarkable values.***

HERITAGE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

In the past, parts of the river have been dredged for mining and there is an old railroad grade along the river. Results of cultural resource surveys conducted in the Middle Fork John Day River corridor, as well as ethnographic information, attests to both historic and prehistoric use of this area.

FINDING:

In 1988, Middle Fork John Day River was initially identified as having no unusual known occupation sites, exceptional human interest values, national or regional

importance for interpreting prehistory nor are there sites or features associated with significant events, important persons or rare or unusual past cultural activities. ***A determination was made that the cultural values of the Middle Fork John Day River were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the cultural values of Middle Fork John Day River were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1988 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the cultural resource values of the Middle Fork John Day River are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

GEOLOGY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

FINDING

In 1988, Middle Fork John Day River was initially identified as having no geologically significant features unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the geologic values of the Middle Fork John Day River were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the geologic values of Middle Fork John Day River were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the geologic values of the Middle Fork John Day River are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

BOTANY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Several portions of Middle Fork John Day River have not been surveyed for rare or sensitive plant species.

FINDING:

In 1988, Middle Fork John Day River was initially identified as having no botanical values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the botanical values of Middle Fork John Day River were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the botanical values of Middle Fork John Day River were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the botanical values of Middle Fork John Day River are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

WATER QUALITY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Middle Fork John Day River has good, clear, and clean water; however the water is similar in character to all the streams in this basin

FINDING

In 1998, Middle Fork John Day River was initially identified as having no water quality values unique to the region; however it does provide exceptionally high quality water value for fisheries. ***A determination was made that the water quality values of Middle Fork John Day River are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the water quality values of the Middle Fork John Day River were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1988 determination. Although the water quality is important to the quality fisheries habitat, when looked at for regional importance, a determination was made that water quality was not regionally significant. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the water quality values of Middle Fork John Day River are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

CLASSIFICATION

Determination:

This section of river has the following attributes:

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: High degree of human modification along the majority of the river.

Accessibility: Generally accessible.

Water Quality: Water basically unpolluted.

WSR Classification: None

LOWER MURDERER'S CREEK

Location: This area lies in Grant County, Oregon between the locations known as White Creek in Section 13, T.15S., R.29E., W.M. and the Forest Boundary in Section 12, T.15S., R.27E., W.M. The elevation ranges from 3,200 feet to 4,800 feet above sea level.

In 1995, Lower Murderer's Creek was reviewed by the Bear Valley Ranger District, now known as the Blue Mountain Ranger District. At that time the original segment reviewed was from the location known as "Stewart's Cabin", west to the forest boundary. In 2005, the Blue Mountain Interdisciplinary Team had a cursory look at the creek from the White Creek confluence to the Forest Boundary. After review of the stretch of Murderer's Creek between White Creek and Stewart's cabin, it was determined that the initial stretch under review was the more logical segment. Therefore, all 2005 updated information is only about the original segment from Stewart's Cabin west to the Forest Boundary and will continue to be referred to as Lower Murderer's Creek.

River Mileage:

Studied: 9 miles (miles approximate)

Eligible: 0 miles

ELIGIBILITY

Determination of Free-flow:

The study reach is found to be free-flowing.

SCENERY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Portions of the study corridor exhibit little influence by humans. Murderer's Creek has a high diversity in the landscape as all south slopes off of Aldrich change landscape quite quickly. The high cliffs and rocky gorges of the river canyon provide for the diversity of the landscape.

FINDING:

In 1995, Lower Murderer's Creek was initially identified as having a high degree of diversity in the landscape and a low degree of cultural modification. The area has locally valuable scenery and that scenery is well above average. However, there is nothing unique or unusual about the scenery values nor do they have scenic values unique to the region. **In 1995, the scenery values of Lower Murderer's Creek were tentatively identified as having outstandingly remarkable values. A caveat to this was that the Lower Murderer's Creek area would be re-reviewed by a landscape architect to determine if the scenery values were unique to the region rather than to the local area.**

After 1999, the Malheur National Forest did not have the services of a landscape architect on the Forest and the re-evaluation of the scenery did not happen. In 2005, the Blue Mountain IDT identified the stretch of Murderer's Creek from White Creek to the western forest boundary as scenic. In August, 2005, the scenic values of Murderer's Creek were re-evaluated by the forest recreation planner, the forest planning staff officer and the revision team recreation planner, who are familiar with scenery rating techniques, to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the two determinations. The field review discovered a highly modified landscape from White Creek to approximately the area of private land known as "Stewart's Cabin". Scenery in this area was

characterized by a low gradient, gently flowing creek bracketed by Forest Road 21 and a narrow riparian area. Evidence of human modification was throughout the stretch with cows, dispersed sites and two recreation sites located closely to the creek. West of the private land known as “Stewart’s Cabin”, the creek winds through steep canyon walls, as it flows through the Shaketable inventoried roadless area. Access to the creek is very limited as there are no roads or trails west of Stewarts Cabin that access the creek. The contrast between the cool, green creek bottom and the arid, rocky uplands provides a high degree of diversity in the landscape, however, the scenic characteristics are present to some degree in the designated rivers in the region of comparison such as the South Fork and main stem of the John Day Rivers, North Powder or the North Fork and main stem of the Malheur River. While the stream provides interesting vegetative and landform contrasts, and no human intrusions in the lower portion, the views are common to other rivers in the region and better represented in those streams. The scale of the stream’s features is smaller and less significant when compared to designated streams of a similar character, and are not considered to be rare or unusual in nature. The views are attractive, but not exemplary. **Based on existing knowledge and data, the scenery values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value in either the portion of Murderer’s Creek between White Creek and Stewart’s Cabin location nor in that portion of the creek referred to as Lower Murderer’s Creek..**

RECREATION

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation opportunities within the Murderer’s Creek corridor are primarily locally recognized as important for big game hunting and dispersed recreation.

FINDING:

In 1995, Lower Murderer’s Creek was initially identified as having no recreation values unique to the region. **A determination was made that the recreation values of Lower Murderer’s Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.**

In 2005, the recreation values of Lower Murderer’s Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. **Based on existing knowledge and data, the recreation values are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.**

WILDLIFE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The forest-meadow ecotone attracts diverse populations of wildlife species and big game species such as antelope and elk, in a combination which is unique to the region. In addition, big horn sheep and wild horses provide for a wide diversity of species. Golden and bald eagles can also be found on Lower Murderer’s Creek.

FINDING:

The wildlife habitat and population diversity of the Lower Murderer's Creek area offers opportunities for sport and viewing. The size and components of the area provide a secure ecosystem for sustainability of many species. In 1995, Lower Murderer's Creek was initially identified as having no wildlife values unique to the region. The big horn sheep wildlife populations, though noteworthy, are not dependent on the river corridor as a critical component of their habitat. In addition, the wild horse herd, while interesting, may be viewed throughout the Lower Murderer's Creek Territory. ***Therefore, wildlife habitat and population diversity of Lower Murderer's Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the wildlife habitat and population diversity of Lower Murderer's Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the wildlife populations and habitat values of Lower Murderer's Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value***

FISHERIES

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Murderer's Creek contains redband and steelhead trout. Due to the potential to provide high quality habitat, Lower Murderer's Creek provides one of the anchor points for the Lower Murderer's Creek steelhead population.

FINDING:

In 1995, Lower Murderer's Creek was initially identified as being a regionally important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species and that it does contain wild stocks and/or federal or state listed threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species however, in 1995, fish habitat was not determined to be an outstandingly remarkable value (ORV). In a letter to the files from the Recreation Staff, the recommendation was made that if Lower Murderer's Creek was found to be eligible, then the suitability analysis will be completed during the next Forest Plan revision/update. If a suitability analysis is done, it was recommended that further evaluation be conducted of the fishery to determine if it should be included as an Outstandingly Remarkable Value. In a 1997 letter to the files from the Forest fish biologist, Lower Murderer's Creek was mentioned as a "key" watershed. It was included in the list of streams that are locally important. In addition, he mentioned four streams that were top of the list in importance that could be considered as eligible for wild and scenic river status. Lower Murderer's Creek was not included on the list.

In 2005, the fisheries habitat and population diversity of Lower Murderer's Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change to the 1997 recommendation to drop eligibility status for Lower Murderer's Creek. The main change between 1997 and 2005 was the federal listing of steelhead trout as a threatened fish species under the Endangered Species Act in 1999. In spring 2005, the IDT recommended identification of fish

habitat as an ORV. At that time, a fish biologist was not part of the IDT. Subsequent review in the summer of 2005 by a fisheries biologist, who reviewed the existing documentation provided by the forest fish biologist in 1997, taking into account the change in status of fish species within Lower Murderer's Creek, made the determination that the change in status was not enough to warrant a change in the 1997 determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the fisheries populations and habitat values of Lower Murderer's Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value***

HERITAGE

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Results of cultural resource surveys conducted in the Lower Murderer's Creek corridor, as well as ethnographic information, attests to both historic and prehistoric use of this area. Lower reaches of Lower Murderer's Creek on State/BLM have significant village sites. Lower reaches and tributaries to Lower Murderer's Creek contain significant rock art. Uplands on the National Forest probably received substantial use, but additional surveys are needed to make that determination. This area also contains features associated with the Bannock War. This includes major camps for the Bannocks and Paiutes. This area is where the historic "Canyon City Volunteers" engaged the tribes in the Murderer's Creek Area and early white/Indian conflicts dealing with the murder of miners resulting in the name of "Murderer's Creek".

FINDING:

In 1995, Lower Murderer's Creek tributary corridor was determined to contain known occupation sites used by Native Americans that are unusual, have exceptional human interest value, have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory, been used for sacred purposes and is listed as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the tributary corridors contain known sites and features that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and have cultural value unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the cultural values of Lower Murderer's Creek were identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In 2005, the cultural values of Lower Murderer's Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. At that time an archeologist was not part of the IDT and the ORV of a cultural ORV was not recognized. In further review of the 1995 by the Forest Archeologist, the original determination of a cultural ORV was reversed. Sites located within the study area are not regionally significant. Significant sites are found outside of the forest boundary. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the cultural resource values of Lower Murderer's Creek are not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value***

GEOLOGY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

The high cliffs and rocky gorges of the river canyon provide interesting geological resources.

FINDING

In 1995 Lower Murderer's Creek was determined to have geologically interesting high cliffs and rocky gorges that enhance the scenic value of the area. However, there is nothing unique or unusual about them nor do they have geologic values unique to the region. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the geologic values of Murderer's Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

In 2005, the geologic values of Lower Murderer's Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the geologic values of Lower Murderer's Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

BOTANY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Several portions of Lower Murderer's Creek have not been surveyed for rare or sensitive plant species.

FINDING:

In 1995, Lower Murderer's Creek was initially identified as having no botanical values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the botanical values of Lower Murderer's Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

In 2005, the botanical values of Lower Murderer's Creek were re-evaluated to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination. Nothing was found to change this determination. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the botanical values of Lower Murderer's Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

WATER QUALITY

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Lower Murderer's Creek has good, clear, and clean water, similar to all the streams in this basin

FINDING

In 1995, Lower Murderer's Creek was initially identified as having no water quality values unique to the region. ***A determination was made that the water quality values of Lower Murderer's Creek were not identified as an outstandingly remarkable value.***

In a re-evaluation of Lower Murderer's Creek in 2005, the creek was re-assessed to determine if conditions had altered enough to warrant a change in the 1995 determination of water quality values. Although the water quality is important to the quality fisheries habitat, when looked at for regional importance, a

determination was made that water quality was not regionally significant. ***Based on existing knowledge and data, the water quality values of Lower Murderer's Creek are not identified as an outstanding remarkable value.***

CLASSIFICATION

Determination:

This section of river has the following attributes:

Water Resources Development: Free of impoundment.

Shoreline Development: Essentially undeveloped.

Accessibility: Generally Inaccessible.

Water Quality: Water basically unpolluted.

WSR Classification : None