Appendix D
Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Study

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INTRODUCTION

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C 1271-1287) was enacted by Congress to address the need for a national system of river protection on October 2, 1968. As an outgrowth of a national conservation agenda in the 1950s and 1960s, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Act) was in response to the dams, diversions, and water resource development projects that occurred on America's rivers between the 1930s and 1960s. The Act concluded that selected rivers should be preserved in a free-flowing condition and be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Since 1968, the Act has been amended many times, primarily to designate additional rivers and authorize the study of other rivers for possible inclusion.

As of September 2002, some 160 river segments comprising 11,292 miles have been protected in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System). These nationally recognized rivers comprise a valuable network of natural and cultural resources, scenic beauty, and recreational opportunities. The focus of this appendix is on the study initiated by the Forest and the rivers identified as eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation.

INTENT OF THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act seeks to protect and enhance a river's natural and cultural values and provide for public use consistent with its free flowing character, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values. Designation affords certain legal protection from development. For instance, no new dams can be constructed, nor are federally assisted water resource development projects permitted that might negatively affect the designated river values. Where private lands are involved, the federal managing agency works with local governments and owners to develop protective measures.

There are two ways rivers are designated into the National System: (1) by Act of Congress, or (2) by the Secretary of Interior if the river has first been designated into a valid state river protective system by state law and the appropriate Governor has applied for a Wild and Scenic River designation. To be eligible for designation, a river must be free flowing and contain at least one outstandingly remarkable value that can be scenic, recreational, geological, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, botanical, hydrological, paleontological, or scientific.

There are two ways rivers can be identified for study as potential additions to the National System; by Act of Congress under Section 5(a) or through an agency-initiated study under Section 5(d)(1) of the Act which requires that "in all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all Federal agencies involved to potential wild, scenic, and recreational areas."

Through Section 5(d)(1) the Forest Service is required to assess rivers under its management jurisdiction and determine whether these rivers are eligible by applying standardized criteria through a documented evaluation process. River areas that are found to be eligible are then classified as wild, scenic, or recreational, based on the development of shoreline, watercourse, and access. Proposed boundaries and/or river areas and protective management requirements are developed at the time of eligibility determination. For river segments on federal lands determined to be eligible under Section 5(d)(1) of the Act, direction to protect the river as a potential addition to the National System is in effect until such a time as a "suitability" evaluation and subsequent decision is made. A Wild and Scenic River suitability analysis involves determining the best use of the eligible river and the best method to protect the ORV within the river corridor. Rivers subsequently determined suitable will continue to be protected as potential additions to the National System.

Protective management of federal lands in the river area begins at the time the river segment is found eligible. Specific management prescriptions for eligible river segments provide protection, pending a suitability determination, in the following ways:

- **Free-flowing values.** The free-flowing characteristics of eligible river segments cannot be modified to allow stream impoundments, diversions, channelization, and/or riprapping to the extent authorized under law.

- **River-related values.** Each segment is managed to protect outstandingly remarkable values (subject to valid existing rights) and, to the extent practicable, such values are enhanced.

- **Classification impacts.** Management and development of the eligible river and its corridor cannot be modified, subject to valid existing rights, to the degree that its eligibility or classification would be affected.

REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY METHODOLOGY

1987 Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan:

A Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study was completed as part of the 1987 Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (USDA Forest Service 1987). The Forest initially used the Pacific Northwest Study as the only source of possible eligible rivers. Rivers found on United States Geological Survey (USGS) 1:100,000 data maps were included in the Forest's evaluation. A water development filter was used to determine free-flowing status, and a cultural filter was used to determine whether the minimum requirements for a recreation river were met. Rivers meeting these criteria were then screened for outstandingly remarkable values. Of the rivers evaluated, the Forest found three eligible river segments for possible inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

All three rivers were given potential classifications. Public review was provided through the Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan public involvement process.

2000 Sawtooth National Forest Draft Land and Resource Management Plan:

In 1997, the Forest Supervisor approved the need for a Wild and Scenic River eligibility study based on new information and changed conditions. In May 1997, the Southwest Idaho Ecogroup Wild and Scenic River Assessment Team was formed to develop alternative strategies for the completion of Wild and Scenic River eligibility and suitability studies and interim management direction. This effort was designed to provide a basis for the Wild and Scenic Rivers analysis in the Forest Plan Revision process or in amendments to the Forest Plan

In the fall of 1997, the Ecogroup established an interdisciplinary process to review over 600 streams on the Forest for potential Wild and Scenic River eligibility. The process incorporated the Interagency Wild and Scenic River Reference Guide; FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8, "Wild and Scenic River Evaluation"; the Region 4 Desk Guide – Bridge to Revision (USDA Forest Service 1993); the Washington Office Wild and Scenic River Protocol; and the Intermountain Region Wild and Scenic River Protocol. For the review, a corridor of approximately one-quarter mile on either side of the river was used when evaluating eligibility.

The Wild and Scenic River Act states that, in order to be found eligible, a river segment must be free-flowing and contain at least one outstandingly remarkable value (ORV). The Forest determined rivers eligible for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic River System through a process of elimination. That is, if a river did not have a potential ORV in at least one resource, it was not evaluated further. The steps used for this inventory are as follows:

- Determine and document potential ORVs;
- Determine and document ORVs and free-flowing status;
- Determine and document drainage segmentation; and
- Determine and document river classification(s).

Criteria For Inclusion In The Eligibility Inventory

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility study inventoried the following rivers, within the Forest's administrative boundaries:

- All perennial rivers represented in the Geographic Information System's (GIS) 1:100,000 scale USGS rivers layer (also known as the "major rivers" layer). These rivers were evaluated first for potential outstandingly remarkable values.
- All rivers included in the Pacific Northwest Rivers Study, or the Norwest Power Planning Council Protected Rivers list. These rivers were also first evaluated for potential outstandingly remarkable values.
- All rivers included in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, or the State of Idaho Comprehensive Water Plan.
- All rivers currently eligible for inclusion into the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. These rivers were updated during the eligibility process for new information and changed conditions since the previous inventory.
- Any rivers identified as part of the public involvement process.

Three major elements contributed to whether a river was found eligible for further study:

1. **Are there any outstandingly remarkable values present within the river corridor?**
   In order for a river to become eligible for further study as a possible wild, scenic, or recreational river, it must have one or more outstandingly remarkable resource values present on the National Forest System lands. The outstandingly remarkable values fall into categories that are defined in Section 1(b) of the Act as "scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values." "Other similar values" include, but are not limited to, hydrologic, ecological/ biological diversity, paleontological, botanical, and scientific study opportunities. A defined Region of Comparison was used as context to assess the uniqueness or rarity of the outstandingly remarkable values.

2. **Is the drainage considered a river consistent with the river definition?**
   Using the definition of a river as "a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes," all creeks and rivers on the major river GIS coverage were considered in this evaluation.

3. **Is the river free flowing?**
   In order for a river to become eligible for further study, it must be free flowing. To be considered free flowing, the river must be free of impoundments or diversions.

A public involvement process was initiated to provide the public an opportunity to nominate streams or stream segments on the Forest for potential eligibility. An information packet explaining the evaluation process and a "Frequently Asked Questions" fact sheet were mailed to more than 1,000 individuals or groups. This information was also posted on the Southwest Idaho Ecogroup Forest Plan Revision Project's web page (*www.fs.fed.us/r4/sawtooth).*

An interdisciplinary team from each Ranger District reviewed all the streams on the 1:100,000 major river GIS coverage in order to determine if there were rivers with "potential" outstandingly remarkable values. Each stream was evaluated to first broadly screen for potential outstandingly remarkable values using a generalized set of criteria. Streams that were not identified as having one or more potential outstandingly remarkable value were dropped at that time from further consideration for eligibility.

Draft Land And Resource Management Plan Findings

With an initial inventory of 601 individual rivers considered for eligibility, a first screen using broad criteria resulted in 161 streams with potential outstandingly remarkable values. These 161 streams were assessed in greater detail with specific criteria for determining the presence of outstandingly remarkable values, and this assessment resulted in 94 streams with identified ORVs. These 94 streams were segmented according to the established criteria to determine tentative classification, and they were presented in the Draft Land and Resource Management Plan (USDA Forest Service 2000).

These streams were listed and identified in the Draft Land Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (USDA Forest Service 2000) as potentially eligible for inclusion in the Rivers System. The streams were considered “potentially” eligible because: 1) the identified rivers had not been reviewed and commented on by the public, and 2) further analysis was needed to ensure the ORV criteria had been applied consistently.

Changes from the Draft to Final Land and Resource Management Plan

The Forest received comments on the “potentially” eligible rivers presented in the Draft Land and Resource Management Plan during the public comment period following the release of the documents. Comments urged the Forest to reconsider the Region of Comparison as it appeared to be too narrow in scope or applied inconsistently. The Forest also received comments supporting the eligibility of the draft list or suggesting that none of the rivers were eligible and the study should be discontinued. To address these comments a three Forest interdisciplinary team re-evaluated the Regions of Comparison and the ORV criteria to ensure they were national in scope, as mandated by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and that the criteria had been applied consistently by resource specialists throughout the Ecogroup. During this re-evaluation some changes were made to the Regions of Comparison and outstandingly remarkable values criteria. This re-evaluation also determined that the criteria used to assess ORV’s had been inconsistently applied. The following summary describes the changed criteria used to determine ORV’s and its associated region of comparison. Please refer to the Southwest Idaho Ecogroup Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Inventory User’s Guide (USDA Forest Service 2001), for a full discussion of criteria components.

Scenic Outstandingly Remarkable Values

To define the scenic outstandingly remarkable values resource specialists considered the landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors that result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions within the nation or region. They also considered:

- Whether or not the riverine landscape is distinctive enough to attract visitors from outside the Region of Comparison (Columbia River Basin); and

- If visitors were willing to travel long distances or travel across backcountry specifically to view, photograph, or record the outstanding scenic resource along the riverway.

Additional factors were also considered when determining scenic outstandingly remarkable values, including:

- Whether or not seasonal variations in vegetation exist;
- The scale of cultural modifications; and
- If scenic and visual attractions were highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.

Recreation/Interpretive Outstandingly Remarkable Values

To define recreation/interpretive outstandingly remarkable values, resource specialists considered:

- Whether or not recreation opportunities are or have the potential to be distinctive enough to attract visitors from outside the Region of Comparison (Columbia River Basin);
- If visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreation purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sight-seeing, wildlife observation, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, tubing, and floating, including white-water rafting, kayaking, or canoeing
- If interpretive opportunities were exceptional and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from outside the Region of Comparison; and
- Whether or not the river may provide, or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.

Geological and Hydrological Outstandingly Remarkable Values

To help define geological/hydrologic outstandingly remarkable values, resource specialists considered:

- If the river or corridor contains an example of a hydrologic or geologic features;
- If the feature is a process or phenomena that is rare to the province or subbasin, or if it is an outstanding example of a commonly occurring feature; and
- If the feature is in an unusually active state of development, represents a "textbook" example, and/or represents a rare or important combination of hydrologic or geologic features or landforms (erosional, volcanic, glacial, drainage patterns, etc.).

The Region of Comparison to determine geologic/hydrologic outstandingly remarkable values is the Province as defined by McNab and Avers in "Ecological Subregions of the United States: Section Descriptions", USDA publication WO-WSA-5, July 1994 (McNab and Avers 1994). There are three Provinces that occur within the Ecogroup: (1) Province M332-Middle Rocky Mountain Steppe-Coniferous Forest-Alpine Meadow (this encompasses all of the Boise, and most of the Payette and Sawtooth Forests); (2) Province 342-Intermountain Semi-Desert (this encompasses the southern portion of the Sawtooth Forest); and (3) Province 331A-Great Plains - Palouse Dry Steppe (this encompasses the northern central tip of the Payette Forest).

Fish Outstandingly Remarkable Values

When defining outstandingly remarkable fish values resource specialists considered:

- If the river contains more than one fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act;
- If there is sufficient documentation to support the existence of a listed species in the river corridor within the past 20 years, if the fish species was not currently present;
- Whether or not spawning and rearing habitat exists for listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive species;
- If the river provides near natural assemblages of native fish species, including multiple life histories for the same species, or contains one or more unique/narrow endemic fish species;
- If the river is in a watershed designated Pacfish or Infish high priority (not just key);

- Whether or not the river provides a near-natural condition; and
- If the river represents other habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species in the same types of streams in that geologic setting.

The Region of Comparison for determining fishery values is the Columbia River Basin.

Wildlife Outstandingly Remarkable Values

When defining outstandingly remarkable wildlife values resource specialists considered:

- If the river corridor contains one or more "unique"/narrow endemic wildlife species;
- If the river corridor contains wintering range for more than two big game species, such as elk, mountain goat, and big horn sheep;
- If the river corridor contains clustered nesting/denning/calving locations used by wildlife species listed under the Endangered Species Act; and
- If the wildlife resource value is tied to unique features associated with the corridor.

The Region of Comparison for determining wildlife values is the Columbia River Basin.

Heritage Outstandingly Remarkable Values

Heritage values are comprised of three components: Prehistoric, Historic, and Traditional Cultural.

When defining outstandingly remarkable **prehistoric values,** resource specialists considered:

- Whether or not the river corridor contains a site where there is evidence of occupation or use by American Indians or other prehistoric culture; and
- If the sites have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups or may have been used by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes.

Of particular significance are sites or features listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The evaluation is based on existing inventory information.

The Regions of Comparison for evaluating prehistoric values are identified as the *Plains, Great Basin, and Columbia Plateau Culture* areas. Generally, prehistoric values have been associated with American Indian prehistory, although other ethnographic groups could be considered if they left traces of their activity on the landscape, or significant events were associated with certain special places.

When defining outstandingly remarkable **historic values**, resource specialists considered:

- If the river corridor contains a site or feature associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare, unusual, or important in the region; and
- Whether or not a historic site and/or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older.

Of particular significance are national Historic Landmarks or sites or features listed in, or eligible for inclusion in, the NRHP.

The Region of Comparison used to evaluate historic outstandingly remarkable values is the Western United States.

When defining outstandingly remarkable **traditional cultural values**, resource specialists considered:

- Whether or not the river or area with the river corridor contains location(s) of regional importance to Indian tribes (religions activities, fishing, hunting, and gathering). Locations may have unusual characteristic or exceptional cultural value integral to continued pursuit of such activities.

The Regions of Comparison used to evaluate traditional cultural values were the traditional territories of American Indian cultures native to this area.

Ecological/Botanical Outstandingly Remarkable Values

When defining outstandingly remarkable ecological/botanical values resource specialists considered:

- If the river corridor contains an important element in a regional plan to conserve biological diversity while maintaining ecosystem integrity.

The Region of Comparison used to evaluate ecological/botanical values was identical to those used to evaluate geologic and hydrologic outstandingly remarkable values. Please refer to that section for further information.

River Classification

The types and amounts of activities and changes acceptable within an eligible, suitable, or designated river corridor depend on whether it is classified as a Wild, Scenic, or Recreational river. Activity compatibility with classification can be found in the Wild and Scenic Rivers portion of Chapter 3 in the Environmental Impact Statement. Below is a summary of the criteria used to determine tentative river classification.

Table D-1. Criteria Used to Determine Tentative Classification

Tentative Classification	Criteria Used
Wild River	The river is free of impoundments. The shoreline is essentially primitive. The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable. A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable. There is little or no evidence of past timber harvest, and no ongoing timber harvest. The river is generally inaccessible except by trail. There are no roads, railroads, or other provisions for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the river area are acceptable. The river meets or exceeds federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming), expect where exceeded by natural conditions.
Scenic River	The river is free of impoundments. The shoreline is largely primitive and undeveloped. There is no substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable. The presence of grazing or crop production is acceptable. Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank. The river is accessible, in places, by road. Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. Short stretches of conspicuous, or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads are acceptable.
Recreational River	Low dams, diversions, or other modifications of the waterway are acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural in appearance. The shoreline has substantial evidence of human activity. Extensive residential development and a few commercial structures are acceptable. Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses. The shoreline may show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest. The river is readily accessible by road or railroad. Parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks, as well as bridge crossings and other river access points, are acceptable.

FINAL LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FINDINGS

Thirty-three rivers with 47 segments were found eligible through this revised process. The rivers and their segments, classification(s), and ORVs are described in Tables D-2 and D-3, below.

Table D-2. Sawtooth National Forest Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

River Name	Tributary To	Segment	Segment Location	Class[1]	Scenic[2]	Recreation	Geologic	Hydro	Fish	Wildlife	Heritage	Eco/Bot
Alpine Creek	Alturas Lake Creek	1	Headwaters to confluence with Alturas Lake Creek	W	O		O		O			
Alturas Lake Creek	Salmon River	1	Headwaters to Alturas Lake Inlet	S					O			
Alturas Lake Creek	Salmon River	2	Alturas Lake outlet to confluence with Salmon River	R					O			
Baron Creek	South Fork Payette River	1	Headwaters to confluence with South Fork Payette River	W	O	O	O	O				
Beaver Creek	Salmon River	1	Headwaters to confluence with Little Beaver Creek	S							O	
Big Wood River	Malad River	1	Headwaters to Forest boundary	R	O	O			O			
Boulder Chain Lakes Creek	Little Boulder Creek	1	Headwaters to confluence with Little Boulder Creek	W	O		O	O				
Box Canyon Creek	Little Wood River	1	Headwaters to confluence with Little Wood River	W	O	O						
East Fork Salmon River	Salmon River	1	Confluence with South Fork East Fork Salmon River to confluence with unnamed creek in Sec. 6	W					O			
East Fork Salmon River	Salmon River	2	Confluence with unnamed creek in Section 6 to Forest boundary	R					O			
Elk Creek	Valley Creek	1	Headwaters to Elk Meadow Trailhead	W	O	O	O	O	O			O
Elk Creek	Valley Creek	2	Elk Meadows Trailhead to confluence with Valley Creek	S					O			
Fishhook Creek	Redfish Lake Creek	1	Headwaters to west boundary line of Sec. 34	W	O	O	O	O	O			O
Fishhook Creek	Redfish Lake Creek	2	West boundary line of Section 34 to Redfish Lake	R		O			O			O
Germania Creek	East Fork Salmon River	1	Headwaters to confluence with Three Cabins Creek	S					O			

[1] Class = Classification of the river segment. W = Wild, R = Recreational, and S = Scenic

[2] Scenic, Recreation, Geologic, Hydro, Fish, Wildlife, Heritage, Eco/Bot = Outstandingly Remarkable Values. Scenic = Scenic Value, Recreation = Recreation Value, Geologic = Geologic Value, Hydro = Hydrologic Value, Fish = Fish Value, Wildlife = Wildlife Value, Eco/Bot = Ecological / Botanical Value.

River Name	Tributary To	Segment	Segment Location	Class[1]	Scenic[2]	Recreation	Geologic	Hydro	Fish	Wildlife	Heritage	Eco/Bot
Germania Creek	East Fork Salmon River	2	Confluence with Three Cabins Creek to confluence with East Fork Salmon River	W					O			
Goat Creek	South Fork Payette River	1	Headwaters to confluence with South Fork Payette River	W	O	O	O	O				
Goat Creek	Valley Creek	1	Headwaters to west boundary line of Sec. 17	W	O	O	O	O	O			O
Goat Creek	Valley Creek	2	West boundary line of Section 17 to confluence with Valley Creek	R		O			O			O
Hell Roaring Creek	Salmon River	1	Headwaters to the Sawtooth Wilderness Boundary	W	O	O	O	O	O			
Hell Roaring Creek	Salmon River	2	Sawtooth Wilderness Boundary to confluence with Salmon River	S					O			
Little Boulder Creek	East Fork Salmon River	1	Headwaters to Forest boundary	W	O	O	O	O	O			
Middle Fork Boise River	Boise River	1	Headwaters to Wilderness Boundary	W	O		O	O				
Muldoon Creek	Little Wood River	1	Headwaters to Section 7	W								O
North Fork Big Wood River	Big Wood River	1	Headwaters to confluence with West Fork Big Wood River	W	O							
North Fork Big Wood River	Big Wood River	2	Confluence with West Fork Big Wood River to confluence with Big Wood River	R	O							
North Fork Boise River	Boise River	1	Headwaters to Wilderness Boundary	W		O						
North Fork Hyndman Creek	Hyndman Creek	1	Headwaters to confluence with Button Creek	W	O	O						
Pettit Lake Creek	Alturas Lake Creek	1	Headwaters to Pettit Lake inlet	W	O	O	O	O				
Pettit Lake Creek	Alturas Lake Creek	2	Pettit Lake outlet to confluence with Alturas Lake Creek	S					O			
Redfish Lake Creek	Salmon River	1	Headwaters to Redfish Lake inlet	W	O	O	O	O	O			
Redfish Lake Creek	Salmon River	2	Redfish Lake outlet to confluence with Salmon River	R					O		O	
Salmon River	Snake River	1	Headwaters to Sawtooth Forest boundary	R	O	O	O	O	O		O	
South Fork Boise River	Boise River	1	Headwaters to Forest boundary	R	O							
South Fork East Fork Salmon River	East Fork Salmon River	1	Headwaters to confluence with East Fork Salmon River	W	O				O			
South Fork Payette River	Payette River	1	Headwaters to confluence with Trail Creek	W	O	O	O	O				

River Name	Tributary To	Segment	Segment Location	Class[1]	Scenic[2]	Recreation	Geologic	Hydro	Fish	Wildlife	Heritage	Eco/Bot
South Fork Payette River	Payette River	2	Confluence with Trail Creek to Forest boundary	S	O	O	O	O				
Stanley Lake Creek	Valley Creek	1	Headwaters to Lady Face Falls	W	O		O	O				
Stanley Lake Creek	Valley Creek	2	Lady Face Falls to Stanley Lake Inlet	S	O				O			
Stanley Lake Creek	Valley Creek	3	Stanley Lake Outlet to confluence with Valley Creek	S					O			
Trail Creek	Big Wood River	1	Headwaters to confluence with Corral Creek	R			O	O				O
Warm Springs Creek	Salmon River	1	Headwaters to confluence with Salmon River	W	O				O			
West Fork East Fork Salmon River	East Fork Salmon River	1	Headwaters to confluence with East Fork Salmon River	W					O			
West Fork North Fork Big Wood River	North Fork Big Wood River	1	Headwaters to confluence with North Fork Big Wood River	W	O							
West Pass Creek	East Fork Salmon River	1	Headwaters to confluence with East Fork Salmon River	S					O			
Yellow Belly Lake Creek	Alturas Lake Creek	1	Headwaters to Yellowbelly Lake Inlet	W	O	O	O	O				
Yellow Belly Lake Creek	Alturas Lake Creek	2	Yellow Belly Lake outlet to confluence with Alturas Lake Creek	S		O			O			

Table D-3. Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the Eligible Rivers

River Name	ORV Description
Alpine Creek	**Scenic:** The river area, particularly within the Wilderness Area, includes waterfalls, cascades, rapids, timbered stands opening into a classic glacial valley with high-relief rock exposures. The scenery alone is a visitor attraction. **Hydrologic:** The river flows about 3 miles through a glacial U-shaped valley, is fed by many upper cirque basins and cirque lakes, and has many stream cascades. **Fish:** The drainage provides excellent spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout. It also provides water quality for Alturas Lake, which has a remnant population of sockeye salmon.
Alturas Lake Creek	**Fish:** The drainage, particularly the upper portion, provides excellent spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout. It also provides water quality for Alturas Lake, which has a remnant population of sockeye salmon. The lower portion of the river is one of the main migration corridors for endangered sockeye, threatened chinook, steelhead, and bull trout.
Baron Creek	**Scenic:** This interesting river has waterfalls and casades in a setting that includes strong glaciated cirque basins, rock formations, and high relief. **Recreation:** The river area is a backpacker target area and is a notable feature drainage of the Sawtooth Wilderness. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The river's headwaters is a coalescing of several cirques with many high lakes in hanging valleys above a long glacial valley. The river includes several cascades and waterfalls.
Beaver Creek	**Heritage:** The river area includes historic Sawtooth City. Once a prosperous mining town, Sawtooth City is a rare site that contains important remnants representative of mining activity and settlement from 1878-1897. Few sites remain as undisturbed and intact as Sawtooth City that illustrate the prevalent trade networks, transportation systems, lifestyle, ethnicity, and cultural landscape of a mining community of that time period.
Big Wood River	**Scenic:** The river area includes year-round diversity of viewsheds and high scenic integrity where not developed. Viewable from the highway are broad meadows with numerous pools/riffles, beaver ponds, small cascades, wildlife viewing, and great fall color. **Recreation:** A major, all purpose trail parallels numerous developed and undeveloped recreation sites and Highway 75. The river area offers an outstanding color vegetation show in the fall, blue ribbon fishing, hunting, camping, general day uses, cycling, winter snowmobiles, cross country skiing, trail skiing, backcountry telemark skiing, snowshoeing, helicopter skiing, and sleigh-riding. **Fish:** The river is home to the narrowly endemic Region 4 Sensitive Wood River sculpin. Rainbow and brown trout thrive – some to very large sizes. The river is a popular fly fishing and catch and release fishery.
Boulder Chain Lakes Creek	**Scenic:** The river area includes an unusual sequence of alpine lakes with a high variety of plant, rock, and water features. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The river flows about four miles through a glacial cirque basin with a step-down series of many cirque lakes and stream cascades. There are at least 12 lakes that are connected in a series by this river.
Box Canyon Creek	**Scenic:** The river area includes cascading streams, seasonal rivulets, and seasonal colors against a white rock background. **Recreation:** The river area is in a secluded high alpine area in a proposed wilderness area. It has low visitation at this time and supports wilderness values, including hiking and backpacking.
East Fork Salmon River	**Fish:** The river provides excellent spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout.

River Name	ORV Description
Elk Creek	**Scenic:** The river area ranges from a broad, wet meadow to a narrow corridor. The river includes Elk Meadows, which is a large-scale high-elevation wet meadow environment. **Recreation:** The river area includes an unusual large meadow with special wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing opportunities. The area also is a backpack and cross-country ski route into the Sawtooth Wilderness. The view of the Sawtooth Wilderness is a highly scenic attraction. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The terrain is dominated by prominent glacial moraines overlying granodiorite of the Cretaceos Age Idaho Batholith. The stream flows through a glacial U-shaped valley surrounded by the high Sawtooth Mountains, with a few small cirques. The stream then flows through Elk Meadows, an unusually large high mountain meadow. **Fish:** The river provides spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout. **Ecological/Botanical:** The river area contains large meadow complexes, particularly Elk Meadow, with high plant diversity and exceptional wildflower displays in spring.
Fishhook Creek	**Scenic:** The cascading stream area includes a highly glacial environment. Also present are meadows, rock forms, cirques in the headwaters area, heavy glaciation, and high relief. **Recreation:** The trail from Redfish Lake to the Sawtooth Wilderness boundary is heavily used by visitors wanting to reach the high wilderness glacial setting. There are numerous small lakes in the headwaters that lead to the spine of the Sawtooth Range. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The upper reach of the stream area includes a unique combination of glacial cirques and hanging valleys. **Fish:** The river provides good to excellent spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthrat, and bull trout. The river is also the main spawning area for local kokanee fishery and contributes to the water quality and flow to Redfish Creek, an important migration corridor for endangered sockeye salmon. **Ecological/Botanical:** The area includes a large meadow complex with an exceptionally high diversity of species and wildflowers. There is also a high likelihood of TES species presence in the area.
Germania Creek	**Fish:** The river provides important spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout and is a significant tributary to the East Fork Salmon River.
Goat Creek (tributary to South Fork Payette River)	**Scenic:** The river area includes high relief in a glaciated major canyon with numerous side drainages containing alpine lakes, cirques, cascades, falls, and rock forms. **Recreation:** The river is a noted backpacker destination that provides access to the numerous high alpine lakes in the area. The river also offers waterfall photo opportunities and mountain lake fishing. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The river's headwaters is a coalescing of several cirques with many high lakes in hanging valleys above a long glacial valley. The river includes several cascades and waterfalls.

River Name	ORV Description
Goat Creek (tributary to Valley Creek)	**Scenic:** The river includes Goat Creek Falls, a 400-foot alpine waterfall that emanates from an alpine basin that can be seen from well outside the stream corridor. The waterfall is a noted feature of the Sawtooth NRA. **Recreation:** The river area includes a "do-able" hike for many visitors to the Sawtooth NRA to a prominent waterfall in exposed glacial/alpine setting. A view of the falls is notable from Highways 75 and 21. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** This river begins in a high cirque with a small lake and stair-steps through a series of small lakes to Goat Lake in the Sawtooth Mountains. The river winds through snowfields and then cascades steeply into a short but wide glacial U-shaped valley. **Fish:** The river provides spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout. **Ecological/Botanical:** The river area includes a large complex of meadows.
Hell Roaring Creek	**Scenic:** The lower river area contains typical riparian corridor views with some cascades and minor rock forms. Longer distance views include major Sawtooth peaks as a backdrop until nearly to Hell Roaring Lake. The upper portion includes a cirque basin with alpine lakes within the Sawtooth Wilderness. **Recreation:** The river area is a destination spot for backpackers and day hikers. Other uses include camping, hunting, fishing, photography, and wildlife viewing. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The river begins in some high cirques with small and large lakes in the Sawtooth Mountains. The river area includes a combination of glacial cirques, various lakes, and glacial terrain in and above a glacial valley. **Fish:** The river provides spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout.
Little Boulder Creek	**Scenic:** The cascading river flows through high relief, glacial landscapes, and small meadows. There are numerous cirque basins with small alpine lakes. The area is a known recreation designation because of high scenery values where Castle Peak is the dominant feature. **Recreation:** The river area is a destination for backpacking, horsepacking, and some motorcycle trail use. Hunting, fishing, wildlife photography, and camping also occur. There are numerous campsites and alternative routes between the numerous small lakes. The area is in a glacial, rocky, alpine setting with side streams and small lakes in a proposed wilderness. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The river area includes stair-step cirque basins with cirque lakes, hanging valleys, waterfalls, and stream cascades. **Fish:** The river provides spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout.
Middle Fork Boise River	**Scenic:** The river area includes a classic glacial valley with oversteepened side slopes, talus slopes, and avalanche paths. The somewhat meandering river offers a high relief setting and a cirque basin at its headwaters. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The river includes a combination of glacial cirques and various lakes in hanging valleys above a long glacial valley with a variety of tributary glacial valleys.
Muldoon Creek	**Ecological/Botanical:** The river area includes a high-elevation peat bog community that represents a unique botanical community. The Idaho Conservation Data Center states that this is a unique ecological and botanical habitat that is highly sensitive due to its high elevation and its potential to support plant species endemic to this habitat type.
North Fork Big Wood River	**Scenic:** The river area includes a broad glacial valley bottom with beaver ponds. There are variable steep walls and mature Douglas-fir in the foreground. The area offers a good contrast of fall colors and textures.

River Name	ORV Description
North Fork Boise River	**Recreation:** The river area provides excellent backcountry opportunities for backpackers and horse campers. It also offers hunting, fishing, and photographing opportunities.
North Fork Hyndman Creek	**Scenic:** The river's headwaters includes an alpine cirque environment. It offers views to major peaks and dramatic color contrasts. The river is in a pristine setting and has small cascades and pools. **Recreation:** The river is in a pristine setting with wilderness characteristics. Visitors come to enjoy backpacking, horsepacking, camping, hunting, and wildlife viewing and photography.
Pettit Lake Creek	**Scenic:** In its upstream portion, the river area contains extreme glacial environments with very high relief. There are large alpine lakes in the North Fork, and a classic "U" valley in the south. The cascading river offers constant photo opportunities. **Recreation:** The river area is a nationally recognized backpack route in a high-quality scenic environment. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** In its upstream portion the river area contains high cirques with small and large cirque lakes in the Sawtooth Mountains. The river also flows through a long, narrow glacial U-shaped valley. **Fish:** The river provides spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout. The river is also a migratory corridor for sockeye salmon accessing Pettit Lake, which is part of the sockeye recovery program.
Redfish Lake Creek	**Scenic:** The river area contains high relief glacial cirques in the headwaters, numerous small alpine lakes in side drainages, and prominent peaks in the background. The river cascades through a rocky canyon setting. **Recreation:** The river area is a high use destination backpack route in a high relief alpine setting. It also provides access to adjacent drainages. Recreation activities include backpacking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and some day use hiking. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The river area contains a combination of glacial cirques and various lakes in hanging valleys above a long glacial valley. **Fish:** The river provides spawning and rearing opportunities for westslope, cutthroat, and bull trout. It also provides water quality to Redfish Lake, a key habitat for sockeye salmon. Records show that chinook and steelhead may have historically used this stream for spawning. **Heritage:** The river area contains the Redfish Archaeological District which consists of two sites; Redfish Overhang and Dancing Cat. Both sites provide important data on the lifestyles and activities of prehistoric peoples. Artifacts have been carbon dated to 9860 B.P.

River Name	ORV Description
Salmon River	**Scenic, Recreation, Geologic, Hydrologic, Fish, Heritage:** **Scenic:** The river corridor varies from upper meadows with open surroundings, to steep-walled canyons. The river has low gradient cascades and riffles with a few classified rapids in the lower canyon below Mormon Bend. Views outward from the river often include dramatic vistas of the Sawtooth Peaks. **Recreation:** The Salmon River is considered one of the signature features of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. The river corridor provides streamside developed camping, fishing, white-water rafting, and kayaking. It also provides opportunities to explore historic remnants and interpretive sites, and to observe wild salmon returning to their birthplace to spawn. There are numerous campgrounds at several levels of development, trails, float-boat launches, and developed interpretive sites within the corridor. These and other recreational features offer exceptional opportunities within a remarkably scenic river environment. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The river area includes canyons with rock formations, rapids, and hot springs. **Fish:** The river provides excellent spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout. It is also the only migration corridor for endangered Snake River sockeye to access upstream morainal lakes. **Heritage:** The river area contains the Redfish Archaeological District which consists of two sites; Redfish Overhang and Dancing Cat. Both sites provide important data on the lifestyles and activities of prehistoric peoples. Artifacts have been carbon dated to 9860 B.P.
South Fork Boise River	**Scenic:** The South Fork Boise is a major river that includes timbered mountainsides, deciduous riparian areas, sage flats, some rapids, and numerous rock features. The river area also offers excellent fall color viewing opportunities.
South Fork East Fork Salmon River	**Scenic:** The river area contains a glacial canyon, and the headwaters is a massively scoured cirque basin. The area contains an array of colorful rocks and talus slopes. **Fish:** The river provides spawning and rearing opportunities for chinook, steelhead, westlope cutthroat, and bull trout.
South Fork Payette River	**Scenic:** The river headwaters are located in high elevations of the Sawtooth Wilderness in a glacial setting. There are outstanding cirques and sentinel spire peaks in a rocky setting present. The river is located in the heart of the Sawtooth Wilderness. **Recreation:** The river area offers a pristine setting for solitude where visitors can enjoy backcountry activities including backpacking, horsepacking, camping, hunting, fishing, and photographing. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The stream is located in a combination of glacial cirques and various lakes in hanging valleys above a long glacial valley.
Stanley Lake Creek	**Scenic:** The upper segment offers visitors high rocky relief with stream cascades and falls, and small lakes in the side drainages. The river flows through a narrow enclosed landscape below the headwater basin. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The upper portion of the river flows through a glacial U shaped valley surrounded by the Sawtooth Mountains. There are several cirques, often in hanging/stair-step valleys with small lakes and waterfalls. **Fish:** The river provides spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead, chinook, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout. It also provides the migration corridor to Stanley Lake for endangered sockeye salmon.
Trail Creek	**Geologic/Hydrologic:** The river flows through several glacial cirques with some small cirque lakes, through a U-shaped glacial valley. In the upper valley, the river cuts through an extremely steep, narrow gorge for about two miles and includes a significant waterfall. **Ecological/Botanical:** The river area is home to a unique stand of limber pine (Pinus flexilis) within a proposed Research Natural Area.

River Name	ORV Description
Warm Springs Creek	**Scenic:** The river area includes large meadow complexes in a timbered setting throughout the upper portion of the drainage. It includes waterfalls, cascades, and hot springs. There is evidence of glaciation in the higher elevations with cirques in the highest – White Cloud Peaks – area. The lower, larger volume section flows into the Salmon River. **Fish:** The river provides spawning and rearing habitat for chinook and steelhead up to a natural cascade barrier. The river provides spawning and rearing for westslope cutthroat and bull trout throughout.
West Fork East Fork Salmon River	**Fish:** The river provides spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout.
West Fork North Fork Big Wood River	**Scenic:** The river area offers views of extreme high peaks at the headwaters in a glacial landscape. Also present are predominant avalanche paths and talus slopes. Further downstream the river meanders through areas dominated by large Douglas-fir.
West Pass Creek	**Fish:** The river provides spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout.
Yellow Belly Lake Creek	**Scenic:** In the upper portion the river includes a major moraine lake and notable large alpine lakes. The river cascades among rock forms and has a cirque basin setting at the headwaters. **Recreation:** The river area is a destination backpack loop route. The active river with larger alpine lakes provides an outstanding backpack camping setting. Some day hiking, horsepacking, hunting, and fishing also occur. **Geologic/Hydrologic:** The river headwaters are located in some high cirques with small and large cirque lakes in the Sawtooth Mountains. The river stair-steps across glacial deposits down a glacial U-shaped valley to Yellow Belly Lake. **Fish:** The river provides spawning and rearing habitat for chinook, steelhead, westslope cutthroat, and bull trout. Historically, the river may have provided spawning access to Yellowbelly Lake for sockeye. Currently there is no sockeye use.

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