

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 rip-rapping 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

1990 Boise National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

A Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study was completed as part of the 1990 Boise National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (USDA Forest Service 1990). The Forest used the National Rivers Inventory, the Pacific Northwest River Study, the Statewide Water Plan, and public comments as sources of possible eligible rivers. Of the rivers evaluated 32 rivers segments were found to be free flowing and have at least one outstandingly remarkable value.

2000 Boise 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 889 individual rivers considered for eligibility, a first screen using broad criteria and a second, more detailed assessment, using specific criteria for determining the presence of outstandingly remarkable values were applied and resulted in 45 streams identified with potential ORVs. These 45 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), except 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

Fifteen rivers with 31 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. Boise 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
Bear Valley Creek	Middle Fork Salmon River	1	Headwaters to confluence with Elk Ck.	R							O	
Bear Valley Creek	Middle Fork Salmon River	2	Elk Creek confluence downstream to Fir Creek Campground	S							O	
Bear Valley Creek	Middle Fork Salmon River	3	Fir Creek Campground to Forest Boundary	W							O	
Burntlog Creek	Johnson Creek	1	Headwaters to junction with FR447 (Sec 27 T16N R8E)	R					O			
Burntlog Creek	Johnson Creek	2	Junction with FR447 (Sec 27 T16N R8E) to confluence with Johnson Creek	W					O			
Deadwood River	South Fork Payette River	1	Headwaters to Deadwood Reservoir	R			O					
Deadwood River	South Fork Payette River	2	Deadwood Reservoir to Warm Springs Creek	S	O	O						
Deadwood River	South Fork Payette River	3	Warm Springs Creek to Pine Creek	W	O	O						
Deadwood River	South Fork Payette River	4	Pine Creek to the confluence with South Fork Payette River	S		O						
Elk Creek	Feather River	1	Headwaters to Alta Creek Confluence	W							O	
Elk Creek	Feather River	2	Alta Creek Confluence to confluence with Feather River	S							O	
Elk Creek	Bear Valley Creek	1	Bear Valley confluence upstream to FC-RONR Wilderness boundary	R					O			
Elk Creek	Bear Valley Creek	2	FC-RONR Wilderness Boundary upstream to North Fork Elk Creek	W					O			
Johnson Creek	East Fork South Fork Salmon River	1	Bear Creek to Hansen Creek	R							O	
Middle Fork Boise River	Boise River	1	Forest Boundary to Willow Creek	R	O						O	O
Middle Fork Payette River	Payette River	1	Bell Creek to Boiling Springs Cabin	R	O						O	
Middle Fork Payette River	Payette River	2	Boiling Springs Cabin to Fool Creek	W	O	O						
Mores Creek	Arrowrock Reservoir	1	Granite Creek to Pine Creek	R							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
North Fork Boise River	Middle Fork Boise River	1	Wilderness Boundary to Johnson Creek	R	O							
North Fork Boise River	Middle Fork Boise River	2	Johnson Creek to Hunter Creek	W	O							
North Fork Boise River	Middle Fork Boise River	3	Rabbit Creek to Middle Fork Boise River	W	O							
North Fork Payette River	Payette River	1	Forest Boundary to confluence with Payette River	R		O						
Payette River	Snake River	1	Boise Forest Boundary (1 mile east of Banks) to Boise Forest Boundary (1 mile south of Banks)	R		O						
Porter Creek	Elk Creek	1	Headwaters to confluence with Elk Creek	W					O			
South Fork Boise River	Boise River	1	Anderson Ranch Dam to Mennecke Creek	R		O	O				O	
South Fork Boise River	Boise River	2	Mennecke Creek to Trail Creek	S		O	O					
South Fork Boise River	Boise River	3	Trail Creek to Crank Creek	W	O	O	O					
South Fork Payette River	Payette River	1	Sawtooth NRA Boundary to Wolf Creek	S	O	O						O
South Fork Payette River	Payette River	2	Wolf Creek to Pine Flats Creek	R	O	O						O
South Fork Payette River	Payette River	3	Pine Flats Creek to Long Gulch	S	O	O					O	O
South Fork Payette River	Payette River	4	Long Gulch to Boise Forest Boundary	R	O	O						O

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

River Name	ORV Description
Bear Valley Creek	Heritage: There are two historic sites and nine prehistoric sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Also being considered eligibility is Forest Road 582, an old wagon road built by miners in Boise Basin to access other gold rush camps in central Idaho. There is also substantial evidence for other sites, including those associated with homesteading, early Forest Service administration, and the post World War II mining industry.
Burntlog Creek	Fish: This is a Pacfish/Infish priority watershed that supports spawning and rearing habitat for wild native chinook salmon and steelhead, cutthroat, redband, and bull trout.
Deadwood River	Scenic: Portions of this area have an isolated and remote steep-walled forested canyon setting, with little evidence of past management activities. The river is very diverse and includes cascades, rapids, ponds, islands, fast gradients, and large boulders. The river area also includes small meadows. There is a variety of wildlife viewing opportunities, including osprey, river otter, elk, moose, and deer. Geologic: The Deadwood Canyon Fault, the first major Basin and Range Structural control west of the Middle Fork Salmon River, extends north to Yellow Pine, where it intersects the East Fork Salmon Fault System. The Cretaceous fault structure is overlain by more recent glaciation. The glacial-produced tributary streams flow west southwest from a series of hanging cirque basin valleys. The area contains hanging cirque basin valleys, kames, potholes, and basin and range fault structures. The area is of educational and scientific value because of the rare physical features being exhibited. Recreation: This river offers extremely challenging kayaking opportunities, including several portages and Class III and IV rapids. Portions of the river are very remote and offer opportunities for solitude.
Elk Creek (tributary to Feather River)	Heritage: This area includes the South Boise Historic Mining District, which is significant for its contribution to the growth and development of Idaho. The district contains sites representative of the state's gold rush era, and 1860s – 1930s mining technologies. The South Boise Historic Mining District also has outstanding research, educational, and interpretive opportunities.
Elk Creek (tributary to Bear Valley Creek)	Fish: This is a Pacfish/Infish priority watershed that supports spawning and rearing habitat for wild native chinook salmon and steelhead, cutthroat, redband, and bull trout.
Johnson Creek	Heritage: There are twelve to fourteen historic sites and ten prehistoric sites on Johnson Creek that are eligible for listing on the National Register. They consist primarily of homesteads and sites associated with the Thunder Mountain gold rush, circa 1900-1904. Two of these sites are Forest Service administered compounds: Johnson Creek Guard Station, built in the 1920s and Landmark Ranger Station, built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps. One of the Forest's most spectacular sites, a biface cache 4,000 to 6,000 years old, is located in this area.
Middle Fork Boise River	Scenic: The river offers diverse settings, from steep narrow canyon walls to wide valley bottoms. The river offers clear water, cascades, pools, small falls, meadows, large river flows, fast and slow water, and varying gradients. The views are continually changing and diverse. Heritage: Arrowrock Dam, completed in 1915, Alturas Bar, and Kirby Dam are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Arrowrock Dam was the world's tallest dam until Hoover Dam was built in the 1930s. Arrowrock Dam is a remarkable example of construction and technology innovation during this period. Alturas Bar is a remarkable example of Chinese placer mining techniques, which reflect the differences between Chinese and Euro-American attitudes towards the physical environment. This site has outstanding research, educational, and interpretive values. Kirby Dam, a log dam built in 1906, no longer exists but is still listed on the National Register. Ecological/Botanical: The river area includes the presence of nine documented population sites for <i>Epipactis gigantea</i> (Giant helleborine orchid). All of these sites are in direct association with thermal hot springs, a rare habitat.

River Name	ORV Description
Middle Fork Payette River	<p>Scenic: There is strong water movement with diversity and variety of slow-moving water, pools, cascades, ripples, small falls, and rapids. A steep rocky gorge provides a narrow canyon enclosure in one location. Small falls flow from rocky canyon walls. Huge rock boulders in the river create diversity, and large ponderosa pine trees occur at various locations along the river. There is a natural appearing forested setting interspersed with natural openings. There is little evidence of human alteration other than the road corridor in locations. Scattered hot springs occur along the river.</p> <p>Recreation: The rivers includes several hot springs, including Boiling Springs, that attract visitors. The Middle Fork Payette River trail offers a non-motorized hiking or horseback opportunity. The trail follows the river, which provides exemplary scenery for the trail user. The area also has one developed campground and one rental cabin that offer highly desired exemplary riverside settings. The Middle Fork Road is a high-use groomed snowmobile and popular cross-country ski route in the winter. Together, the hot spring, camping, and year round recreation opportunities qualify this river for a recreational ORV.</p> <p>Heritage: Historically, this river area was a popular transportation corridor linking the agricultural communities along the North and South Fork Payette Rivers. The Middle Fork was also a gateway to Deadwood Basin and Salmon River mining camps. Portions of Forest Road 698 are built on a wagon road constructed in 1902 by Placerville and Garden Valley residents as the “best route” to the Thunder Mountain gold rush. This road is not recorded as a site, but is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Boiling Springs Guard Station is a National Register eligible site built in the 1930s by Civilian Conservation Corps crews. CCC crews also built the campgrounds along the river. There are eight prehistoric sites that are eligible for listing on the National Register. The prehistoric site at Rocky Canyon Hot Springs was the focus of archaeological test excavations in 1992 and 1993. This site has contributed significant information about wildlife species no longer present in the drainage, and the possible co-existence of Columbia Plateau and Great Basin cultural groups.</p>
Mores Creek	<p>Heritage: The area includes Hop Lee’s Placer Claim, which is one of the largest and most intact examples of a Chinese mining operation in the Pacific Northwest. In Boise Basin, where Hop Lee’s Placer Claim is located, nearly fifty percent of the population was Chinese in 1870. This cultural group had a profound impact on the landscape seen today in the basin. Hop Lee’s Placer Claim, in this respect, reflects Chinese attitudes towards the physical environment. This site has outstanding research, educational, and interpretive values. Hop Lee’s Placer Claim is the focus of ongoing archaeological excavations that emphasize public involvement in historic preservation on national forests. The Forest is developing a heritage trails system through the site with interpretive panels and day use facilities.</p>
North Fork Boise River	<p>Scenic: The river has a diverse character offering steep-sided, narrow rocky canyons with clear fast water, rapids, cascades, and boulders. The lower river area also offers interspersed flat alluvial canyon bottoms.</p>
North Fork Payette River	<p>Recreation: The river corridor corresponds with the Payette River Scenic Byway Corridor, a State designation that indicates outstanding scenery-viewing recreational opportunities. The river is also within the Payette River System, which is nationally known for its excellent rafting and kayaking opportunities. This river is internationally known because it has one of the longest sections of continuous Class V rapids in the country.</p>
Payette River	<p>Recreation: River corridor includes the Banks River Access Site, which is a very popular put-in and take out spot and is within the Payette River Scenic Byway corridor. The Payette River is nationally known for its excellent rafting and kayaking opportunities.</p>
Porter Creek	<p>Fish: This is a Pacfish/Infish priority watershed that supports spawning and rearing habitat for wild native chinook salmon and steelhead, cutthroat, redband, and bull trout.</p>

River Name	ORV Description
South Fork Boise River	<p>Scenic: The river area includes a steep-walled basalt canyon with talus slopes, rock formations, canyon enclosures, and isolation. The river offers large volume and flow, rapids and cascades, meandering waterways, and clear water. There are occasional alluvial benches and ponderosa pine on the gentler slopes, which create a diverse setting.</p> <p>Recreation: The river corridor offers a wide variety of recreational activities including fishing, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, swimming, hunting, hiking, biking, and non-motorized boating, and attracts visitors from throughout the United States. Portions of the river corridor are accessible year round, offering a long season recreational opportunities.</p> <p>Geologic: The river area includes a seemingly continuous sequence of volcanic, metavolcanic, metamorphic, metasedimentary, and volcanic features. This diverse set of features exhibit the turmoil and constant geologic change the area was going through over the past 850 million years. This area is of exceptional educational and scientific value because of the rare physical features being exhibited. The canyon stretch has a reputation within the boating community of some of the most scenic water in southwestern Idaho.</p> <p>Heritage: Danskin Rockshelter is found in this river area and is one of the most important rock art sites in Idaho. It contains an unusual image of a crane or heron rarely seen in the region. Boise State University excavated the site in 1989, and recovered information significant to Idaho prehistory.</p>
South Fork Payette River	<p>Scenic: Portions of the South Fork Payette River area are dominated by the presence of the river and steep canyon landforms. The river has good water clarity, variety and movement, falls, rapids, still pools, and hot springs. The river's water character is diverse. With the exception of the roadway, road cuts, and fill banks, the river offers a natural appearing setting. There is a dramatic contrast between forested and non-forested slopes on the north and south aspects of the canyon. Highly dissected mountainous canyon landforms are present.</p> <p>Recreation: This river offers a wide variety of recreation activities, including Sacajawea Hot Springs, Kirkam Hot Springs, and Pine Flats Hot Springs, dispersed camping, hiking and trail riding (both motorized and non motorized), and fishing, and, as part of the Payette River system, is known nationally for its excellent boating opportunities. Portions of this river fall within the Wildlife Canyon Scenic Byway or Ponderosa Pine Scenic Byway. Scenery viewing is a very popular recreational activity. Pine Flats and Kirkam Hot Springs are accessible year round, which makes them a popular winter activity.</p> <p>Heritage: Big Falls Portage is in this river area and has yielded significant information about the prehistory of the South Fork Payette River that has regional implications for Great Basin archaeologists. It is the only site where a specific artifact type, the use of which is debated by archaeologists, tested positive for salmon protein when submitted for blood residue analysis.</p> <p>Ecological/Botanical: The river area includes the presence of nine documented population sites for <i>Epipactis gigantea</i> (Giant helleborine orchid). All of these sites are in direct association with thermal hot springs, a rare habitat.</p>

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