

## APPENDIX C. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS REVIEW, VERNAL FIELD OFFICE

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### RESOURCE OVERVIEW

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act established legislation for a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) to protect and preserve designated rivers throughout the nation in their free-flowing condition, as well as their immediate environments. It contains policy for managing designated rivers, and created processes for designating additional rivers into the national system. Section 5(d) of the Act directs federal agencies to consider the potential for national wild, scenic and recreational river areas in all planning, for the use and development of water and related land resources. A “Wild and Scenic River (WSR)” review is being conducted as part of the Vernal Resource Management Plan Revision.

The first phase of the review is to inventory all potentially eligible rivers within the planning area, to determine which of those rivers are eligible for designation into the NWSRS. In order to be eligible, a river must be “free-flowing,” and possess at least one “outstandingly remarkable value.” The inventory to determine eligibility is part of the “analysis of the management situation.”

Next, all eligible rivers are taken through the land use planning process to determine their suitability for Congressional designation into the NWSRS. One planning alternative would manage all eligible rivers as suitable, another alternative would manage no eligible rivers as suitable, and other alternatives would manage some rivers or river segments as suitable and other rivers or river segments as not suitable. Actual “suitability” determinations will be made in the Record of Decision (ROD) for the land use plan.

There is also a reporting phase where “suitability” determinations are reported to Congress. There is no specific time requirement for completion of this phase; however, it is assumed that reporting will be done some time following completion of the land use plan. Only the Congress or the Secretary of Interior, upon an official request by a state, can designate a river into the NWSRS.

### CURRENT GUIDANCE

- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968
- Wild and Scenic River Reference Guide,
- Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordination Council
- Wild and Scenic Rivers - Policy and Program Direction for
- Identification, Evaluation, and Management; BLM Manual 8351
- Wild and Scenic River Review in the State of Utah,
- “Process and Criteria” for Interagency Use, July 1996

### IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE RIVERS

To determine eligibility, the Vernal Field Office (VFO) conducted an inventory of “all potentially eligible rivers.” This included all rivers nominated during the “scoping” process or that appeared on local or national river lists. These rivers were automatically identified and

considered as potentially eligible. In addition, all rivers within the planning area were mapped and reviewed by agency and non-agency subject matter specialists and members of the interested public to identify any additional rivers that could be potentially eligible. All rivers determined to be eligible are considered further for suitability in the planning process.

To be eligible, a river must be free flowing. The WSR Act defines “free-flowing” as any river or section of river, existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping. However, minor structures existing at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the NWSRS will not automatically bar its consideration from such inclusion, provided that it will not be construed to authorize, intend, or encourage future construction of such structures within components of the NWSRS

Another screening criterion to determine if a river segment may be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS is that the river must possess one or more “outstandingly remarkable” scenic, recreational, geological, fish, wildlife, historical, cultural, or other similar values including ecological value(s).

The size of a river is NOT a criterion of eligibility. To be eligible, rivers do not have to be outstanding white-water or boatable. Flow must simply be sufficient to sustain the outstandingly remarkable value that makes a river or river segment eligible for consideration.

A “tentative classification” of wild, scenic or recreational is determined for any eligible river. Tentative classifications are based on the evidence of man’s activities and the condition of the river and the adjacent lands at the time of the inventory.

A “wild” river is “free of impoundments,” with shorelines or watersheds essentially primitive, and unpolluted waters. A “scenic” river may have some development, and may be accessible in places by roads or railroads. A “recreational” river is considered as a river or section of river accessible by road or railroad, may have more extensive development along its shoreline, and may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. (Refer to Table 1).

**Table 1. Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Areas.**

<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Wild</b>	<b>Scenic</b>	<b>Recreational</b>
Water Resource Development	Free of impoundment.	Free of impoundment.	Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.
Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity. The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is	Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.	Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable. Lands may have been

**Table 1. Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Areas.**

<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Wild</b>	<b>Scenic</b>	<b>Recreational</b>
	acceptable. A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable. Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest.	The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable. Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.	developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses. May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.
Accessibility	Generally inaccessible except by trail. No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the river area is acceptable.	Accessible in places by road. Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.	Readily accessible by road or railroad. The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.
Water Quality	Meets or exceeds 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.	No criteria prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the United States be made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws.	

## DOCUMENTATION PROCESS

### DATA SOURCES

- Maps of Vernal Planning Area at 1:100,000 scale
- National Rivers Inventory (NPS 1995)
- American Rivers Listing (Huntington and Echevarria 1991)
- “A Citizen’s Proposal to Protect the Wild Rivers of Utah”
- Rivers or river segments identified by Federal Agencies, State, Indian Tribes, other local governments
- Rivers or river segments identified in the public scoping process

## WSR SYSTEM ID TEAM

The Vernal Field Office used a team of interdisciplinary specialists to review all potentially eligible rivers. The VFO coordinated with the Price and Richfield Field Offices, as well as the Ashley National Forest and the BLM in Colorado regarding river segments that crossed boundaries. Opportunities to provide input on river eligibility were provided to State, tribal and local governments, and to interested members of the public. Considerations involved the following:

All rivers that were nominated during RMP scoping or that were on national or local rivers lists were considered to be potentially eligible and were inventoried. In addition, the interdisciplinary team reviewed a 1:100,000 scale map of all rivers and associated reaches (tributaries) in the Vernal Planning Area to assure that no potentially eligible rivers were missed.

The team identified the regions of comparison to include the following sub-units of the Colorado Region Plateau: Uintah Mountain Section, Uintah Basin Section, Tavaputs Plateau Section, and Northern Canyon lands Section.

The team reviewed all potentially eligible river segments and noted any “free-flowing” and “outstandingly remarkable values.”

In order to identify outstandingly remarkable values, rivers within the planning area were compared with other rivers in the regions of comparison.

Tentative classifications of wild, recreational, or scenic were made for all rivers that were “free-flowing” with at least one “outstandingly remarkable value

“Preliminary” findings of eligibility were provided to State, tribal and local governments for additional input. They were asked to identify any differences of opinion regarding the findings and if there were any additional potentially eligible rivers that should be considered.

“Preliminary” findings were also made available to the interested public through an RMP planning bulletin (#3). They were asked to identify any differences of opinion regarding the findings and if there were any additional potentially eligible rivers that should be considered.

## SUMMARY OF THE ELIGIBILITY REVIEW

**# There were 89 river segments identified as potentially eligible and inventoried. Refer to the list below.**

**# There were 9 river segments determined to be eligible (free-flowing with at least one outstandingly remarkable value.) Refer to Tables 2, 3, and 4.**

The following list identifies all rivers potentially eligible and considered through the wild and scenic river review. It includes all rivers listed, nominated, or identified by VFO specialists (WSR System ID Team) or identified by others including State, tribal or local governments, or interested members of the public.

- |                           |                        |                           |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>1. Allen Draw</b>      | <b>5. Beaver Creek</b> | <b>9. Big Brush Creek</b> |
| <b>2. Anderson Hollow</b> | <b>6. Bender Draw</b>  | <b>10. Birch Creek</b>    |
| <b>3. Argyle Creek</b>    | <b>7. Big Draw</b>     | <b>11. Bitter Creek</b>   |
| <b>4. Ashley Creek</b>    | <b>8. Big Springs</b>  | <b>12. Blair Draw</b>     |

- |                            |                                |                                  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 13. Bowery Draw            | 50. Lower Water Hollow         | 86. Willow Spring Draw           |
| 14. Castle Peak Creek      | 51. Marshall Draw              | 87. Willow Creek (Brown's Park)  |
| 15. Clay Basin Creek       | 52. Martin Draw                | 88. Willow Creek (Indian Canyon) |
| 16. Collier Hole Creek     | 53. Milk Creek                 | 89. Yellowstone                  |
| 17. Cow Creek              | 54. Mill Canyon                |                                  |
| 18. Crouse Creek           | 55. Minnie Maud Creek          |                                  |
| 19. Crow Creek             | 56. Mosby Creek                |                                  |
| 20. Crumb Canyon           | 57. Mine Mile Creek            |                                  |
| 21. Cub Creek              | 58. O-WI-Yu-Kuts Creek         |                                  |
| 22. Deep Creek             | 59. Pariette Draw              |                                  |
| 23. Diamond Gulch          | 60. Pigeon Creek               |                                  |
| 24. Dry Fork Creek         | 61. Pinnacle Canyon            |                                  |
| 25. Duchesne               | 62. Pot Creek                  |                                  |
| 26. Dutch John Canyon      | 63. Eat Hole                   |                                  |
| 27. East Cottonwood Canyon | 64. Red Creek                  |                                  |
| 28. Eight Mile Flat Creek  | 65. Rock Creek                 |                                  |
| 29. Evacuation Creek       | 66. Sage Creek                 |                                  |
| 30. Ford Creek             | 67. Sand Wash Creek            |                                  |
| 31. Four Mile Creek        | 68. Sears Creek                |                                  |
| 32. Galloway Creek         | 69. Sheep Wash Creek           |                                  |
| 33. Garden Creek           | 70. Simons Creek               |                                  |
| 34. Gorge Creek            | 71. Smelter Creek              |                                  |
| 35. Goslin Creek           | 72. South Branch Diamond Gulch |                                  |
| 36. Green River            | 73. Spring Creek               |                                  |
| 37. Grindstone Wash        | 74. Steinaker Creek            |                                  |
| 38. Halfway Hollow Creek   | 75. Sweet Water Creek          |                                  |
| 39. Jack Canyon            | 76. Ten Mile Creek             |                                  |
| 40. Jackson Creek          | 77. Tolivers Creek             |                                  |
| 41. Jesse Ewing Canyon     | 78. Twelve Mile Wash Creek     |                                  |
| 42. Jones Hole Creek       | 79. Uintah                     |                                  |
| 43. Jones Hollow           | 80. Upper Water Hollow         |                                  |
| 44. Kettle Creek           | 81. Water Canyon               |                                  |
| 45. Lake Creek             | 82. Wells Draw Creek           |                                  |
| 46. Lambson Draw           | 83. West Fork Willow Creek     |                                  |
| 47. Little Davenport Creek | 84. White River                |                                  |
| 48. Little Brush Creek     | 85. White Rocks                |                                  |
| 49. Logge Canyon           |                                |                                  |

<b>Segment Name</b>	<b>Reason for Consideration*</b>	<b>Segment Description</b>	<b>Free-flowing Yes/No</b>	<b>Reason for Free-flowing Determination</b>
Argyle Creek	E, F	Head waters to Carbon County line	Yes	Natural flow
Bitter Creek	F	From the Utah State line to where Bitter Creek enters private property	Yes	Natural flow
Evacuation Creek	F	From the Utah State line to its confluence with the White River	Yes	Natural flow
Upper Green River	A, B, E	Between Little Hole and the Utah State line	Yes	Natural flow
Middle Green River	A, B, E	Between Dinosaur National Monument and the public land boundary north of Ouray	Yes	Natural flow
Lower Green River	A, B, E	Between the public land boundary south of Ouray and the Carbon County line	Yes	Natural flow
Nine Mile Creek, Segment A	E, F	Within Duchesne County between the Carbon County line and the confluence with Gate Canyon	Yes	Natural flow
Nine Mile Creek, Segment B	E, F	Within Duchesne County between the Green River and the Carbon County line	Yes	Natural flow
White River, Segment A	A, B, E, F	Between the Colorado State line and its confluence with Asphalt Wash.	Yes	Natural flow
White River, Segment B	A, B, E, F	Between Asphalt Wash to where the river leaves Section 18, T. 10 S., R. 23 E., SLBM.	Yes	Natural Flow
White River, Segment C	A, B, E, F	From where the river leaves Section 18, T. 10 S., R. 23 E., SLBM to the Indian Trust Land boundary.	Yes	Natural Flow

\* Reasons for Consideration

A - Nationwide Rivers Inventory List

B - American Rivers Outstanding Rivers List

C - 1970 USDA/USDI List

D - Published Guidebooks (i.e. American Whitewater Affiliation List)

E - Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans

F - Officially identified by Federal Agencies, State, Indian tribes, other local governments

G - Identified in public scoping during the RMP Process

**Table 3 Eligible Rivers – Tentative Classification**

<b>Eligible River Segment</b>	<b>Tentative Classification</b>	<b>Description of Classified Segment</b>	<b>Reason for Classification</b>
Argyle Creek	Recreational	All BLM-managed portions of Argyle Creek from the Head waters to Carbon County line	The entire segment is paralleled by a county road. The high percentage of private land adjacent to the stream has resulted in the construction of numerous ranch houses and summer homes in the corridor. A power line parallels the stream for approximately 7 miles.
Bitter Creek	Scenic	All BLM-managed portions of Bitter Creek between the Utah State line and where it enters private property.	A two track road parallels the creek for much of its length, however, it is hidden from view much of the way and does not attract attention. Other than the road there are few other improvements within the corridor.
Evacuation Creek	Recreational	All BLM-managed portions of Evacuation Creek between the Utah State line and its confluence with the White River.	An improved dirt road parallels the creek much of its length. Two bridges and a suspended pipeline cross the creek. An old railroad grade follows the corridor through the southern part of the segment. However, there are sections along the northern part of the segment that appear wild with no man made intrusions evident.
Upper Green River	Scenic	All BLM-managed portions of the Green River between Little Hole and the Utah State line.	An improved dirt road parallels the river for a short distance near the John Jarvie Historic Site and BLM's Bridge Hollow and Indian Crossing Campgrounds. A bridge crosses the river at this point. All four of these improvements can readily be seen from the river. There are other improvements within the corridor such as the Allan Ranch and improvements associated with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Browns Park Waterfowl Refuge. However, much of the corridor is free from intrusions and is wild in appearance.
Middle Green River	Recreational	All BLM managed portions of the Green River between the boundary of Dinosaur National Monument and the public land boundary north of Ouray.	There are many intrusions along the river corridor. Irrigated fields, homes, corrals, fences, roads, a gravel pit and numerous oil and gas wells.

**Table 3 Eligible Rivers – Tentative Classification**

<b>Eligible River Segment</b>	<b>Tentative Classification</b>	<b>Description of Classified Segment</b>	<b>Reason for Classification</b>
Lower Green River	Scenic	All BLM managed portions of the Green River between the public land boundary south of Ouray and the Carbon County line.	Very few intrusions are visible from the river. Oil and gas wells can be seen near Parget Draw. Roads access the river corridor at Parget Draw, near Willow Creek, Moon Bottom, Four Mile Draw, Nine Mile Creek, and both sides of the river at Sand Wash. BLM has a ranger station, campground and boat ramp at Sand Wash. A buried pipeline crosses the river near Four Mile Draw.
Nine Mile Creek, Segment A	Recreational	The segment within Duchesne County between the Carbon County line and the confluence with Gate Canyon	Intrusions exist along the river corridor; irrigated fields, homes, corrals, fences, roads, and a buried natural gas pipeline parallels the corridor
Nine Mile Creek, Segment B	Scenic	The segment that lies within Duchesne County between the Green River and Gate Canyon	Irrigated fields and a road parallel the stream for three miles on the western end of the corridor. A road crosses the stream near the Green River.
White River, Segment A	Scenic	Between the Colorado State line and its confluence with Asphalt Wash.	Access and roads exists in places along this segment. A bridge crosses private land.
White River, Segment B	Wild	Between Asphalt Wash to where the river leaves Section 18, T. 10 S., R. 23 E., SLBM.	The shoreline is essentially undeveloped; points of primitive road access
White River, Segment C	Scenic	From where the river leaves Section 18, T. 10 S., R. 23 E., SLBM to the Indian Trust Land boundary.	Access and roads exists in places along this segment. There is a pipeline across the river

**Table 4. Eligible Rivers - Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

<b>Segment Name and Description</b>	<b>Description of Values Present</b>
Argyle Creek Head waters to Carbon County line.	Scenic values were identified as an outstandingly remarkable river-related value for Argyle Creek. Scenic; Much of the corridor is Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class II. The area is characterized by steep wooded side canyons, high canyon walls, and vertical cliff faces.
Bitter Creek From the Utah State line to where Bitter Creek enters private property.	Fish, Wildlife/Habitat, Cultural, Historic and Recreation were identified as outstanding remarkable river related values for Bitter Creek. Fish: This stream segment supports a population of brook trout. Wildlife/Habitat: The corridor along this segment of Bitter Creek



**Table 4. Eligible Rivers - Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

<b>Segment Name and Description</b>	<b>Description of Values Present</b>
	<p>supports a large population of deer and elk. It is also an important area for black bear, cougar, coyote, beaver, muskrat, porcupine, bobcat, gray fox and red fox.</p> <p>Cultural: This area was known formerly and presently to Tribal people as highly significant culturally and spiritually.</p> <p>Historic: The Book Cliff area has a colorful past of Indians, mountain men, traders, cattlemen, cowboys, and outlaws. A number of historic sites still exist along Bitter Creek and add interest to a visit: These include ranch buildings and homesteads.</p> <p>Recreational: the presence of numerous waterfowl and wildlife species provide good opportunities for fishing, hunting, waterfowl viewing, and camping.</p>
<p>Evacuation Creek From the Utah State line to its confluence with the White River.</p>	<p>Historic values were identified as an outstanding remarkable river related value for Evacuation Creek.</p> <p>Historic: The southern one half of the segment parallels the abandoned narrow gauge railroad grade that ran between Mack Colorado and Watson, Utah. The town site of Watson is on Evacuation Creek. Around the turn of the century Watson was a busy railroad town. Trains stopped here before going on to the Gilsonite mining camp of Rainbow. In the spring each year wool and lambs from several thousand head of sheep were shipped to market along this route.</p>
<p>Upper Green River Between Little Hole and the Utah State line.</p>	<p>Scenic, Recreational, Fish, Wildlife/Habitat and Cultural values were identified as outstanding remarkable river values for the Green River.</p> <p>Scenic: The upper portion of the segment presents striking, abrupt contrasts, sometimes flowing through a deep, narrow gorge, sometimes between low, rolling hills, and sometimes across an almost flat-bottomed valley. Most of the segment winds placidly through pine and shrub covered canyons. In places reddish rock walls rise or stair step away from the river. The river is an appealing clear green color with deep holes and small rapids or riffles.</p> <p>Recreational: The slow moving river and the presence of numerous waterfowl and wildlife species provide good opportunities for fishing, hunting, waterfowl viewing, floating and camping.</p> <p>Fish: The upper half of the segment contains prime trout habitat and is a continuation of the blue ribbon trout fishery that begins directly below Flaming Gorge Dam.</p> <p>Wildlife/Habitat: A large portion of the segment is managed to provide high quality nesting and migration habitat for Canada geese, ducks and other migratory birds. A variety of shore and songbirds is also seen. The area also provides crucial winter habit for both deer and elk.</p> <p>Cultural: Browns Park has a colorful past of Indians, mountain men, traders, cattlemen, cowboys, and outlaws. A number of historic sites still exist in Browns Park, and add interest to a visit: these include ranch buildings, homesteads, and the remains of several outlaw cabins. Several sites have been nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.</p>
<p>Middle Green River Between Dinosaur National</p>	<p>Fish were identified as an outstanding remarkable river value for the Green River.</p>

**Table 4. Eligible Rivers - Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

<b>Segment Name and Description</b>	<b>Description of Values Present</b>
Monument and the public land boundary north of Ouray.	Fish: Two endangered fish are found in this segment of the Green River. They are the humpback chub and the Colorado squaw fish
Lower Green River Between the public land boundary south of Ouray and the Carbon County line.	Recreational and Fish values were identified as outstanding remarkable river values for the Green River. Recreational: The slow moving river and the presence of numerous waterfowl and wildlife species provide good opportunities for fishing, hunting, waterfowl viewing, floating and camping. This segment also provides fine canoeing in an attractive pastoral setting. Fish: Two endangered fish are found in this segment of the Green River. They are the humpback chub and the Colorado squawfish.
Nine Mile Creek, Segment A Within Duchesne County between the Carbon County line and the confluence with Gate Canyon.	Scenic and Cultural values were identified as outstanding remarkable river values for Nine Mile Creek. Scenic: Nine Mile Canyon consists of steep walls combined with alluvial bottomlands, farmed with irrigation from the creek. Scenery varies from the aspen groves to the desert environment and vertical brown, tan and gray cliffs. A perennial stream, balanced rocks and small window arches can be seen from the canyons' road. Cultural: Archaeologically the area of Nine Mile Canyon is significant internationally, nationally and locally. Its prehistoric rock art is world renowned. The remains of the Fremont culture are probably more visible in Nine Mile Canyon than anywhere else. Over 1000 sites have been recorded in the canyon over the last 100 years. Nine Mile Canyon has been proposed for an archeological district on the National Register of Historic Places.
Nine Mile Creek, Segment B Within Duchesne County between the Green River and Gate Canyon	Same as Segment A.
White River, Segment A Between the Colorado state line and its confluence with Asphalt Wash.	Recreational, Scenic (Geologic), Fish, Wildlife/Habitat and Historic values were identified as outstanding remarkable river values for the White River. Recreational: The White River is a favorite canoeing destination for people from all over the state and beyond. The river's Class II rapids are exciting enough to attract advanced kayakers, yet gentle enough to bring novice canoers and families to float through remarkable solitude. Scenic (Geologic): Towering 800 foot sandstone cliffs line the White River. Broad sloping terraces, sandstone walls, butte's, pinnacles and eroded towers create fascinating shapes and textures. The rivers fossil beds display a unique variety of ancient life forms. Fish: The White River provides critical habitat for the endangered Colorado River squaw fish. Other threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species in the river include razorback sucker, flannel mouth sucker and the bony tail chub. Wildlife/Habitat: Threatened, endangered, or sensitive animal species in the river corridor include the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Peregrine Falcon and the Bald Eagle. Other wildlife that can be found in the corridor include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, cougar, beaver, muskrat,

**Table 4. Eligible Rivers - Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

Segment Name and Description	Description of Values Present
	porcupine, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, red fox, and resident and migratory birds such as Golden Eagle, Canadian Goose, Mallard Duck and Flycatchers. Historic: Many pivotal historic events occurred in the White River. Canyon. Chronicles of early explorers such as Friar Velez de Escalante, John Wesley Powell, Frederick Dellenbaugh, and Kit Carson described the unique topography of the White River.
White River, Segment B Between Asphalt Wash to where the river leaves Section 18, T. 10 S., R. 23 E., SLBM.	Same as Segment A.
White River, Segment C From where the river leaves Section 18, T. 10 S., R. 23 E., SLBM to the Indian Trust Land boundary.	Same as Segment A.

## WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SUITABILITY

### DETERMINATION OF SUITABILITY

Rivers determined to be eligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) are further evaluated to determine their suitability for inclusion into the national system.

The purpose of the suitability step of the study process is to determine whether eligible rivers would be appropriate additions to the NWSRS. By considering tradeoffs between corridor development and river protection, it is designed to help the manager determine the best approach for managing the river corridor.

This resource management plan evaluates impacts that would result if the eligible rivers were determined suitable and managed to protect their free-flowing nature, tentative classification, outstandingly remarkable values, and water quality. It also addresses impacts that would result if the eligible rivers are not determined suitable, and those values are not managed for. Alternatives considered include no action, which does not address suitability and leaves rivers eligible; an alternative where all eligible rivers would be determined suitable; an alternative where no eligible rivers would be determined suitable; and an alternative where portions of eligible rivers would be determined suitable.

In addition to the impact analysis addressed by the Proposed RMP and alternatives, suitability considerations listed below are applied to each eligible river in Table 5. These considerations go beyond BLM management actions addressed in the Proposed RMP and action alternatives, and consider implications of actual congressional designation on each eligible river segment. General

effects of congressional designation are also addressed in the cumulative impacts section of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Characteristics that would or would not make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS include:

- Land ownership and current use
- Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated
- Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation or non-designation, including administration and cost sharing
- Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values
- The estimated costs of administering the river area, including costs for acquiring lands
- The extent to which administration costs would be shared by local and state governments

Public comment received on the Draft RMP/DEIS has been used to improve the documentation of impacts that would result from the Proposed RMP and various alternatives, as well as the documentation of the suitability considerations presented in this appendix. The actual determination of whether or not each eligible segment is suitable is a decision to be made in the Record of Decision for the Vernal RMP.

## SUITABILITY CONSIDERATIONS BY ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENT

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
<b>Argyle Creek</b>	
Characteristics which would or would not make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS	Scenic values were identified as an outstandingly remarkable river-related value for Argyle Creek. This scenic area is characterized by steep wooded side canyons, high canyon walls, and vertical cliff faces.
Land ownership and current use	Of the 22 miles of shoreline in this segment, 4 miles are BLM, 1.7 are state and 16.7 are private. Within the river corridor, 32% of the land is federal (BLM), 8% is State, and 60% is private.  Livestock grazing occurs along its banks. The entire segment is paralleled by a county road. The high percentage of private land adjacent to the stream has resulted in the construction of numerous ranch houses and summer homes in the corridor. A power line parallels the stream for approximately 7 miles.
Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated	Congressional designation of Argyle Creek into the NWSRS would provide permanent protection specifically of free-flowing condition of the river, its water quality and its outstandingly remarkable scenic values. Failure to include of Argyle Creek in the NWSRS could result in deterioration of these values, especially if mineral development occurs.  Inclusion of a river into the NWSRS could preclude dams or other water-related projects if they would occur within the designated segment and have direct and/or adverse effects on the outstandingly remarkable values (high quality scenery) or free-flowing condition. None are currently proposed. Other projects on federal lands within the designated river area such as construction of roads, pipelines or other structures may be

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>allowed with the Congressional classification of “recreational”, but only if it is determined that they would not negatively affect the scenic quality of the area. Of course, this is subject to valid existing rights. Water-related projects proposed outside the segment would be precluded only if they would invade or unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values within the designated segment. None are currently proposed.</p> <p>Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act infers a federal reserved water right upon designation, rather than establishing an amount, it actually imposes a limit, expressing that any such right is to be the minimum necessary for the purposes of the Act. Such a right would have to be adjudicated through the State and would be junior to any existing rights.</p> <p>Failure of Congress to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in degradation of the values for which the river was determined eligible, depending upon the management prescriptions selected through this planning effort. However, even if ACEC or VRM Class II designations are made, such prescriptions are temporary and could be changed through plan amendment or plan revision.</p>
Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation or non-designation, including administration and cost sharing	<p>State and local governments are unsupportive of congressional designation of this stream. Local and State agencies, water users, and municipalities oppose designation primarily due to their concerns that current and potential water use of this or any eligible stream could be affected.</p> <p>There are no contiguous National Park Service or Forest Service segments, so there would be no federal partners to manage the river. Some private citizens and regional and national conservation groups have promoted the suitability of this stream for congressional designation, and may be willing to volunteer their services.</p>
Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values	<p>Manageability of Argyle Creek if designated would be constrained due to the low percentage of public lands within the stream corridor. Any development of State or private lands within the corridor would diminish the overall scenic qualities of the area, but would probably not exceed standards for the recreational tentative classification. In addition, the free-flowing nature of this stream could be at risk due to the high percentage and possible development of State and private lands within the corridor. Other means of protection of federal lands within the corridor considered through this planning process include possible ACEC designation and/or the adoption of VRM Class II management prescriptions. However, such management prescriptions are subject to change with revised land use plans. Therefore, the protection they afford the river values is subject to change.</p>
The estimated costs of administering the river, including costs for acquiring lands	<p>The initial costs of administration for the first three years would involve management plan preparation. Yearly administration costs thereafter would involve plan implementation, and may include additional studies and monitoring as well as additional BLM presence in the area. State lands within the river corridor (8% of the segment) could be identified for possible acquisition</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	through exchange, so no funding would be needed for that. However, 60% of the corridor of the segment is private, and funding would be necessary for purchase if the management plan were to identify acquiring the lands as a need and the private landowners were willing to sell. The high percentage of private lands would make acquisition prohibitive.
The extent to which administration costs would be shared by local and state governments	State and local governments would not share costs of managing the river
<b>Bitter Creek</b>	
Characteristics which would or would not make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS	The fish and wildlife habitat, cultural, historic and recreational values are outstandingly remarkable and make this a worthy addition to the NWSRS. This stream segment supports brook trout, and the river corridor supports a large population of deer and elk, and is also an important area for black bear, cougar, coyote, beaver, muskrat, porcupine, bobcat, gray fox and red fox. This area was known formerly and presently to Tribal people as highly significant culturally and spiritually due to the river. The Book Cliffs area has a colorful past of Indians, mountain men, traders, cattlemen, cowboys, and outlaws. A number of historic sites still exist along Bitter Creek and add interest to a visit: These include ranch buildings and homesteads. In addition to the recreation opportunities related to the historical sites, the presence of numerous waterfowl and wildlife species supported by the creek provide good opportunities for fishing, hunting, and waterfowl viewing.
Land ownership and current use	Of the 20.4 miles of shoreline in this segment, 7.3 miles are BLM, 0.3 are State, 7.9 are Tribal, 4.6 are UDWR, and 0.3 are private. Within the river corridor, 65% of the land is BLM, 6% is State, 14% is UDWR, 14% is Tribal, and 1% is private. This river is used extensively for recreation, including, floating, fishing, hunting, wildlife and waterfowl viewing, and for exploring historical sites. Livestock grazing occurs along its banks. A two-track road parallels Bitter Creek for much of its length; however, it is mostly hidden from view and does not attract attention. Other than the road there are few other developments within the corridor.
Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated	Congressional designation of Bitter Creek into the NWSRS would provide permanent protection specifically of free-flowing condition of the river, its water quality and its outstandingly remarkable scenic values. Failure to include of Bitter Creek in the NWSRS could result in deterioration of these values, especially if mineral development occurs. Inclusion of a river into the NWSRS could preclude dams or other water-related projects if they would occur within the designated segment and have direct and/or adverse effects on the outstandingly remarkable values (fish and wildlife habitat, cultural, historic and recreational values) or free-flowing condition. None are currently proposed. Other projects on federal lands within the designated river area such as construction of roads, pipelines or other structures would only

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

<b>Suitability Considerations</b>	<b>Consideration Applied to Eligible River</b>
	<p>be allowed if it is determined that they would not negatively affect the outstandingly remarkable values or scenic tentative classification. Of course, this is subject to valid existing rights. Water-related projects proposed outside the segment would be precluded only if they would invade or unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values within the designated segment. None are currently proposed.</p> <p>Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act infers a federal reserved water right upon designation, rather than establishing an amount, it actually imposes a limit, expressing that any such right is to be the minimum necessary for the purposes of the Act. Such a right would have to be adjudicated through the State and would be junior to any existing rights.</p> <p>Failure of Congress to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in degradation of the values for which the river was determined eligible, depending upon the management prescriptions selected through this planning effort. However, even if ACEC or VRM Class I or II designations are made, such prescriptions are temporary and could be changed through plan amendment or plan revision.</p>
Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation or non-designation, including sharing of administration of the river	<p>State, local and Tribal governments are unsupportive of congressional designation of this stream. Local and State agencies, water users, and municipalities oppose designation primarily due to their concerns that current and potential water use of this or any eligible stream could be affected.</p> <p>There are no contiguous National Park Service or Forest Service segments, so there would be no federal partners to manage the river. Some private citizens and regional and national conservation groups have promoted the suitability of this stream for congressional designation, and may be willing to volunteer their services.</p>
Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values	<p>Manageability of Bitter Creek if designated would be constrained due to the percentage of public lands within the stream corridor. Any development of State, private, UDWR, Tribal or private lands within the corridor would diminish the overall qualities of the area, and could exceed standards for the scenic tentative classification. In addition, the free-flowing nature of this stream could be at risk due to the high percentage and possible development of State, private and Tribal lands within the corridor. Other means of protection of federal lands within the corridor that have been considered through this planning process include possible ACEC designation and/or the adoption of VRM Class I or II management prescriptions. However, even if adopted, such management prescriptions are subject to change with revised land use plans. Therefore, the protection they afford the river values is subject to change.</p>
The estimated costs of administering the river, including costs for acquiring lands and interests	<p>The initial costs of administration for the first three years would involve management plan preparation. Yearly administration costs thereafter would involve plan implementation, and may include additional studies and monitoring as well as additional BLM presence in the area. State lands (6% of the segment) could be identified for possible acquisition through exchange,</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	so no funding would be needed for that. However, 1% of the segment is private, and funding would be necessary for purchase if the management plan were to identify acquiring the lands as a need and the private landowners were willing to sell.
The extent to which administration costs would be shared by local and state governments	State, local and Tribal governments would not share costs of managing the river
<b>Evacuation Creek</b>	
Characteristics which would or would not make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS	The creek's outstandingly remarkable historic values make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS. The southern one half of the segment parallels the abandoned narrow gauge railroad grade that ran between Mack Colorado and Watson, Utah. The town site of Watson is on Evacuation Creek. Around the turn of the century Watson was a busy railroad town. Trains stopped here before going on to the Gilsonite mining camp of Rainbow. In the spring each year wool and lambs from several thousand head of sheep were shipped to market along this route.
Land ownership and current use	Of the 25.4 miles of river in this segment, 7.1 miles are BLM, 1.3 are state and 17.0 are private. Within the river corridor, 32% of the land is federal (BLM), 6% is State, and 62% is private.  This river is used by recreationists for exploring historical sites. Livestock grazing occurs along its banks.  An improved dirt road parallels Evacuation Creek for much of its length. Two bridges and a suspended pipeline cross the Creek. An old railroad grade is within the corridor of the southern part of the segment.
Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated	Congressional designation of Evacuation Creek into the NWSRS would provide permanent protection specifically of free-flowing condition of the river, its water quality and its outstandingly remarkable historic values. Failure to include Evacuation Creek in the NWSRS could result in deterioration or loss of these values, especially if mineral development occurs. Other than where it intersects with the White River, only minimal means of protection of federal lands within the corridor are being considered in the Vernal RMP/EIS.  Inclusion of a river into the NWSRS could preclude dams or other water-related projects if they would occur within the designated segment and have direct and/or adverse effects on the outstandingly remarkable historic values or free-flowing condition. None are currently proposed. Other projects on federal lands within the designated river area such as construction of roads, pipelines or other structures may be allowed with the Congressional classification of "recreational", but only if it is determined that they would not negatively affect the historic values of the area. Of course, this is subject to valid existing rights. Water-related projects proposed outside the segment would be precluded only if they would invade or unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values within the designated segment. None are currently proposed.



**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act infers a federal reserved water right upon designation, rather than establishing an amount, it actually imposes a limit, expressing that any such right is to be the minimum necessary for the purposes of the Act. Such a right would have to be adjudicated through the State and would be junior to any existing rights.</p> <p>Failure of Congress to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in degradation of the values for which the river was determined eligible.</p>
Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation or non-designation, including sharing of administration of the river	<p>State and local governments are unsupportive of congressional designation of this stream. Local and State agencies, water users, and municipalities oppose designation primarily due to their concerns that current and potential water use of this or any eligible stream could be affected.</p> <p>There are no contiguous National Park Service or Forest Service segments, so there would be no federal partners to manage the river. Some private citizens and regional and national conservation groups have promoted the suitability of this stream for congressional designation, and may be willing to volunteer their services.</p>
Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values	<p>Manageability of Evacuation Creek if designated would be constrained due to the low percentage of public lands within the stream corridor. Any development of State or private lands within the corridor would diminish the overall qualities of the area, but would probably not exceed standards for the recreational tentative classification. In addition, the free-flowing nature of this stream could be at risk due to the high percentage and possible development of State and private lands within the corridor. Other than where it intersects with the White River, only minimal means of protection of federal lands within the corridor are being considered in the Proposed RMP/FEIS.</p>
The estimated costs of administering the river, including costs for acquiring lands and interests	<p>The initial costs of administration for the first three years would involve management plan preparation. Yearly administration costs thereafter would involve plan implementation, and may include additional studies and monitoring as well as additional BLM presence in the area. State lands within the river corridor (6% of the segment) could be identified for possible acquisition through exchange, so no funding would be needed for that. However, 62% of the corridor of the segment is private, and funding would be necessary for purchase if the management plan were to identify acquiring the lands as a need and the private landowners were willing sell. The high percentage of private lands would make acquisition prohibitive.</p>
The extent to which administration costs would be shared by local and state governments	<p>State and local governments would not share costs of managing the river.</p>
<b>Upper Green River</b>	
Characteristics which would or would not make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS	<p>The river's scenic, recreational, fish wildlife/habitat and cultural/historic values are outstanding remarkable and make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS. The upper portion of the segment presents striking, abrupt contrasts, sometimes</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>flowing through a deep, narrow gorge, sometimes between low, rolling hills, and sometimes across an almost flat-bottomed valley. In places red rock walls rise or stair step away from the river. The river is an appealing clear green color with deep holes and small rapids or riffles. The presence of numerous waterfowl and wildlife species provide good opportunities for fishing, hunting, waterfowl viewing, and floating. The segment contains prime trout habitat and is a continuation of the blue ribbon trout fishery that begins directly below Flaming Gorge Dam. The segment provides high quality nesting and migration habitat for Canada geese, ducks and other migratory birds, and helps to provide crucial winter habit for both deer and elk. This segment has supported a colorful past of Indians, mountain men, traders, cattlemen, cowboys, and outlaws. A number of historic sites still exist in along the river within Browns Park, and are an attraction to recreation users. These include ranch buildings, homesteads, and the remains of several outlaw cabins. Several sites have been nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. These values are not only regional in importance, but are clearly of national significance.</p>
Land ownership and current use	<p>Of the 22.0 miles of shoreline in this segment, 12.0 miles are BLM, 3.7 are UDWR, 5.2 are USFS, 0.8 are state and 0.3 are private. Within the river corridor, 67% of the land is federal (BLM), 16% is UDWR, 12% is USFS, 3% is State, and 2% is private.</p> <p>This river is used extensively for recreation, including, floating, fishing, hunting, wildlife and waterfowl viewing, and for exploring historical sites. Livestock grazing occurs along its banks.</p> <p>An improved dirt road parallels the river for a short distance near the John Jarvie Historic Site and BLM's Bridge Hollow and Indian Crossing Campgrounds. A bridge crosses the river at this point. All four of these improvements can readily be seen from the river. There are other developments within the corridor such as the Allan Ranch and developments associated with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Browns Park Waterfowl Refuge.</p>
Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated.	<p>Congressional designation would provide permanent protection specifically of free-flowing condition of the river, its water quality and outstandingly remarkable values.</p> <p>Inclusion of a river into the NWSRS could preclude dams or other water-related projects if they would occur within the designated segment and have direct and/or adverse effects on the outstandingly remarkable values or free-flowing condition. None are currently proposed. Other projects on federal lands within the designated river area such as construction of roads, pipelines or other structures would only be allowed if it is determined that they would not negatively affect the scenic, fish and wildlife habitat, cultural, historic and recreational values of the area, and are in keeping with the Congressional classification of "scenic". Of course, this is subject to valid existing rights. Water-related projects proposed outside the</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>segment would be precluded only if they would invade or unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values within the designated segment. None are currently proposed.</p> <p>Local municipalities, industries and other water users have expressed concerns that existing water rights could be affected and that opportunities for future water development could be foreclosed, not only within the designated river segments but also upstream or downstream of these segments. However, for the reasons discussed below, congressional designation of the Green River into the NWSRS would be expected to have no effect on water use, allocation, or flow regimes.</p> <p>Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act infers a federal reserved water right upon designation, rather than establishing an amount, it actually imposes a limit, expressing that any such right is to be the minimum necessary for the purposes of the Act. Such a right would have to be adjudicated through the State and would be junior to any existing rights.</p> <p>Under normal operations, reservoir releases through Flaming Gorge power plant, the primary influence of river flows outside of spring run-off flows, range from 800 to 4,600 cubic feet per second (cfs). These flows adhere to the interim operating criteria for Flaming Gorge Dam established by the Bureau of Reclamation in September 1974. Under these criteria, the Bureau of Reclamation agreed to provide (1) a minimum flow of 400 cfs at all times; (2) flows of 800 cfs under normal circumstances and for the foreseeable future; and (3) flows exceeding 800 cfs when compatible with other Colorado River Storage Project reservoir operations. These minimum flows are maintained to enhance the use of the river for fishing, fish spawning, and boating.</p> <p>Currently, however, the Bureau of Reclamation is evaluating recommendations by the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, a cooperative effort between the States of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, several federal agencies, and environmental, energy and water user organizations, to modify releases to better facilitate recovery of endangered fish (identified as components of the outstandingly remarkable fish value for the Green River). These recommendations, if implemented, would honor the minimum flow requirements while providing water releases of sufficient magnitude and, with the proper timing and duration, to assist in the recovery of the endangered fishes and their designated critical habitat. The BLM supports these recommendations and recognizes that the proposed minimum flow release from Flaming Gorge dam would be sufficient to maintain and/or enhance the values for which the river is eligible.</p> <p>Because this minimum flow release would be adequate to maintain the outstandingly remarkable values, BLM sees no need for and would not pursue a federal reserved water right in any recommendation that is forwarded to Congress.</p> <p>Failure of Congress to include the Upper Green River in the NWSRS could result in degradation of the values for which the</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	river was determined eligible, depending upon the management prescriptions selected through this planning effort. However, even if ACEC or VRM Class II designations are made and no surface occupancy stipulations applied to mineral leasing, such prescriptions are temporary and could be changed through plan amendment or plan revision.
Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation or non-designation, including sharing of administration of the river	<p>There has been some State and local government support for designation of this segment in the past, and bills have been introduced into Congress for the purpose of such designation. However, there is currently no county support for designation.</p> <p>Local agencies, water users, and municipalities oppose designation primarily due to their concerns that current and potential water use of this or any eligible stream could be affected. However, there is no current or foreseen water use of the Upper Green River that would in fact be affected.</p> <p>There is strong support from the environmental community for congressional designation. Some private citizens and regional and national conservation groups have promoted the suitability of this stream for congressional designation, and may be willing to volunteer their services.</p> <p>The Forest Service supports designation of their portion of the river segment and would share in its administration.</p> <p>The State of Utah has also expressed concerns regarding the designation of the Green River. They are supportive of designating portions of the Green River only if the Department of Interior does not seek to acquire a federal reserved water right to ensure a minimal instream flow for the river. The State recognizes that the proposed minimum flow releases from Flaming Gorge Dam would be sufficient to maintain and/or enhance the river values which make the river eligible for designation and that no change in water use or allocation would be necessary.</p>
Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values	<p>The BLM would be capable of managing this river segment if it were designated, particularly with adequate funding. Congressional designation of the Green River into the NWSRS would Utah BLM's ability to compete for agency dollars, and with increased funding and focused management, the agency's ability to deal with recreational and other management of the area would improve. Designation would promote national and public recognition of the values associated with this river and further the goals and policy established by Congress in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.</p> <p>On the other hand, the free-flowing nature of this river segment is not currently at risk, and the identified outstandingly remarkable values could be effectively managed without congressional designation with the protective land use prescriptions being considered in the Proposed RMP/FEIS, including closure or no surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing, ACEC designation, and VRM Class I or II. However, such management prescriptions are subject to change through plan amendment or revision. Therefore, the protection they would afford the river values is subject to change.</p>
The estimated costs of administering the	The initial costs of administration for the first three years would

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

<b>Suitability Considerations</b>	<b>Consideration Applied to Eligible River</b>
river, including costs for acquiring lands and interests	involve management plan preparation. Yearly administration costs thereafter would involve plan implementation, and may include additional studies and monitoring as well as additional BLM presence in the area. State lands within the river corridor (3% of the segment) could be identified for possible acquisition through exchange, so no funding would be needed for that. However, 2% of the corridor of the segment is private, and funding would be necessary for purchase if the management plan were to identify acquiring the lands as a need and the private landowners were willing sell.
The extent to which administration costs would be shared by local and state governments	State and local governments would not share costs of managing this river segment.
<b>Middle Green River</b>	
Characteristics which would or would not do or do not make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS	The existence of two endangered fish within this segment of the Green River make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS. They are the humpback chub and the Colorado squaw fish
Land ownership and current use	Of the 47.5 miles of shoreline in this segment, 20.3 are BLM, 1.6 are state and 25.6 are private. Within the river corridor, 31% of the land is BLM, 30% is State, and 32% is private. This river segment is used for recreation, including, floating, fishing, hunting, wildlife and waterfowl viewing. Livestock grazing occurs along its banks. There are many intrusions along the river corridor including irrigated fields, homes, corrals, fences, roads, a gravel pit and numerous oil and gas wells.
Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated	Congressional designation would provide permanent protection specifically of free-flowing condition of the river, its water quality and outstandingly remarkable values. Inclusion the Middle Green River into the NWSRS could preclude dams or other water-related projects if they would occur within the designated segment and have direct and/or adverse effects on the outstandingly remarkable values or free-flowing condition. None are currently proposed. Other projects on federal lands within the designated river area such as construction of roads, pipelines or other structures would only be allowed if it is determined that they would not negatively impact the fish outstandingly remarkable values of the area, and are in keeping with the Congressional classification of "recreational". Water-related projects proposed outside the segment would be precluded only if they would invade or unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values within the designated segment. None are currently proposed. Local municipalities, industries and other water users have expressed concerns that existing water rights could be affected and that opportunities for future water development could be foreclosed, not only within the designated river segments but also upstream or downstream of these segments. However, for the reasons discussed below, congressional designation of this portion of the Green River into the NWSRS would be expected to have no effect on water

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>use, allocation, or flow regimes.</p> <p>Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act infers a federal reserved water right upon designation, rather than establishing an amount, it actually imposes a limit, expressing that any such right is to be the minimum necessary for the purposes of the Act. Such a right would have to be adjudicated through the State and would be junior to any existing rights.</p> <p>Under normal operations, reservoir releases through Flaming Gorge power plant, the primary influence of river flows outside of spring run-off flows, range from 800 to 4,600 cubic feet per second (cfs). These flows adhere to the interim operating criteria for Flaming Gorge Dam established by the Bureau of Reclamation in September 1974. Under these criteria, the Bureau of Reclamation agreed to provide (1) a minimum flow of 400 cfs at all times; (2) flows of 800 cfs under normal circumstances and for the foreseeable future; and (3) flows exceeding 800 cfs when compatible with other Colorado River Storage Project reservoir operations. These minimum flows are maintained to enhance the use of the river for fishing, fish spawning, and boating.</p> <p>Currently, however, the Bureau of Reclamation is evaluating recommendations by the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, a cooperative effort between the States of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, several federal agencies, and environmental, energy and water user organizations, to modify releases to better facilitate recovery of endangered fish (identified as components of the outstandingly remarkable fish value for the Green River). These recommendations, if implemented, would honor the minimum flow requirements while providing water releases of sufficient magnitude and, with the proper timing and duration, to assist in the recovery of the endangered fishes and their designated critical habitat. The BLM supports these recommendations and recognizes that the proposed minimum flow release from Flaming Gorge dam would be sufficient to maintain and/or enhance the outstandingly remarkable fish values for which the river is eligible.</p> <p>Because this minimum flow release would be adequate to maintain the outstandingly remarkable fish values, BLM sees no need for and would not pursue a federal reserved water right in any recommendation that is forwarded to Congress.</p> <p>Failure of Congress to include the Middle Green River in the NWSRS would have little effect on the outstandingly remarkable fish values, as they would continue to be protected by the Endangered Species Act.</p>
Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation or non-designation, including sharing of administration of the river	The county, local agencies, water users, and municipalities oppose designation primarily due to their concerns that current and potential water use of this or any eligible stream could be affected. The State of Utah has also expressed concerns regarding the designation of the Green River. It is supportive of designating portions of the Green River only if the Department of Interior does not seek to acquire a federal reserved water right to ensure a minimal instream flow for the

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>river. The State recognizes that the proposed minimum flow releases from Flaming Gorge Dam would be sufficient to maintain and/or enhance the river values which make the river eligible for designation and that no change in water use or allocation would be necessary.</p> <p>The National Park Service manages a contiguous segment to the north, and may share administrative costs. Some private citizens and regional and national conservation groups have promoted the suitability of this river segment for congressional designation, and may be willing to volunteer their services.</p>
Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values	<p>Manageability of the Middle Green River if designated would be constrained due to the low percentage of public lands within the stream corridor. Any development of State or private lands within the corridor would diminish the overall scenic qualities of the area, but scenery is not an outstandingly remarkable value for this segment. Such development would probably not exceed standards for the segment's recreational classification.</p> <p>If this segment is not designated into the NWSRS, its free-flowing nature could be at some risk due to the high percentage and possible development of State and private lands within the corridor. However, the outstandingly remarkable fish values would be protected by the Endangered Species Act, probably involving a required minimum flow.</p> <p>Another means of protection of some of the federal lands within the corridor is a no surface occupancy stipulation for oil and gas leasing. However, even if adopted, this management prescription is subject to change with revised land use plans. Therefore, the protection it affords is subject to change.</p>
The estimated costs of administering the river, including costs for acquiring lands and interests	<p>The initial costs of administration for the first three years would involve management plan preparation. Yearly administration costs thereafter would involve plan implementation, and may include additional studies and monitoring as well as additional BLM presence in the area. State lands within the river corridor (30% of the segment) could be identified for possible acquisition through exchange, so no funding would be needed for that. However, 32% of the corridor of the segment is private, and funding would be necessary for purchase if the management plan were to identify acquiring the lands as a need and the private landowners were willing sell. The high percentage of private lands would make acquisition prohibitive.</p>
The extent to which administration costs would be shared by local and state governments	<p>State and local governments would not share costs of managing this river segment.</p>
<b>Lower Green River</b>	
Characteristics which do or do would or would not make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS	<p>Recreational and fish values were identified as outstandingly remarkable on this segment of the Green River, and make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS. The river and the presence of numerous waterfowl and wildlife species provide good opportunities for fishing, hunting, waterfowl viewing, camping, rafting and canoeing in an attractive pastoral setting. The two endangered fish species found in this segment of the Green</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
Land ownership and current use	<p>River are the humpback chub and the Colorado squawfish.</p> <p>Of the 29.6 miles of shoreline in this segment, 26.8 are BLM, and 2.8 are private. Within the river corridor, 77% of the land is BLM, 20% is State, and 3% is private.</p> <p>This river is used extensively for recreation, including canoeing, floating, fishing, hunting, wildlife and waterfowl viewing, and for exploring historical sites. Livestock grazing occurs along its banks.</p> <p>Very few intrusions are visible from the river. Oil and gas wells can be seen near Parget Draw. Roads access the river corridor at Parget Draw, near Willow Creek, Moon Bottom, Four Mile Draw, Nine Mile Creek, and both sides of the river at Sand Wash. BLM has a Ranger Station, Campground and Boat Ramp at Sand Wash. A buried pipeline crosses the river near Four Mile Draw.</p>
Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated.	<p>Congressional designation would provide permanent protection specifically of free-flowing condition of the river, its water quality and outstandingly remarkable values.</p> <p>Inclusion of a river into the NWSRS could preclude dams or other water-related projects if they would occur within the designated segment and have direct and/or adverse effects on the outstandingly remarkable values or free-flowing condition. None are currently proposed. Other projects on federal lands within the designated river area such as construction of roads, pipelines or other structures would only be allowed if it is determined that they would not negatively affect the outstandingly remarkable fish and recreational values of the area, and are in keeping with the Congressional classification of "scenic". Of course, this is subject to valid existing rights. Water-related projects proposed outside the segment would be precluded only if they would invade or unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values within the designated segment. None are currently proposed.</p> <p>Local municipalities, industries and other water users have expressed concerns that existing water rights could be affected and that opportunities for future water development could be foreclosed, not only within the designated river segments but also upstream or downstream of these segments. However, for the reasons discussed below, congressional designation of the Lower Green River into the NWSRS would be expected to have no effect on water use, allocation, or flow regimes.</p> <p>Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act infers a federal reserved water right upon designation, rather than establishing an amount, it actually imposes a limit, expressing that any such right is to be the minimum necessary for the purposes of the Act. Such a right would have to be adjudicated through the State and would be junior to any existing rights.</p> <p>Under normal operations, reservoir releases through Flaming Gorge power plant, the primary influence of river flows outside of spring run-off flows, range from 800 to 4,600 cubic feet per second (cfs). These flows adhere to the interim operating criteria for Flaming Gorge Dam established by the Bureau of</p>



**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>Reclamation in September 1974. Under these criteria, the Bureau of Reclamation agreed to provide (1) a minimum flow of 400 cfs at all times; (2) flows of 800 cfs under normal circumstances and for the foreseeable future; and (3) flows exceeding 800 cfs when compatible with other Colorado River Storage Project reservoir operations. These minimum flows are maintained to enhance the use of the river for fishing, fish spawning, and boating.</p> <p>Currently, however, the Bureau of Reclamation is evaluating recommendations by the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program, a cooperative effort between the States of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, several federal agencies, and environmental, energy and water user organizations, to modify releases to better facilitate recovery of endangered fish (identified as components of the outstandingly remarkable fish value for the Green River). These recommendations, if implemented, would honor the minimum flow requirements while providing water releases of sufficient magnitude and, with the proper timing and duration, to assist in the recovery of the endangered fishes and their designated critical habitat. The BLM supports these recommendations and recognizes that the proposed minimum flow release from Flaming Gorge dam would be sufficient to maintain and/or enhance the values for which the river is eligible.</p> <p>Because this minimum flow release would be adequate to maintain the outstandingly remarkable values, BLM sees no need for and would not pursue a federal reserved water right in any recommendation that is forwarded to Congress.</p> <p>Failure of Congress to include the Lower Green River in the NWSRS could result in degradation of the recreational values for which the river was determined eligible, depending upon the management prescriptions selected through this planning effort. However, even if ACEC and VRM Class II designations are made and no surface occupancy stipulations applied to mineral leasing, such prescriptions are temporary and could be changed through plan amendment or plan revision. Failure of Congress to include the Lower Green River in the NWSRS would have little effect on the outstandingly remarkable fish values, as they would continue to be protected by the Endangered Species Act.</p>
Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation or non-designation, including sharing of administration of the river	<p>The county, local agencies, water users, and municipalities oppose designation primarily due to their concerns that current and potential water use of this or any eligible stream could be affected.</p> <p>The State of Utah has also expressed concerns regarding the designation of the Green River. They are supportive of designating portions of the Green River only if the Department of Interior does not seek to acquire a federal reserved water right to ensure a minimal instream flow for the river. The State recognizes that the proposed minimum flow releases from Flaming Gorge Dam would be sufficient to maintain and/or enhance the river values which make the river eligible for designation and that no change in water use or allocation</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>would be necessary.</p> <p>Members of the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation Ute Tribal Council have expressed concerns pertaining to the effects of designation on potential use of Tribal lands.</p> <p>The environmental community is strongly supportive of designation of this segment of the Green River. Some private citizens and regional and national conservation groups have promoted the suitability of this stream for congressional designation, and may be willing to volunteer their services.</p> <p>The Price Field Office supports designation of a contiguous segment of the Green River and would share administration of the river.</p>
Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values	<p>The BLM would be capable of managing this river segment if it were designated, particularly with adequate funding. Congressional designation of the Green River into the NWSRS would Utah BLM's ability to compete for agency dollars, and with increased funding and focused management, the agency's ability to deal with recreational and other management of the area would improve. Designation would promote national and public recognition of the values associated with this river and further the goals and policy established by Congress in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.</p> <p>On the other hand, the free-flowing nature of this river segment is not currently at risk, and the recreational outstandingly remarkable values could be effectively managed without congressional designation with the protective land use prescriptions being considered in the Proposed RMP/FEIS, including no surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing, ACEC designation, and VRM Class II. However, such management prescriptions are subject to change through plan amendment or revision. Therefore, the protection they would afford the river values is subject to change. Failure of Congress to include the Lower Green River in the NWSRS would have little effect on the outstandingly remarkable fish values, as they would continue to be protected by the Endangered Species Act.</p>
The estimated costs of administering the river, including costs for acquiring lands and interests	<p>The initial costs of administration for the first three years would involve management plan preparation. Yearly administration costs thereafter would involve plan implementation, and may include additional studies and monitoring as well as additional BLM presence in the area. Approximately 3% of the corridor of the segment is private, and funding would be necessary for purchase if the management plan were to identify acquiring the lands as a need and the private landowners were willing sell.</p>
The extent to which administration costs would be shared by local and state governments	<p>State and local governments would not share costs of managing the river.</p>
<b>Nine Mile Creek, Segment A</b>	
Characteristics which would or would not do or do not make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS	<p>Scenic and cultural values were identified as outstandingly remarkable, and make this segment a worthy addition to the NWSRS. The steep, brown, tan and gray walls of Nine Creek</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>Canyon were created over time by the perennial creek, and frame the excellent, varied scenery from aspen groves to desert flora. Balanced rocks and small window arches can be seen. The alluvial bottomlands were historically farmed with irrigation from the creek. Nine Mile Canyon is significant internationally, nationally, and locally. Its prehistoric rock art is world renowned. The remains of the Fremont culture are properly more visible in Nine Mile canyon than anywhere else. Over 1000 sites have been recorded in the canyon over the last 100 years. Nine Mile Canyon has been proposed for an archeological district on the National register of Historic Places.</p>
Land ownership and current use	<p>Of the 16.4 miles of shoreline in this segment, 11.3 are BLM, 2.3 are State and 2.8 are private. Within the river corridor, 66% of the land is BLM, 18% is State, and 16% is private.</p> <p>This creek is integral to this world-class cultural area, which is a destination area for visitors exploring cultural sites. Livestock grazing occurs along its banks, and there is some oil and gas exploration activity in the area.</p> <p>Intrusions exist along the river corridor; irrigated fields, homes, corrals, fences, roads, and a buried natural gas pipeline parallels the corridor</p>
Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated	<p>Congressional designation of Nine Mile Creek, Segment A into the NWSRS would provide permanent protection specifically of free-flowing condition of the river, its water quality and its outstandingly remarkable scenic and cultural values. Failure to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in deterioration of these values, especially if mineral development occurs.</p> <p>Inclusion of this stream into the NWSRS could preclude dams or other water-related projects if they would occur within the designated segment and have direct and/or adverse effects on the outstandingly remarkable values (scenic and cultural) or free-flowing condition. None are currently proposed. Other projects on federal lands within the designated river area such as construction of roads, pipelines or other structures would only be allowed if it is determined that they would not negatively affect the outstandingly remarkable values or recreational tentative classification. Of course, this is subject to valid existing rights. Water-related projects proposed outside the segment would be precluded only if they would invade or unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values within the designated segment. None are currently proposed.</p> <p>Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act infers a federal reserved water right upon designation, rather than establishing an amount, it actually imposes a limit, expressing that any such right is to be the minimum necessary for the purposes of the Act. Such a right would have to be adjudicated through the State and would be junior to any existing rights.</p> <p>Failure of Congress to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in degradation of the values for which the river was determined eligible, especially scenic values,</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	depending upon the management prescriptions selected through this planning effort. However, even if ACEC or VRM Class II designations are made or portions of the corridor are closed to leasing, such prescriptions are temporary and could be changed through plan amendment or plan revision. Cultural values are protected to some degree by various laws and regulations.
Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation or non-designation, including sharing of administration of the river	State and local governments are unsupportive of congressional designation of this stream. Local and State agencies, water users, and municipalities oppose designation primarily due to their concerns that current and potential water use of this or any eligible stream could be affected. There are no contiguous National Park Service or Forest Service segments, so there would be no federal partners to manage the river. Some private citizens and regional and national conservation groups have promoted the suitability of this stream for congressional designation, and may be willing to volunteer their services.
Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values	Manageability of Nine Mile Creek Segment A, if designated, would be constrained due to the percentage of public lands within the stream corridor. Any development of State or private lands within the corridor would diminish the overall scenic qualities of the area. Such development would probably not exceed standards for the segment's recreational classification. If this segment is not designated into the NWSRS, its free-flowing nature and scenic outstandingly remarkable values could be at some risk due to the high percentage and possible development of State and private lands within the corridor. However, the outstandingly remarkable cultural values would be protected to some degree by cultural laws and regulations. Other means of protecting relevant and important values within the corridor that are being considered in this plan revision effort include designating the corridor as VRM Class II and closing it oil and gas leasing. However, even if adopted, these management prescriptions are subject to change with revised land use plans. Therefore, the protection they afford is subject to change.
The estimated costs of administering the river, including costs for acquiring lands and interests	The initial costs of administration for the first three years would involve management plan preparation. Yearly administration costs thereafter would involve plan implementation, and may include additional studies and monitoring as well as additional BLM presence in the area. State lands (18% of the segment) could be identified for possible acquisition through exchange, so no funding would be needed for that. However, 16% of the segment is private, and funding would be necessary for purchase if the management plan were to identify acquiring the lands as a need and the private landowners were willing to sell.
The extent to which administration costs would be shared by local and state governments	State and local governments would not share costs of managing the river.
<b>Nine Mile Creek, Segment B</b>	

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

<b>Suitability Considerations</b>	<b>Consideration Applied to Eligible River</b>
Characteristics which do or do would or would not make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS	Scenic and cultural values were identified as outstandingly remarkable, and make this segment a worthy addition to the NWSRS. The steep, brown, tan and gray walls of Nine Creek Canyon were created over time by the perennial creek, and frame the excellent, varied scenery from aspen groves to desert flora. Balanced rocks and small window arches can be seen. The alluvial bottomlands were historically farmed with irrigation from the creek. Nine Mile Canyon is significant internationally, nationally, and locally. Its prehistoric rock art is world renowned. The remains of the Fremont culture are properly more visible in Nine Mile canyon than anywhere else. Over 1000 sites have been recorded in the canyon over the last 100 years. Nine Mile Canyon has been proposed for an archeological district on the National register of Historic Places.
Land ownership and current use	Of the 6.5 miles of shoreline in this segment, 0 are BLM, 0.5 are State and 6.0 are private. Within the river corridor, 19% of the land is BLM, 16% is State, and 65% is private.  This creek is integral to this world-class cultural area, which is a destination area for visitors exploring cultural sites. Livestock grazing occurs along its banks, and there is some oil and gas exploration activity in the area.  Irrigated fields and a road parallel the stream for three miles on the western end of the corridor. A road crosses the stream near the Green River.
Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated	Congressional designation of Nine Mile Creek, Segment B into the NWSRS would provide permanent protection specifically of free-flowing condition of the river, its water quality and its outstandingly remarkable scenic and cultural values. Failure to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in deterioration of these values, especially if mineral development occurs.  Inclusion of this stream into the NWSRS could preclude dams or other water-related projects if they would occur within the designated segment and have direct and/or adverse effects on the outstandingly remarkable values (scenic and cultural) or free-flowing condition. None are currently proposed. Other projects on federal lands within the designated river area such as construction of roads, pipelines or other structures would only be allowed if it is determined that they would not negatively affect the outstandingly remarkable values or recreational tentative classification. Of course, this is subject to valid existing rights. Water-related projects proposed outside the segment would be precluded only if they would invade or unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values within the designated segment. None are currently proposed.  Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act infers a federal reserved water right upon designation, rather than establishing an amount, it actually imposes a limit, expressing that any such right is to be the minimum necessary for the purposes of the Act. Such a right would have to be adjudicated through the State and would be junior to any existing rights.

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>Failure of Congress to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in degradation of the values for which the river was determined eligible, especially scenic values, depending upon the management prescriptions selected through this planning effort. However, even if ACEC or VRM Class II designations are made or portions of the corridor are no surface occupancy for leasing, such prescriptions are temporary and could be changed through plan amendment or plan revision. Cultural values are protected to some degree by various laws and regulations.</p>
<p>Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation or non-designation, including sharing of administration of the river</p>	<p>State and local governments are unsupportive of congressional designation of this stream. Local and State agencies, water users, and municipalities oppose designation primarily due to their concerns that current and potential water use of this or any eligible stream could be affected.</p> <p>There are no contiguous National Park Service or Forest Service segments, so there would be no federal partners to manage the river. Some private citizens and regional and national conservation groups have promoted the suitability of this stream for congressional designation, and may be willing to volunteer their services.</p>
<p>Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values</p>	<p>Manageability of Nine Mile Creek Segment B, if designated, would be constrained due to the low percentage of public lands within the stream corridor. Any development of State or private lands within the corridor would diminish the overall scenic qualities of the area. Such development would probably not exceed standards for the segment's recreational classification.</p> <p>If this segment is not designated into the NWSRS, its free-flowing nature and scenic outstandingly remarkable values could be at some risk due to the high percentage and possible development of State and private lands within the corridor. However, the outstandingly remarkable cultural values would be protected to some degree by cultural laws and regulations.</p> <p>Other means of protecting relevant and important values within the corridor that are being considered in this plan revision effort include designating portions of the corridor as VRM Class II, ACECs, and closing it oil and gas leasing. However, even if adopted, these management prescriptions are subject to change with revised land use plans. Therefore, the protection they afford is subject to change</p>
<p>The estimated costs of administering the river, including costs for acquiring lands and interests</p>	<p>The initial costs of administration for the first three years would involve management plan preparation. Yearly administration costs thereafter would involve plan implementation, and may include additional studies and monitoring as well as additional BLM presence in the area. State lands (16% of the segment) could be identified for possible acquisition through exchange, so no funding would be needed for that. However, 65% of the segment is private, and funding would be necessary for purchase if the management plan were to identify acquiring the lands as a need and the private landowners were willing to sell. Because of the very large percentage of private lands, costs of acquisition would be prohibitive.</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
The extent to which administration costs would be shared by local and state governments	State and local governments would not share costs of managing the river.
<b>White River, Segment A</b>	
Characteristics which would or would not make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS	Recreational, scenic/geologic, fish and wildlife/habitat and historic values were identified as outstandingly remarkable, and make the White River a worthy addition to the NWSRS. The White River is a favorite canoeing destination for people from all over the State and beyond. The river's Class II rapids are exciting enough to attract advanced kayakers, yet gentle enough to bring novice canoers and families to float through remarkable solitude. Towering 800-foot sandstone cliffs were cut by the White River. Broad sloping terraces, sandstone walls, butte's, pinnacles and eroded towers create fascinating shapes and textures. Fossil beds exposed by the river display a unique variety of ancient life forms. The White River provides critical habitat for the endangered Colorado River squaw fish. Other threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species in the river include razorback sucker, flannel mouth sucker and the bony tail chub. Threatened, endangered, or sensitive animal species in the river corridor include the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Peregrine Falcon, and the Bald Eagle. Other wildlife that can be found in the corridor and utilize the river include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, cougar, beaver, muskrat, porcupine, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, red fox, and resident and migratory birds such as Golden Eagle, Canadian Goose, Mallard Duck and Flycatchers. Many pivotal historic events occurred in the White River. Canyon. Chronicles of early explorers such as Friar Velez de Escalante, John Wesley Powell, Frederick Dellenbaugh, and Kit Carson described the unique topography of the White River.
Land ownership and current use	Of the 24 miles of shoreline in this segment, 8 are BLM, 1 is State, 5 are Tribal, and 10 are private. Within the river corridor, 41% of the land is BLM, 8% is Indian Trust, 10% is State, and 41% is private.  This river segment is used extensively for recreation, including canoeing, floating, fishing, hunting, wildlife and waterfowl viewing, and for exploring historical sties. Livestock grazing occurs along its banks, and there is some oil and gas exploration activity in the area.  Access and roads exist in places along this segment. A bridge crosses private land.
Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated	Congressional designation of the White River, Segment A into the NWSRS would provide permanent protection specifically of free-flowing condition of the river, its water quality and its recreational, scenic, geologic, fish and wildlife/habitat, and historic outstandingly remarkable values. Failure to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in deterioration of these values, especially if mineral development or dam development occurs.  Inclusion of this river segment into the NWSRS could preclude dams or other water-related projects if they would occur within

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>the designated segment and have direct and/or adverse effects on the outstandingly remarkable values or free-flowing condition. No dam construction would be allowed on the currently permitted dam site on this segment. Other projects on federal lands within the designated river area such as construction of roads, pipelines or other structures would only be allowed if it is determined that they would not negatively affect the outstandingly remarkable values or scenic tentative classification. Because scenery is one of the outstandingly remarkable values, it is unlikely that such developments would be allowed. Of course, this is subject to valid existing rights. Water-related projects proposed outside the segment would be precluded only if they would invade or unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values within the designated segment. None are currently proposed.</p> <p>Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act infers a federal reserved water right upon designation, rather than establishing an amount, it actually imposes a limit, expressing that any such right is to be the minimum necessary for the purposes of the Act. Such a right would have to be adjudicated through the State and would be junior to any existing rights.</p> <p>Failure of Congress to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in degradation of the values for which the river was determined eligible, especially the free-flowing nature (due to the potential damming of the river segment), and the scenic values, depending upon the management prescriptions selected through this planning effort. However, even if ACEC, VRM Class II, and no surface occupancy for leasing designations are made, such prescriptions are temporary and could be changed through plan amendment or plan revision. Fish values would continue to be protected by the Endangered Species Act under any circumstances.</p>
Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation or non-designation, including sharing of administration of the river	<p>State and local governments, and the Ute Tribe are unsupportive of congressional designation of this river segment. Opposition to designation is primarily due to concerns that current and potential water use of this or any eligible stream could be affected. There is strong support for designation from the environmental community.</p> <p>There are no contiguous National Park Service or Forest Service segments, so there would be no federal partners to manage the river. Some private citizens and regional and national conservation groups have promoted the suitability of this stream for congressional designation, and may be willing to volunteer their services.</p>
Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values	<p>The BLM would be capable of managing this river segment if it were designated, particularly with adequate funding. Congressional designation of the White River into the NWSRS would improve Utah BLM's ability to compete for agency dollars, and with increased funding and focused management, the agency's ability to deal with recreational and other management of the area would improve. Designation would promote national and public recognition of the values associated with this river and further the goals and policy</p>



**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>established by Congress in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Without congressional designation, the free-flowing nature of this river segment would be at risk from potential development of a dam. However, because adequate flow must be allowed to maintain the endangered fish species, there could be enough flow to maintain recreational values as well. Other outstandingly remarkable values could be effectively protected without congressional designation with the protective land use prescriptions being considered in the Vernal RMP/EIS, including no surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing, ACEC and VRM Class II designation. However, such management prescriptions are subject to change through plan amendment or revision. Therefore, the protection they would provide is also subject to change. Outstandingly remarkable fish values would be largely protected by the Endangered Species Act under any circumstances.</p>
<p>The estimated costs of administering the river, including costs for acquiring lands and interests</p>	<p>The initial costs of administration for the first three years would involve management plan preparation. Yearly administration costs thereafter would involve plan implementation, and may include additional studies and monitoring as well as additional BLM presence in the area. State lands (10% of the segment) could be identified for possible acquisition through exchange, so no funding would be needed for that. However, 41% of the segment is private, and funding would be necessary for purchase if the management plan were to identify acquiring the lands as a need and the private landowners were willing to sell.</p>
<p>The extent to which administration costs would be shared by local and state governments</p>	<p>State and local governments would not share costs of managing this river segment.</p>
<b>White River Segment B</b>	
<p>Characteristics which would or would not make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS</p>	<p>Recreational, scenic/geologic, fish and wildlife/habitat and historic values were identified as outstandingly remarkable, and make the White River a worthy addition to the NWSRS. The White River is a favorite canoeing destination for people from all over the State and beyond. The river's Class II rapids are exciting enough to attract advanced kayakers, yet gentle enough to bring novice canoers and families to float through remarkable solitude. Towering 800-foot sandstone cliffs were cut by the White River. Broad sloping terraces, sandstone walls, butte's, pinnacles and eroded towers create fascinating shapes and textures. Fossil beds exposed by the river display a unique variety of ancient life forms. The White River provides critical habitat for the endangered Colorado River squaw fish. Other threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species in the river include razorback sucker, flannel mouth sucker and the bony tail chub. Threatened, endangered, or sensitive animal species in the river corridor include the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Peregrine Falcon and the Bald Eagle. Other wildlife that can be found in the corridor and utilize the river include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, cougar, beaver, muskrat, porcupine, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, red fox, and resident and migratory birds such as Golden Eagle, Canadian Goose, Mallard Duck</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	and Flycatchers. Many pivotal historic events occurred in the White River Canyon. Chronicles of early explorers such as Friar Velez de Escalante, John Wesley Powell, Frederick Dellenbaugh, and Kit Carson described the unique topography of the White River.
Land ownership and current use	<p>All 10 shoreline miles in this segment are managed by BLM. Within the river corridor, 99.6% of the land is BLM and 0.4% is State.</p> <p>This river segment is used extensively for recreation, including canoeing, floating, fishing, hunting, wildlife and waterfowl viewing, and for exploring historical sites. Livestock grazing occurs along its banks, and there is substantial oil and gas exploration activity on the table lands above the river canyon.</p> <p>This segment of the river appears primitive in nature with few human developments.</p>
Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated	<p>Congressional designation of the White River, Segment B into the NWSRS would provide permanent protection specifically of free-flowing condition of the river, its water quality and its recreational, scenic, geologic, fish and wildlife/habitat, and historic outstandingly remarkable values. Failure to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in deterioration of these values, especially if mineral development or dam development upstream in Segment A occurs.</p> <p>Inclusion of this river segment into the NWSRS could preclude dams or other water-related projects if they would occur within the designated segment and have direct and/or adverse effects on the outstandingly remarkable values or free-flowing condition. There is no dam development proposed on this segment. Other projects on federal lands within the designated river area such as construction of roads, pipelines or other structures would only be allowed if it is determined that they would not negatively affect the outstandingly remarkable values or wild tentative classification. Because scenery is one of the outstandingly remarkable values, it is unlikely that such developments would be allowed. Of course, this is subject to valid existing rights. Water-related projects proposed outside the segment would be precluded only if they would invade or unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values within the designated segment. Development of a dam upstream (currently proposed within Segment A) would be allowed only if those parameters could be met.</p> <p>Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act infers a federal reserved water right upon designation, rather than establishing an amount, it actually imposes a limit, expressing that any such right is to be the minimum necessary for the purposes of the Act. Such a right would have to be adjudicated through the State and would be junior to any existing rights.</p> <p>Failure of Congress to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in degradation of the values for which the river was determined eligible, especially the free-flowing nature (due to the potential damming of a portion of an upstream segment), and the scenic values, depending upon the management prescriptions selected through this planning</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	effort. However, even if the river corridor was designated as an ACEC with VRM Class II management, and was closed to mineral leasing, such prescriptions are temporary and could be changed through plan amendment or plan revision. Some fish and wildlife values would continue to be protected by the Endangered Species Act under any circumstances.
Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation or non-designation, including sharing of administration of the river	State and local governments, and the Ute Tribe are unsupportive of congressional designation of this river segment. Opposition to designation is primarily due to concerns that current and potential water use of this or any eligible stream could be affected. There is strong support for designation from the environmental community. There are no contiguous National Park Service or Forest Service segments, so there would be no federal partners to manage the river. Some private citizens and regional and national conservation groups have promoted the suitability of this stream for congressional designation, and may be willing to volunteer their services.
Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values	The BLM would be capable of managing this river segment if it were designated, particularly with adequate funding. Congressional designation of the White River into the NWSRS would improve Utah BLM's ability to compete for agency dollars, and with increased funding and focused management, the agency's ability to deal with recreational and other management of the area would improve. Designation would promote national and public recognition of the values associated with this river and further the goals and policy established by Congress in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Without congressional designation, the free-flowing nature of this river segment is somewhat at risk from potential development of a dam upstream in Segment A. However, because adequate flow must be allowed to maintain the endangered fish species, there could be enough flow to maintain recreational values as well. Other outstandingly remarkable values could be effectively managed without congressional designation with the protective land use prescriptions being considered in this planning effort, such as no surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing, ACEC and VRM Class I or II designation. However, such management prescriptions are subject to change through plan amendment or revision. Therefore, the protection they would provide is also subject to change. Fish values would be protected by the Endangered Species Act in any case.
The estimated costs of administering the river, including costs for acquiring lands and interests	The initial costs of administration for the first three years would involve management plan preparation. Yearly administration costs thereafter would involve plan implementation, and may include additional studies and monitoring as well as additional BLM presence in the area. State lands (0.4% of the segment) could be identified for possible acquisition through exchange, so no funding would be needed for that.
The extent to which administration costs would be shared by local and state	State and local governments would not share costs of managing the river segment.

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
governments	
<b>White River Segment C</b>	
Characteristics which would or would not make it a worthy addition to the NWSRS	Recreational, scenic/geologic, fish and wildlife/habitat and historic values were identified as outstandingly remarkable, and make the White River a worthy addition to the NWSRS. The White River is a favorite canoeing destination for people from all over the state and beyond. The rivers Class II rapids are exciting enough to attract advanced kayakers, yet gentle enough to bring novice canoers and families to float through remarkable solitude. Towering 800-foot sandstone cliffs were cut by the White River. Broad sloping terraces, sandstone walls, butte's, pinnacles and eroded towers create fascinating shapes and textures. Fossil beds exposed by the river display a unique variety of ancient life forms. The White River provides critical habitat for the endangered Colorado River squaw fish. Other threatened, endangered, or sensitive fish species in the river include razorback sucker, flannel mouth sucker and the bony tail chub. Threatened, endangered, or sensitive animal species in the river corridor include the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, Peregrine Falcon and the Bald Eagle. Other wildlife that can be found in the corridor and utilize the river include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, cougar, beaver, muskrat, porcupine, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, red fox, and resident and migratory birds such as Golden Eagle, Canadian Goose, Mallard Duck and Flycatchers. Many pivotal historic events occurred in the White River. Canyon. Chronicles of early explorers such as Friar Velez de Escalante, John Wesley Powell, Frederick Dellenbaugh, and Kit Carson described the unique topography of the White River.
Land ownership and current use	Of the 10 miles of shoreline in this segment, 6 are BLM, 4 are State, and <1 are Tribal. Within the river corridor, 56% of the land is BLM, 43% is State, 1% is Tribal, and <1% is private. This river segment is used extensively for recreation, including canoeing, floating, fishing, hunting, wildlife and waterfowl viewing, and for exploring historical sties. Livestock grazing occurs along its banks, and there is some oil and gas exploration activity in the area. Access and roads exist in places along this segment.
Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated	Congressional designation of the White River, Segment C into the NWSRS would provide permanent protection specifically of free-flowing condition of the river, its water quality and its recreational, scenic, geologic, fish and wildlife/habitat and historic outstandingly remarkable values. Failure to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in deterioration of these values, especially if mineral development or dam development upstream in Segment A occurs. Inclusion of this river segment into the NWSRS could preclude dams or other water-related projects if they would occur within the designated segment and have direct and/or adverse effects on the outstandingly remarkable values or free-flowing condition. There is no dam development proposed on this segment. Other projects on federal lands within the designated

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	<p>river area such as construction of roads, pipelines or other structures would only be allowed if it is determined that they would not negatively affect the outstandingly remarkable values or scenic tentative classification. Because scenery is one of the outstandingly remarkable values, it is unlikely that such developments would be allowed. Of course, this is subject to valid existing rights. Water-related projects proposed outside the segment would be precluded only if they would invade or unreasonably diminish scenic, recreational, fish or wildlife values within the designated segment. Development of a dam upstream (currently proposed within Segment A) would be allowed only if those parameters could be met.</p> <p>Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act infers a federal reserved water right upon designation, rather than establishing an amount, it actually imposes a limit, expressing that any such right is to be the minimum necessary for the purposes of the Act. Such a right would have to be adjudicated through the State and would be junior to any existing rights.</p> <p>Failure of Congress to include this river segment in the NWSRS could result in degradation of the values for which the river was determined eligible, especially the free-flowing nature (due to the potential damming of a portion of an upstream segment), and the scenic values, depending upon the management prescriptions selected through this planning effort. However, even if the river corridor was designated as an ACEC with VRM Class II management, and was closed to mineral leasing, such prescriptions are temporary and could be changed through plan amendment or plan revision. Some fish and wildlife values would continue to be protected by the Endangered Species Act under any circumstances.</p>
Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation or non-designation, including sharing of administration of the river	<p>State and local governments, and the Ute Tribe are unsupportive of congressional designation of this river segment. Opposition to designation is primarily due to concerns that current and potential water use of this or any eligible stream could be affected. There is strong support for designation from the environmental community.</p> <p>There are no contiguous National Park Service or Forest Service segments, so there would be no federal partners to manage the river. Some private citizens and regional and national conservation groups have promoted the suitability of this stream for congressional designation, and may be willing to volunteer their services.</p>
Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values	<p>Manageability of White River Segment C, if designated, would be constrained due to the high percentage of non-public lands within the stream corridor. Any development of State, Tribal, or private lands within the corridor would diminish the overall scenic qualities of the area. Such development could exceed standards for the segment's scenic classification.</p> <p>Without congressional designation, the free-flowing nature of this river segment is somewhat at risk from potential development of a dam upstream in Segment A. However, because adequate flow must be allowed to maintain the</p>

**Table 5. Suitability Considerations by Eligible River Segment.**

<b>Suitability Considerations</b>	<b>Consideration Applied to Eligible River</b>
	endangered fish species, there could be enough flow to maintain recreational values as well. Possible ACEC designation is also being considered for this area in the land use planning process, and if designated could have some protective value for the outstandingly remarkable values. However, such management prescriptions are subject to change through plan amendment or revision. Therefore, the protection they would provide is also subject to change. Most outstandingly remarkable fish values would be protected by the Endangered Species Act in any event.
The estimated costs of administering the river, including costs for acquiring lands and interests	The initial costs of administration for the first three years would involve management plan preparation. Yearly administration costs thereafter would involve plan implementation, and may include additional studies and monitoring as well as additional BLM presence in the area. State lands (43% of the segment) could be identified for possible acquisition through exchange, so no funding would be needed for that. However, <1% of the segment is private, and funding would be necessary for purchase if the management plan were to identify acquiring the lands as a need and the private landowners were willing to sell. Because of the high percentage of private lands, costs could be prohibitive.
The extent to which administration costs would be shared by local and state governments	State and local governments would not share costs of managing the river segment.