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DRAFT WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY REPORT

Little Snake Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

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This report is confidential and intended solely for the use and information of the agency to whom it is addressed.

Table of Contents

1.0 Executive Summary – Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation

As part of the current Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision process, the Little Snake Field Office (LSFO) has inventoried all potentially eligible Wild and Scenic River (WSR) segments within the planning area.

To determine eligibility, the LSFO inventoried all potentially eligible rivers, which included all rivers nominated by the public or that appeared on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI). All rivers within the planning area were mapped and reviewed by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) specialists to identify any additional rivers that could possess values the might make them potentially eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS.

As part of the current review, BLM also reviewed the preliminary eligibility and classification findings from the 1991 preliminary WSR study. The Interdisciplinary (ID) Team recommended reconsideration of all identified potentially eligible stream segments because of the time lapse from the previous inventory and advances in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology.

In February and March, 2005, an overall review of potentially eligible rivers/river segments was conducted. The potentially eligible river segments within the LSFO resource area were inventoried and determined to be free-flowing with no major impoundments. Each river segment was evaluated on the basis of having at least one outstandingly remarkable value (ORV) of regional and/or national significance (rare, unique and/or exemplary) within a quarter-mile reach of the high watermark.

Based on this review of potentially eligible rivers/river segments, the BLM LSFO ID Team has established preliminary Wild and Scenic River eligibility determinations for Beaver Creek (1 segment), Vermillion Creek (1 segment) and the Yampa River (3 segments) river segments. These river segments have been tentatively classified as either *Wild, Scenic, or Recreational*.

The purpose of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) of 1968 is to protect and preserve designated rivers in their free-flowing condition along with their immediate environments. Section 5(d) of the WSRA directs federal agencies to consider the potential for national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas in all planning for water and related land resources development. This report describes the legal direction and authority for conducting the Wild and Scenic River evaluation, and summarizes the results of the preliminary eligibility evaluation conducted by the Field Office to determine if any rivers or river segments within the LSFO are eligible for designation as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS).

The results of this evaluation are currently under review by all interested parties to solicit comments and recommendations. Following the comment period, input will be reviewed, evaluated, and considered for incorporation into the Final Eligibility Report. The final report will be an appendix to the Little Snake Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS).

The Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers for the BLM LSFO will become the basis for the second phase of this process—suitability determination. The suitability phase of eligible river(s)/segments for the NWSRS will occur within the RMP/EIS process. As part of the ongoing revision of the Little Snake RMP, the LSFO will consider if the potentially eligible segments of the identified rivers are "suitable" for recommending to Congress for inclusion into the NWSRS. In this review effort, a reasonable range of alternatives for designation will be provided in the RMP. Final determination and recommendation of rivers suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS will be

identified as a management action in the Final RMP and Record of Decision (ROD). "Suitable" rivers will then be managed to protect identified ORVs until Congress either approves or rejects the recommendation for inclusion in the NWSRS. Only Congress can designate a Wild and Scenic River. Decisions in the RMP simply identify segments that are suitable for inclusion in the system, and provides for management to preserve the values that made them eligible.

1.1 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The WSRA (Section 5(d)) specifies that an evaluation of the current status of watercourses within federal jurisdictions be completed by federal agencies to determine eligibility for their inclusion in the NWSRS. The process begins with an inventory of all river areas, a determination of their free-flowing nature, and consideration of any ORVs that are river-related and are regionally- or nationally-significant. Each potentially eligible river or river-segment is tentatively classified as either *Wild, Scenic, or Recreational* based on its current level of association with human development.

> *"It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Congress declares that the established national policy of dam and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes."*
>
> Wild & Scenic Rivers Act

Public input is solicited as part of the eligibility process and is incorporated into the study. After eligible sections have been identified and tentatively classified *Wild*, *Scenic,* or *Recreational*, the evaluation moves to the *suitability phase* for further study and public involvement. The *suitability phase* is part of the RMP process and draft suitability determinations made by the BLM will be subject to public review in the Draft RMP/EIS. After consideration of public comments on the draft RMP/EIS, BLM's final suitability recommendations will be included in the ROD for the RMP. Those rivers or segments BLM finds suitable for designation in the RMP will then be managed to protect their free-flowing nature and ORVs until Congress makes a decision on the BLM recommendations.

Suitable river or segment determinations are reported to Congress for final action. There is no specific deadline for completing this task; however, it is assumed that determinations will be reported shortly after publication of the ROD for the RMP. Only Congress or the Secretary of the Interior, upon request by the State, can designate a river as part of the NWSRS.

1.2 Free – Flowing Requirements

For a river or river-segment to be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS, it must be free-flowing. The WSRA defines "free-flowing" rivers as having—

- Existence in their Natural Condition
- Flow in Natural Condition
- Few Impoundments
- Few Diversions
- No Straightening
- No Rip-Rapping

- No Modifications such as channelization

Instream impoundments or structures will not automatically preclude a river segment from being considered for inclusion provided that such exceptions will not be construed to authorize, intend, or encourage future construction of such structures within components of the NWSRS. The intent of the Congressional actions and federal regulations is that rivers must be generally free flowing, but not completely without human modification.

1.3 Outstandingly Remarkable Values

A river must have one or more ORV(s) to be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS. Each value must be directly river-related (occurring within a quarter-mile of the river's high watermark), exhibit rare/unique and/or exemplary values within the geographic region, and be determined to be regionally- or nationally-significant. BLM IM 2004-196 indicates judgment should be used to determine if the ORVs are directly river related: "...should be located in the river or on its immediate shore lands, contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem, and/or owe their location or existence to the presence of the river."

The potential ORVs are as follows:

S - SCENIC – Diversity of View, Special Features, Seasonal Variations, Cultural Modifications

F - FISH – Habitat Quality, Diversity of Species, Value of Species, Abundance of Fish, Natural Reproduction, Size and Vigor of Fish, Cultural/Historic Importance, Recreational Importance, Access

R - RECREATION – WATER ORIENTED AND GENERAL – Length of Season, Flow, Diversity of Use, Experience Quality, Scenery/Naturalness, Access, Level of Use, Associated Opportunities, Attraction, Sites and Facilities

W - WILDLIFE – Habitat Quality, Diversity of Species, Abundance of Species, Natural Reproduction, Size and Vigor of Species, Cultural/Historic Importance Recreational Importance, Access

G - GEOLOGIC – Feature Abundance, Diversity of Features, Educational/Scientific

H - HISTORIC – Significance, Education/Interpretation, Listing/Eligibility, Site Integrity

C - CULTURAL – Significance, Current Uses, Number of Cultures, Site Integrity, Education / Interpretation, Listing / Eligibility

E - ECOLOGICAL – Species Diversity, Ecological Function, Rare Communities, Education / Scientific

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

1.4 Tentative Classification

A tentative classification of *Wild, Scenic,* or *Recreational* is determined for each eligible river or segment. Tentative classifications are based on the type and degree of human development associated with the river and adjacent lands, as they exist at the time of the evaluation.

The four key elements in evaluating tentative classification are:

1. Water Resources Development
2. Shoreline Development
3. Accessibility
4. Water Quality

Eligible rivers are classified *Wild, Scenic*, or *Recreational* based on the type and degree of human development along the river.

A *Wild* river is free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds essentially primitive, and with unpolluted waters.

A *Scenic* river may have some development, and may have road and railroad access points.

A *Recreational* river may have more extensive development along its shoreline, including transportation routes, and may have undergone some impoundment or diversion.

1.5 Authorities and Guidelines

The following sources are referenced throughout this Wild and Scenic River Eligibility study:

Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordination Council, 1982.

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) list.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; www.nps.gov/rivers/publications.html

USDI-USDA Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas. September 7, 1982.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, P.L. 90-542, as amended.

Wild and Scenic Rivers – Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation and Management, Bureau of Land Management Manual - 8351, 1992 and changes as of 1993. (Sections 1601.03, I; 1623.41A 2d) - Establishes BLM policy, program direction, and procedural standards for fulfilling requirements of the Wild and Scenic Act (WSRA).

BLM Information Memorandum 2004-196 Clarification of Policy in BLM Manual Section 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers, with respect to Eligibility Criteria and Protective Management. June 22, 2004.

2.0 Eligibility Determination by BLM Interdisciplinary Team

2.1 History of Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Process – BLM Little Snake Field Office

The Little Snake RMP (1989) was protested by the Colorado Environmental Coalition because it did not include a Wild and Scenic River eligibility study. In response to this protest, the BLM committed to conduct the Wild and Scenic River study. Preplanning for the Yampa River Wild and Scenic River Study was initiated in January 1991 and the Notice of Intent was published in the *Federal Register* on April 18, 1991. Public scoping meetings and issue development were conducted between April 26 and June 14, 1991.

An interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists conducted a technical analysis for the study utilizing established criteria based on the requirements of the WSRA. 181 stream segments in the resource area were inventoried and analyzed for potential eligibility. Seven stream segments on the Yampa River and one stream segment on the Little Snake River were found to be potentially eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation (see Table 1). Preliminary Wild and Scenic classifications were identified with input from a River Advisory Group consisting of special public interest groups and the general public.

Table 1. 1991 Wild and Scenic River Preliminary Eligibility Study Findings

River Segment	Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Tentative Eligibility and Classification
Yampa River Segment 1 Williams Fork to Milk Creek (~12 Miles)	Recreation (boating) and fish (Colorado Pikeminnow).	Recreational
Yampa River Segment 2 Milk Creek area downstream to Duffy Tunnel area (~15.5 Miles).	Recreation (boating) and fish (Colorado Pikeminnow).	Scenic
Yampa River Segments 3, 4, & 5 Duffy Tunnel area to Cross Mountain Canyon (~47 Miles).	Recreation (boating) and fish (Colorado Pikeminnow).	Recreational
Yampa River Segment 6 Cross Mountain Canyon (~3.5 Miles).	Scenic, recreation (boating) and fish (Colorado Pikeminnow).	Wild
Yampa River Segment 7 Cross Mountain Canyon to Dinosaur National Monument (~9 Miles).	Fish (Colorado Pikeminnow)	Recreational
Little Snake River Moffat County Highway 318 to Yampa River Confluence (~9.5 miles)	Fish (Colorado Pikeminnow)	Recreational

The Wild and Scenic suitability study was deferred because of potential planning and funding issues regarding the Yampa Valley Alliance planning effort, in which BLM was a participant. The Yampa Valley Alliance Outdoor Recreation Conceptual Plan (December 1992) prepared as part of this planning effort addressed recreation opportunities, resource conservation, and economic development for the entire Yampa River Basin. The plan neither supported nor opposed Wild and Scenic designation.

The LSFO planned to proceed with the final part of the Wild and Scenic River Study—the suitability analysis and report preparation—as staffing and funding became available. The analysis was to include landownership and use, potential uses, acquisition costs, ability to manage, conflicting rights, Wild and Scenic River values and other issues. Funding was requested for completion of the study but was not made available until the current RMP revision was initiated.

Interim protection on BLM lands for the potentially eligible portions of the Yampa and Little Snake Rivers identified in the previous study was provided in the 1989 RMP ("no adverse affects on outstandingly remarkable values or modification of free-flowing characteristics."- BLM 1989).

2.2 Current RMP Revision Eligibility Evaluation

An ID Team of BLM resource specialists was formed as part of the current RMP revision process to review previous Wild and Scenic River study information and to update available information on rivers in the LSFO area. The ID Team consists of individuals representing the following disciplines: archeology, wildlife biology, range management, solid minerals, recreation, lands-realty, visual resource management, riparian, geographic information system (GIS), and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning.

BLM Interdisciplinary Team

Name	Role
John Husband	Field Manager
Jeremy Casterson	Planning Lead
Jim McBrayer	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Rob Schmitzer	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Hal Keesling	Archeologist
Fred Conrath	Geologist
Rob Ernest	Geologist
Ole Olson	Soil, Water, Air Quality
Andrea Minor	Range Management Specialist
Tim Novonty	Wildlife Biologist
Pam Levitt	Geographic Information Systems

To determine eligibility, the LSFO inventoried all potentially eligible rivers, which included all rivers nominated by the public or that appeared on the NRI, which included the Yampa, Little Snake, Vermillion Creek, Fourmile Creek, and Spring Creek. All rivers within the planning area were mapped and reviewed by BLM specialists to identify any additional rivers that could possess values the might make them potentially eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS. The USGS Hydro 5 GIS database was used to identify all streams crossing BLM public lands.

As part of the current review, the BLM also reviewed the preliminary eligibility and classification findings from the 1991 study. The ID Team recommended reconsideration of all identified

potentially eligible stream segments because of the time lapse from the previous inventory and advances in GIS technology.

2.2.1 Data Sources

The following sources were used in reviewing the streams within the LSFO:

- Maps of the Little Snake Field Office area at 1:100,000 scale
- Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI), NPS 1995
- American Rivers Outstanding List (Huntington and Echevarria, May 1991)
- Rivers or river segments identified in public scoping
- Rivers or river segments identified by Federal Agencies, State of Colorado, Native American Tribes, local governments, and BLM LSFO specialists
- USGS GIS Hydro 5 database
- BLM records from the 1991 Preliminary Eligibility study

2.2.2 2005 Inventory

Approximately 292 rivers or river-segments were identified in the LSFO through the initial river inventory (Appendix 1). These river-segments include all rivers listed, nominated, or identified by the ID Team or identified by other sources including state, tribal or local governments, or interested members of the public, and that flow perennially or have other regular and predictable flows.

The ID Team agreed upon criteria to use for evaluation and eligibility. Stream segments that did not meet the following criteria were dropped from further consideration as potentially eligible rivers/segments.

<u>ID Team Criteria for Evaluation:</u>

- Free flowing with no major impoundments
- Generally predictable flows of more than two weeks in a normal water year (not ephemeral, described in rationale below)
- Generally not less than a half-mile of BLM shoreline (based on viability of shorter segments in the WSR system)
- Predominately BLM in ownership along the length of the segment

The rationale used to determine the criteria listed above included the following:

The BLM Wild and Scenic River Manual (Manual 8351, release 8/93)

References used in determining whether or not a stream is ephemeral include BLM Riparian Technical Reference (TR) 1737-9-1993 and the Glossary of Geology (Bates and Jackson, 1987) "A stream or reach of a stream which flows briefly, only in direct response to precipitation in the immediate locality and whose channel is at all times above the water table. Optional restriction -

does not flow continuously during period of as much as one month." This definition was modified by the ID Team to include streams that do not flow continuously for a minimal two-week period.

Policy clarification in BLM IM 2004-196 indicates ephemeral streams should not be considered: Wild and Scenic River eligible water courses "... are free-flowing and have associated ORVs...(and) should contain regular and predictable flows...should derive from naturally occurring circumstances...should not be ephemeral.... should focus on normal water years.."

BLM 8351 Manual (release 8/23/93) .06 B "In cases where a particular river segment is predominantly non-federal in ownership and contains interspersed BLM-administered lands, BLM shall evaluate only its segment as to eligibility and defer to the State or private landowner's discretion as to their determination of eligibility".

2.2.3 ORV Evaluation of Free-Flowing Rivers in the Little Snake Field Office

In February and March, 2005, an overall review of potentially eligible rivers/river segments was conducted as part of the current RMP Revision, through which the free-flowing nature of the segments was determined. The stream segments that were found to be free-flowing were then analyzed for any outstandingly remarkable values that may exist, and could be carried forward to be tentatively classified for eligibility (See Appendix 1).

All of the river-segments that were found to be potentially eligible in the 1991 study were reviewed and the following decisions were made:

Little Snake River.

The ID Team discussed the free-flowing nature of this segment. Water flow varies greatly by season and impoundments and diversions on the upper stretches of the river near the Wyoming border provide for extensive irrigation use that has affected the free-flowing nature of the river. The 1991 preliminary eligibility study identified the Little Snake River as having one outstandingly remarkable value related to a sensitive fish species, the Colorado Pikeminnow; However, subsequent studies and monitoring by the Colorado Department of Wildlife (CDOW) indicate that the Little Snake River is not critical population or habitat for this species, nor Humback Chub or other sensitive, threatened, or endangered fish species. Roehm (2004) cites the Little Snake River as within the Pikeminnow distribution from the confluence with the Yampa upstream to the Wyoming border; however, it considers the habitat as marginal, with reduced flows a significant factor. The last documented Pikeminnow to be captured in the Little Snake was in 1990 in southern Wyoming. The Little Snake River is not included within the designated critical habitat area for the Pikeminnow. No other ORVs were found along this river segment. Based on this evaluation, the Little Snake River was dropped from further consideration.

Yampa River.

<u>Williams Fork to Milk Creek segment</u>

ORVs for the Williams Fork to Milk Creek segment include fish and recreation. The fish ORV for this segment was attributed to the designated critical habitat for the Colorado River Pikeminnow (Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Plan).

This segment provides a critically important regional recreation opportunity from rare flat water river floatboating opportunities that attract visitors to the geographic region. Other recreation opportunities in the river corridor include sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, and fishing.

Other Values. This segment of the Yampa River flows through the Little Yampa Canyon which was designated as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in the 1989 Little Snake RMP to provide unrestricted flat water river floatboating in the region. The Little Yampa Canyon Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) was approved in 1996 to provide for public use, enjoyment, and protection of public lands within the planning area. Colorado State Parks manages public use along this segment of the river under a cooperative assistance agreement with the BLM.

Milk Creek to Duffy Mountain Tunnel Area segment

ORVs for the Milk Creek to Duffy Mountain Tunnel area segment include fish and recreation. The fish ORV for this segment was attributed to the designated critical habitat for the Colorado River Pikeminnow (Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Plan).

This segment provides a critically important regional recreation opportunity from rare flat water river floatboating opportunities that attract visitors to the geographic region. Other recreation opportunities in the river corridor include sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, and fishing.

Other Values. This segment of the Yampa River flows through the Little Yampa Canyon which was designated as a SRMA in the 1989 Little Snake RMP to provide unrestricted flat water river floatboating in the region. The Little Yampa Canyon RAMP was approved in 1996 to provide for public use, enjoyment, and protection of public lands within the planning area. Colorado State Parks manages public use along this segment of the river under a cooperative assistance agreement with the BLM. The BLM conducted the wilderness / roadless review of the area in 1998 and determined that the current SRMA management provides adequate protection of resource values.

West Duffy Mountain Tunnel area to east of Cross Mountain (3 segments)

The free-flowing nature of Juniper Canyon is questioned because of the Maybell Ditch Diversion Dam. Additionally, this segment is predominantly bordered by privately-owned land; therefore, eligibility determination will be deferred to the landowner's discretion and was dropped from further consideration.

Cross Mountain Canyon segment

ORVs for the Cross Mountain Canyon segment include fish, recreation, geology, and scenic values. The fish ORV for this segment is attributed to the designated critical habitat for the Colorado River Pikeminnow (Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Plan).

This segment also offers a critically important regional recreation opportunity from abundant world-class whitewater boating opportunities that attract visitors to the geographic region. Other recreation opportunities along the river corridor include sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, and fishing.

Landforms and water provide exemplary and notable scenic and visual features. The canyon is approximately 3.5 miles long and over 1,000 feet deep in places with sheer cliffs. The environment is primitive in nature and free of human structural/visual intrusions.

This segment of the Yampa River flows through a rugged canyon which is a classic example of a superimposed river gorge eroded down thousands of feet into the Uinta Mountain Group in the core of the Cross Mountain anticline. Cross Mountain Canyon is a unique surface expression of one of the eastern most parts of the Uinta Mountain Uplift, which is the only east-west trending mountain range in the 48 contiguous states. Precambrian and Cambrian formations are exposed

in the canyon. These formations have undergone only low-grade metamorphism and as a result, have retained much of the original stratification and lithology. The geology of the canyon offers a rare opportunity for geologists worldwide to study these ancient sediments. In most cases, these sediments have extensively undergone medium- to high-grade metamorphism that altered their lithology and stratification making depositional history challenging to discern. The area near the mouth of the canyon is deeper than it is wide, and the canyon is bound on the west by a large, well-exposed, fault zone with a vertical displacement of 5,000 feet. This displacement brings the upper Cretaceous sediments in contact with Mississippian Madison Limestone. Cross Mountain Canyon has many rare geologic features contained in a relatively small area that gives it educational value (Conrath, 2005).

Other Values. This segment of the Yampa River flows though a portion of the Cross Mountain Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) which was designated in the 1989 Little Snake RMP for the management objective to protect or enhance Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, threatened and endangered species, geologic values, cultural resources, and scenic quality. The segment contains examples of three remnant plant associations in good condition, as well as Colorado BLM sensitive plant species (BLM 1989). Peregrine falcons have been present for a long period (they are now delisted but remain a nationally-significant and BLM sensitive species). ACEC designation is not considered an ORV in itself; however, values associated with the river segment may be considered.

This segment of the Yampa River also flows though the Cross Mountain Canyon WSA, which was recommended to Congress as suitable because of its naturalness, outstanding scenic values, and because it provides a wide variety of primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities. The WSA is unique and harbors diverse populations of wildlife, threatened and endangered species, significant cultural and geologic features and outstanding opportunities for solitude. (BLM 1991)

Cross Mountain to Dinosaur National Monument. This segment is predominantly surrounded by privately-owned land; therefore, eligibility determination will be deferred to the landowner's discretion and was dropped from further consideration.

The following segments were not identified in the 1991 preliminary study; however, were determined to be free-flowing and potentially had ORVs through the 2005 review. The following decisions were made:

Canyon Creek

The BLM Rock Springs Field Office found scenic and historic ORVs in the Green River RMP for the upper portion of Canyon Creek in Wyoming. "The creek has steep slopes bordering the toe slopes of Pine Mountain giving scenic contrasting views of geology and vegetation. The creek is along the route used by Western outlaws to reach hideouts in Brown's Park, Colorado, and adjacent to the diamond fields of the Great Diamond 'Hoax' at the base of Diamond Peak, just south of the Wyoming state line." The Green River RMP determined that Canyon Creek was non-suitable due to potential management conflicts and authorities. The scenic and historic ORVs do not exist in the LSFO portion of Canyon Creek which is located downstream and southeast of the Wyoming headwaters. This segment has been removed from further evaluation.

Beaver Creek

An ORV for fish population and habitat was identified in the upper canyon to the Utah border. Colorado River Cutthroat Trout in the upper portions of Beaver Creek is a Species of Special Concern to CDOW. It is one of the few populations in Moffat County and is considered a "Conservation Population" of the Lake Nanita strain of Colorado River Natives, which is the purest stock available in Colorado. An effective natural barrier exists somewhere in Beaver Creek

Canyon which prevents the invasion of Brook Trout, located in the lower portions of the stream. The exact location of the barrier has not been identified (CDOW 2005). This segment is in a pristine area with no access roads or other development present. Due to the fish ORV, this river segment is tentatively eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS.

Vermillion Creek

One segment of Vermillion Creek was found to have cultural and geological ORVs from Blue Hill Road downstream to the private land boundary. No ORVs were identified in any segments above or below this segment of Vermillion Creek.

Cultural ORV. Petroglyphs in the canyon on State Land in 10N 101W sec 36 are unique evidence of Basketmaker, Fremont, and Ute culture. Cultural ORVs for this site makes it regionally-significant (see Section 2.2.4 for definition). A rare medicine wheel and associated rock art along Vermillion creek 9N 101W Sec 2 make this site regionally-significant, for possible religious or astronomical ORVs. These and other sites are recorded but the area lacks a formal cultural survey. Sites may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups, and have exceptional human interest value (Keesling, 2005). The Irish Canyon ACEC area encompasses some of the most notable rock art in Western Colorado (BLM 1989).

Geology. The Vermillion Creek Canyon segment flows through a spectacular canyon that is the stream capture route taken away from Irish Canyon. The canyon dissects vertical dipping beds from Cambrian to Cretaceous Age, with a wide diversity of lithologies and textures. The outlet of the canyon is bound by a high angle fault that brings tertiary sediments in contact with Cambrian rocks. This segment has many outstanding geologic features within a relatively small area that gives it educational value (Conrath, 2005). Vermillion Canyon is unique for the geomorphology cut by a small stream. The pre-Cambrian Uinta Mountain Group is also significant because it contains over 500-million-year-old sediments. This geology is regionally-significant because it is one of the easternmost exposures of the Uinta Mountain Group (Ernst, 2005) The Irish Canyon area is one of the major landmarks in northwest Colorado and exhibits the most complete record of geologic history in the Uinta Mountain Group (BLM 1989).

Other Values. The Vermillion Creek Canyon segment flows though a portion of the Irish Canyon ACEC, which was designated in the 1989 Little Snake RMP for the management objective to protect or enhance the remnant plant associations, Colorado BLM sensitive plant species, geologic values, cultural resources, and scenic quality. Examples of three remnant plant associations that remain in good condition, as well as Colorado BLM sensitive plant species occur within the unit. (BLM 1989). ACEC designation is an RMP decision that is subject to change in the RMP revision planning process. ACEC designation is not considered an ORV in itself; however, values associated with the river segment may be considered.

BLM conducted a wilderness inventory of Vermillion Basin in 2001 and determined that portions of the area (including public land portions of Vermillion Creek) exhibit wilderness values which will be considered in the RMP revision.

Based on the 2005 review of potentially eligible rivers/river segments, five stream segments were found potentially eligible. Three segments of the Yampa River, one segment of Beaver Creek, and one segment of Vermillion Creek were determined to be free-flowing and have at least one regionally-significant ORV (See Appendix 1).

2.2.4 Region of Comparison / Level of Significance

The wild and scenic rivers planning process prescribes that resources must be reviewed for regional or national significance. The appropriate region of comparison is to be determined by the planning team who is required to provide explicit definition for the respective regions. The area, region, or scale of comparison is not fixed, and should be the basis for meaningful comparative analysis; it may vary depending on the value being considered. Typically, a "region" is defined on the scale of an administrative unit, a portion of a state, or an appropriately scaled physiographic or hydrologic unit. The approximate geographical region chosen for this analysis is the Upper Colorado River Plateau in Northwest Colorado (North of US Highway 40) which begins on the Western slope of the Rocky Mountains.

Ecological Subregions of the United States, produced by the US Forest Service in 1993, lists subregions and sections based on ecological units, which provides a framework for classifying and mapping global areas based on ecological factors that change at different spatial scales. (WO ECOMAP TEAM 1993). Ecological types and ecological units are developed at various scales by integrating multiple components such as climate, physiography, geology, soils, water, and potential natural vegetation (FSM2060, FSH 2090.11). The primary purpose for delineating ecological units is to identify land and water areas at different hierarchical levels that have similar capabilities and potentials for management.

Provinces within the ecological units are characterized by combinations of climate, geomorphic process, topography, and stratigraphy. Broad sections of the provinces share similar regional climate, geomorphic process, stratigraphy, geologic origin, and drainage networks (WO ECOMAP TEAM, 1993).

The physiographic provinces that make up the northwestern part of Colorado within LSFO, include the Southern Rocky Mountain Steppe- Open Woodland- Coniferous Forest- Alpine Meadow province (M331) and the North-Central Highlands and Rocky Mountain province (342). These areas were considered as the region of comparison for the eligibility study.

Each ORV was considered for each area listed in the region of comparison. The ID Team then determined if the ORV was regionally-/ nationally-significant or possess exemplary qualities. Rivers or segments that did not have regional or national significance were removed from further consideration.

2.2.5 Tentative Classification

The BLM LSFO ID Team has established preliminary Wild and Scenic River eligibility determinations for Beaver Creek (1 segment), Vermillion Creek (1 segment) and the Yampa River (3 segments) river segments (See Appendix 1, Table 3 and Appendix 2, Map 1). The five river segments that have been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS have been tentatively classified as summarized in the table below. Further detail on eligibility and classification is provided in Appendix 1.

The tentatively eligible river segments within the LSFO resource area were inventoried and determined to be free-flowing with no major impoundments. Each river/segment was evaluated on the basis of having at least one ORV of regional and/or national significance (rare, unique and/or exemplary) within a quarter-mile reach of the high watermark. Table 2 shows the tentative classification for each eligible river/segment.

Table 2. Tentatively Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments and Classification	
River Segment	**Tentative Eligibility and Classification**
Beaver Creek Segment 1: From state land boundary in T.11N., R.103W., Section 10 to the Utah Border.	Wild
Lower Vermillion Creek Segment 1: From BLM boundary in T.9N., R.101W., Section 2 to Bluehill Road/Sparks Fault in T.10N., R.100W., Section 30.	Scenic
Yampa River Segment 1 From BLM Boundary on East side of Cross Mountain Canyon in the southwest corner of T.6N., R.97W, Section 7 downstream to BLM boundary on West side of Cross Mountain Canyon of T.6N., R.97W Section 23.	Wild
Yampa River Segment 2 From BLM boundary at T.6N., R.92W., Section 36 (Williams Fork area) downstream to BLM boundary near the center of T.5N., R.92W., Section 7 (Milk Creek area).	Recreational
Yampa River Segment 3 From BLM boundary near the center of T.5N., R92W., Section 7 (Milk Creek area), downstream to BLM boundary in the northwest corner of T.6N., R.93W., section 32. (Duffy Tunnel area).	Scenic

3.0 Interface with Agencies with Contiguous Boundaries

The LSFO consulted the BLM Vernal (Utah), Rock Springs (Wyoming) and White River Field Offices, and with the Routt National Forest and Dinosaur National Park regarding river segments that crossed boundaries during the Wild and Scenic River eligibility process.

3.1 Bureau of Land Management

3.1.1 White River Field Office

The White River FO completed an RMP update in 1995, which identified the White River as suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. This river segment does not connect to any river or river-segment located within the LSFO, thus there is no connectivity issue of this determination.

3.1.2 Vernal Field Office (Utah)

The Vernal FO is currently in the RMP revision process and has released a Draft RMP/EIS. The Vernal FO has identified one segment of the White River as suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. This river segment does not connect to any river or river-segment located within the LSFO, thus there is no connectivity issue of this determination.

3.1.3 Rock Springs Field Office (Wyoming)

The Rock Springs FO completed the Green River RMP update in October 1997, which identified several segments of the Sweetwater River as suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. This river segment does not connect to any river or river-segment located within the LSFO, thus there is no connectivity issue of this determination. The RMP did identify the upper portion of Canyon Creek, Wyoming, as eligible, but was removed from further consideration because of potential management conflicts.

3.2 Forest Service

3.2.1 White River National Forest

The White River National Forest completed a Revised Land and Resource Management Plan in 2002 which identified segments of the Colorado, South Fork of the White, Crystal, Deep Creek, and Cross Creek rivers as suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. These river segments do not connect to any river or river-segment located within the LSFO, thus there is no connectivity issue of this determination.

3.2.2 Routt National Forest

The Routt National Forest completed a Revised Land and Resource Management Plan in 1998 which identified segments of the Elk and Encampment Rivers as suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. The Elk River flows through northwestern Colorado; however, does not cross any BLM-administered land prior to the confluence with the Yampa River. The Encampment River does not connect to any river or river-segment located within the LSFO, thus there is no connectivity issue of this determination.

3.3 Dinosaur National Monument

Dinosaur National Monument has identified segments of the Green and White Rivers as eligible for further consideration. The Yampa River connects with the Green River within the Monument; however, the confluence is downstream from any river or river segments located within the LSFO, thus there is no connectivity issue of this determination. The segments of the Yampa River determined “eligible” by the LSFO are upstream from Dinosaur National Monument.

4.0 Summary of Findings and Next Steps

The Little Snake Field Office has inventoried all potentially eligible Wild and Scenic River segments within the planning area as part of the current RMP revision process. The results of this Draft Wild and Scenic River eligibility evaluation are currently under review by all interested parties to solicit comments and recommendations. Following the comment period, input will be reviewed, evaluated, and considered for incorporation into the Final Eligibility Report. The final report will be an appendix to the Little Snake Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS).

To determine eligibility, the LSFO inventoried all potentially eligible rivers, which included all rivers nominated by the public or that appeared on the NRI. All rivers within the planning area were mapped and reviewed by BLM specialists to identify any additional rivers that could possess values the might make them potentially eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS.

As part of the current review, BLM also reviewed the preliminary eligibility and classification findings from the 1991 study. The ID Team recommended reconsideration of all identified potentially eligible stream segments because of the time lapse from the previous inventory and advances in GIS technology.

In February and March, 2005, an overall review of potentially eligible rivers/river segments was conducted as part of the current RMP Revision. The potentially eligible river segments within the LSFO resource area were inventoried and determined to be free-flowing with no major impoundments. Each river segment was evaluated on the basis of having at least one ORV of regional and/or national significance (rare, unique and/or exemplary) within a quarter-mile reach of the high watermark.

Based on this review of potentially eligible rivers/river segments, the BLM LSFO ID Team has established preliminary Wild and Scenic River eligibility determinations for Beaver Creek (1 segment), Vermillion Creek (1 segment) and the Yampa River (3 segments) river segments. These river segments have been tentatively classified as either *Wild, Scenic, or Recreational* (See Table 2).

The Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers for the BLM LSFO will become the basis for the second phase of this process—suitability determination. The suitability phase of eligible river(s)/segments for the NWSRS will occur within the RMP/EIS process. As part of the ongoing revision of the Little Snake RMP, the LSFO will consider if the potentially eligible segments of the identified rivers are "suitable" for recommending to Congress for inclusion into the NWSRS. In this review effort, a reasonable range of alternatives for designation will be provided in the RMP. Final determination and recommendation of rivers suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS will be identified as a management action in the Final RMP and Record of Decision (ROD). "Suitable" rivers will then be managed to protect identified ORVs until Congress either approves or rejects the recommendation for inclusion in the NWSRS. Only Congress can designate a Wild and Scenic River. Decisions in the RMP simply identify segments that are suitable for inclusion in the system, and provides for management to preserve the values that made them eligible.

5.0 References

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6.0 Acronym List

ACEC	Area(s) of Critical Environmental Concern
CDOW	Colorado Department of Wildlife
EIS	Environmental Impact Study
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
ID (Team)	Interdisciplinary Team
IM	Information Memorandum
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NRI	National Rivers Inventory
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic River System
ORV	Outstandingly Remarkable Value
RAMP	Recreation Area Management Plan
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
TR	Technical Reference
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WSR	Wild and Scenic River
WSRA	Wild and Scenic River Act

Appendix 1 Table 2. Tentatively Eligible River Segments and Classification within the Little Snake Field Office

Table 2. Tentatively Eligible River Segments and Classification within the Little Snake Field Office

River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Watershed # 1401000122 Rock Creek					
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1404010612 Green River					
Chokecherry Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Cottonwood Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Hoy Dray	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Davis Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Dry Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Pot Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Warren Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Yellow Jacket Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1404010611 Beaver Creek					
Beaver Creek Segment 1: From state land boundary in T.11N., R.103W., Section 10 to the Utah Border	P; (Total length – 5.0 mi. (4.2 mi. BLM, 0.8 mi. SLB)	Yes	Fish population (Colorado River Cutthroat Trout)	Wild	Pristine area with no access roads or other developments
Spitzie Draw	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A

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River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Two Bar Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Willow Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1404010901 Canyon Creek					
Birdie Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Canyon Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Diamond Field Draw/Fisher Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Fisher Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Fonce Wash	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
G Wash	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Hanging Tree Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Johnson Draw	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Upper Vermillion Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Whiskey Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1404010903 Vermillion					
Big Draw	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Buck Draw	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Bull Canyon	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Chokecherry Draw	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Dry Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Fondillos Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Green Canyon	E	No	None	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Tentatively Eligible River Segments and Classification within the Little Snake Field Office

River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Hells Canyon	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Hoy Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Irish Canyon	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Lower Vermillion Creek Segment 1: From BLM boundary in T.9N., R.101W., Section 2 to Bluehill Road/Sparks Fault in T.10N., R.100W., Section 30.	P; Total length 3.9 miles (2.9 miles BLM, 1.0 miles SLB)	Yes	Cultural (petroglyphs), geology (canyon formation)	Scenic	Pristine area; however, access roads exist on both ends of the river segment.
Matt Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
NS Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Shell Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Talemantes Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1404010902 Douglas Draw					
Big Bend	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Kraft Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Douglas Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Hartman Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Langley Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Left Hand Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Marshall	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Martin Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Sager Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Ted's Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Weller Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Tentatively Eligible River Segments and Classification within the Little Snake Field Office

River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
West Boone	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000308 Powder Wash					
Ace in the Hole	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Beaver Slide Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Big Hole Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Dry Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Eagle Rock Draw	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Horse Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Little Snake	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
North Fork	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Powder Wash	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Reservoir Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Ruedloff Draw	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Scandinavian Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Thornberg Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Tommy's Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Woodbury Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000309 Little Snake					
Deep Canyon	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Greasewood Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Little Snake River	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Red Wash	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Sevenmile Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Simsberry Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Tentatively Eligible River Segments and Classification within the Little Snake Field Office

River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
South Nipple Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Spence Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Schaffer Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Three C Wash	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000310 Sand Wash					
Deep Canyon	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Dugout Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
East Boone Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Horse Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Lake Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Little Snake River	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
North Fork	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Pigpen Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Sand Wash	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Sheepherder Springs Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
South Sand Wash	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Thompson Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Two Bar Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Vaughn Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Wild Cow Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Yellow Cat Wash	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000203 Spring Creek					
Alkali Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Tentatively Eligible River Segments and Classification within the Little Snake Field Office

River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Bald Mtn. Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Bob Hughes Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Cedar Springs Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Deception Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Freeman Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Graham Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Jacobs Draw	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Lone Tree Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Mud Springs Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Overholt Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Pinetree Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Sand Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Spring Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Thornberg Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Twelve Mile	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
West Fork Sand Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
West Prong Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Wildcat Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Willow Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Tentatively Eligible River Segments and Classification within the Little Snake Field Office

River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Yampa River Segment 1 From BLM Boundary on East side of Cross Mountain Canyon in the southwest corner of T.6N., R.97W, Section 7 downstream to BLM boundary on West side of Cross Mountain Canyon of T.6N., R.97W section 23.	Perennial; Total length 3.3 miles (3.3 miles BLM)	Yes	Fish population (Colorado River Pikeminnow), recreation (boating), geologic (rare sediments, lithology and stratification), and scenic (canyon views)	Wild	Conditions in the river corridor are very limited in constructed development, making the segment eligible for "wild" classification. There are no access roads or development, pristine stream banks, and the river runs through a wilderness study area and a designated ACEC. The area is also closed to motor vehicles.
Watershed # 1405000202 Lay Creek					
Big Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Bord Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Lay Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
North Fork Big Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Wet Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000505 Crooked Wash					
Crooked Wash	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
North Fork Sagebrush Cr.	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Sagebrush Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Sagebrush Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000204 Lower Yampa					
Bay Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Big Joe Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Bower Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Tentatively Eligible River Segments and Classification within the Little Snake Field Office

River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Browns Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Buck Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Buffalo Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Burnt Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Calico Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Corral Springs Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Disappointment Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Five Springs	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Happy Hollow	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Holland Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Iron Mine Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Little Joe Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Peterson Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Sawmill Canyon	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Starvation Valley	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Teepee Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Vale of Tears	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Warm Springs Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Yampa River	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000201 Axial					
Bell Rock Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Ben Morgan Canyon	E	No	None	N/A	N/A

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River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Boxelder Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Brush Draw	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Collom Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Deer Canyon	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Dickman Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
East Fork Collom Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
East Fork Morgan	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
East Fork Wilson Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Easton Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Elkhorn Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Fuhr Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Good Spring Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Hale Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Hole in the Wall Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Horse Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Jesse Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Jubb Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Little Collom Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Maudlin Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Milk Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Morgan Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Post Oak Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Tentatively Eligible River Segments and Classification within the Little Snake Field Office

River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Ralston Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Sand Spring Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Seeping Spring Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Staight Gulch 1	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Staight Gulch 2	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Stinking Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Taylor Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Temple Gulch/ Canyon	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
West Fork Good Springs Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
West Fork Jubb Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Wilson Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Wood Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A

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River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Yampa River Segment 2 From BLM boundary at T.6N., R.92W., Section 36 (Williams Fork area) downstream to BLM boundary near the center of T.5N., R.92W., Section 7 (Milk Creek area).	Perennial; Total length 9.7 miles (4.3 miles BLM, 5.4 miles private)	Yes	Fish population (Colorado River Pikeminnow) and recreation (boating)	Recreational	Several land uses in the area limit classification to "Recreational", prohibiting eligibility as scenic or wild. These uses include: • Two active coal mines • Railroad parallels the river • Noticeable rip rap (railroad ballast) • Visible structures (railroad (trestle) • Irrigation pumps • Agricultural use • Buildings visible • Several vehicle access roads • Power line crossing the river • Existing rights of way for transportation (valid existing rights)
Yampa River Segment 3 From BLM boundary near the center of T.5N., R92W., Section 7 (Milk Creek area), downstream to BLM boundary in the northwest corner of T.6N., R.93W., section 32. (Duffy Tunnel area)	Perennial; Total length 15.9 miles (13.9 miles BLM, 2.0 miles private)	Yes	Fish population (Colorado River Pikeminnow) and recreation (boating)	Scenic	There are several existing roads in the area but do not impact scenic values. However, existing road access on both sides of the river prevent consideration for "wild" classification.
Watershed # 1405000307 Fourmile Creek					
East Pole Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
East Timberlake Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Fourmile Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Gledhill Draw	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A

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River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Housel Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Mud Spring Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000107 Fortification Creek					
Cedar Hill Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Cole Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Cottonwood Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Blue Gravel Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Coon Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Dry Fork	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Fortification Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Hayden Cutoff Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Pole Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
West Timberlake Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Wymore Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000111 Williams Fork					
Badger Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Berry Gulch	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Castor Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Daton Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Deakin Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Deal Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Deer Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Horse Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Tentatively Eligible River Segments and Classification within the Little Snake Field Office

River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Jeffway Gulch	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Long Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Peck Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Rock Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Searcy Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Spring Gulch	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Sulphur Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Ute Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
West Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Williams Fork	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000305 Willow/Slater Creek					
First Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Grizzly Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Jack Rabbit Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Little Field Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Mule Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Second Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Willow Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000302 Little Snake River above Slater Creek					
Cantling Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Deadman Draw	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Deer Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A

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Fly Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Little Snake	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Tree Culture	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000301 Little Snake River Headwaters					
Beeler Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Brown Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Gold Blossom	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Johnson Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Middle Fork Little Snake	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
South Fork of Little Snake	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Tunnel Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Willow Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000101 Elk River Headwaters					
Beaver Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Deep Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Dutch Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Red Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Willow Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000104 Steamboat Springs					
Butcher Knife Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Cow Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Oak Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A

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River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Watershed #1405000102 Lower Elk River					
Day Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Dutch Gulch	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Salt Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Taylor Canyon	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Trull Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000106 Elkhead Creek					
Bull Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Cottonwood Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Dry Fork	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Elkhead Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Jimmy Dunn Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
North Fork Elkhead	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000108 Yampa River Craig/Hayden					
Boone Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Cedar Mtn. Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Fish Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Temple Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000105 Yampa River/Fish & Trout Creek					
Bear Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Butcher Knife Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Coyote Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A

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River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Fish Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Foidel Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Little Middle Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Little Trout Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Middle Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Mule Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
North Fork Middle Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Sage Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Scotchmans Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Tow Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Trout Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Yoast Gulch	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000109 Morrison Creek					
Morrison Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000103 Yampa River Headwaters					
Hunt Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Middle Hunt Creek	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watson Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000112 East Williams Fork					
Card Gulch	E	No	None	N/A	N/A
Dowden Gulch	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Dunstan Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
East Fork Williams Fork	P	No	None	N/A	N/A

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River Segment	River Type Perennial (P) Other Regular or Predictable Flows (O) Ephemeral or other non-Predictable Flows (E)	Free-Flowing	ORV	Tentative Eligibility and Classification	Classification Justification
Hayden Gulch	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Willow Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Wise Gulch	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1405000110 South Williams Fork					
Beaver Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Butler Creek	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Cedar Creek	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Coal Creek	O	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
Indian Run	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Pagoda	P	Yes	None	N/A	N/A
South Fork Williams Fork	P	No	None	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1406000102					
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Watershed # 1406000103					
None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Appendix 2 Map 1 Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments, Little Snake Field Office