



Scoping Document

**U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Forest Service
Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Manti-La Sal,
Uinta, and Wasatch-Cache National Forests**

Comments Due: June 30, 2007

Wild and Scenic River Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah

The Forest Service, in cooperation with the State of Utah, will prepare a draft and final legislative environmental impact statement (LEIS) to complete the process for giving consideration to potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas on the National Forests in Utah under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This process includes the Ashley, Dixie, Fishlake, Manti-La Sal, Uinta, and Wasatch-Cache National Forests in Utah. Portions of those National Forests extend into Colorado and Wyoming, and those areas will be included in the study. The Forest Service has evaluated river segments on these National Forests to determine which ones meet criteria for eligibility for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The purpose of the LEIS is to determine which eligible river segments are suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Table 1 is a list of eligible segments by forest, ranger district, and county. More information including a map showing eligible river segments is posted on the web at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/rivers/>.

The Forest Service invites written comments and suggestions on the suitability of eligible river segments for designation as wild, scenic, or recreational rivers. The Forest Service gives notice of the environmental analysis and determinations that will occur as a result of this study so that interested and affected people are aware of how they may participate and contribute to the final determination of suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

**Table 1. Inventoried River Segments Eligible for
Inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Study.**

Ashley National Forest Eligible River Segment	Miles	Ranger District	County
Middle Main Sheep Creek	5	Flaming Gorge	Daggett
Lower Main Sheep Creek	4	Flaming Gorge	Daggett
Carter Creek	16	Flaming Gorge	Daggett
Cart Creek Proper	10	Flaming Gorge	Daggett
Green River	13	Flaming Gorge	Daggett
Pipe Creek	6	Flaming Gorge	Daggett
Upper Whiterocks River	4	Vernal	Duchesne
West Fork Whiterocks River	11	Vernal	Duchesne
Reader Creek	6	Vernal	Duchesne
East Fork Whiterocks River	4	Vernal	Uintah &

Ashley National Forest Eligible River Segment	Miles	Ranger District	County
			Duchesne
Middle Whiterocks River	8	Vernal	Uintah & Duchesne
Lower Dry Fork Creek	7	Vernal	Uintah
South Fork Ashley Creek	15	Vernal	Uintah
Black Canyon	10	Vernal	Uintah
Ashley Gorge Creek	10	Vernal	Uintah
Upper Rock Creek	21	Duchesne	Duchesne
West Fork Rock Creek, including Fish Creek	13	Duchesne	Duchesne
Fall Creek	6	Duchesne	Duchesne
Oweep Creek	20	Duchesne	Duchesne
Upper Lake Fork River, including Ottoson and East Basin Creeks	35	Duchesne	Duchesne
Upper Yellowstone Creek, including Mill Creek	33	Duchesne	Duchesne
Garfield Creek	17	Duchesne	Duchesne
Upper Uinta River, including Gilbert Creek, Center Fork and Painter Draw	40	Duchesne	Duchesne
Shale Creek and Tributaries	12	Duchesne	Duchesne

Dixie National Forest Eligible River Segment	Miles	Ranger District	County
North Fork, Virgin River	2	Cedar City	Kane
East Fork Boulder Creek	3	Escalante	Garfield
Slickrock Canyon	2	Fremont (Now administered by Fishlake NF)	Garfield
Cottonwood Canyon	6	Fremont (Now administered by Fishlake NF)	Garfield
The Gulch	2	Fremont (Now administered by Fishlake NF)	Garfield
Steep Creek	7	Fremont (Now administered by Fishlake NF)	Garfield
Pine Creek	8	Escalante	Garfield
Mamie Creek	2	Escalante	Garfield
Death Hollow Creek	10	Escalante	Garfield

Fishlake National Forest Eligible River Segment	Miles	Ranger District	County
Salina Creek	6	Richfield	Sevier
Fish Creek	15	Beaver	Sevier & Piute
Corn Creek	2	Fillmore	Millard
Pine Creek / Bullion Falls	4	Beaver	Piute

Manti-La Sal National Forest Eligible River Segment	Miles	Ranger District	County
Miners Basin	3	Moab	Grand
Mill Creek Gorge	3	Moab	San Juan & Montrose (Colorado)

Manti-La Sal National Forest Eligible River Segment	Miles	Ranger District	County
Roc Creek	9	Moab	San Juan & Montrose (Colorado)
Huntington Creek	20 Miles Total with 14 Miles on USFS	Ferron/Price	Emery
Fish Creek and Gooseberry Creek	21	Ferron/Price	Carbon, San Pete, & Utah
Lower Left Fork of Huntington Creek	5	Ferron/Price	Emery

Uinta National Forest Eligible River Segment	Miles	Ranger District	County
North Fork, Provo River	1	Pleasant Grove	Utah
South Fork, American Fork River	1	Pleasant Grove	Utah
Little Provo Deer Creek	3	Pleasant Grove	Wasatch
Fifth Water Creek	8	Spanish Fork	Utah

Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible River Segment	Miles	Ranger District	County
Henry's Fork: Henry's Fork Lake to Trailhead	8	Mountain View	Summit
West Fork Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	9	Mountain View	Summit
Middle Fork Beaver Creek: Beaver Lake to Confluence with East Fork Beaver Creek	10	Mountain View	Summit
Thompson Creek: Source to Hoop Lake Diversion	5	Mountain View	Summit
West Fork Blacks Fork: Source to Trailhead	11	Mountain View	Summit
East Fork Blacks Fork: Headwaters to confluence with Little East Fork	10	Mountain View	Summit
Little East Fork: Source to Mouth	9	Mountain View	Summit
Blacks Fork: Confluence of West Fork and East Fork to Meeks Cabin Reservoir	3	Mountain View	Summit
West Fork Smiths Fork: Source to Forest Boundary	15	Mountain View	Summit (Utah) & Uinta (Wyoming)
East Fork Smiths Fork: Red Castle Lake to Trailhead	12	Mountain View	Summit
Hayden Fork: Source to Mouth	8	Evanston	Summit
Stillwater Fork: Source to Mouth	12	Evanston	Summit
Ostler Fork: Source to Mouth	4	Evanston	Summit
Left, Right, and East Forks Bear River: Alsop Lake and Norice Lake to near Trailhead	13	Evanston	Summit
Boundary Creek: Source to Confluence with East Fork Bear River	4	Evanston	Summit
High Creek: High Creek Lake to Forest Boundary	7	Logan	Cache
Left Hand Fork Blacksmiths Fork: Source to Mouth	15	Logan	Cache
Logan River: Idaho State line to confluence with Beaver Creek	7	Logan	Cache
Logan River: Confluence with Beaver Creek to Bridge at Guinavah-Malibu Campground	19	Logan	Cache
Beaver Creek: South Boundary of State Land to Mouth	3	Logan	Cache

Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible River Segment	Miles	Ranger District	County
White Pine Creek: Source to Mouth	6	Logan	Cache
Temple Fork: Source to Mouth	6	Logan	Cache
Spawn Creek: Source to Mouth	4	Logan	Cache
Bunchgrass Creek: Source to Mouth	5	Logan	Cache
Little Bear Creek: Little Bear Spring to Mouth	1	Logan	Cache
Main Fork Weber River: Source to Forest Boundary	6	Kamas & Ogden	Summit
Middle Fork Weber River: Source to Forest Boundary	6	Kamas	Summit
Beaver Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	6	Kamas	Summit
Provo River: Trial Lake to U35 Bridge	20	Kamas	Summit
Left Fork South Fork Ogden River: Frost Canyon/Bear Canyon Confluence to Causey	5	Ogden	Weber
Willard Creek: Source to Forest Boundary	4	Ogden	Box Elder
Red Butte Creek: Source to Red Butte Reservoir	3	Salt Lake	Salt Lake
Little Cottonwood Creek: Source to Murray City Diversion	10	Salt Lake	Salt Lake

ELIGIBILITY BACKGROUND

Over the past decade, National Forests in Utah have evaluated river segments on the National Forest for potential eligibility for designation under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The majority of the eligibility inventory and classification took place during forest land and resource management plan revision processes. However, eight stream segments on the Dixie National Forest were found eligible for a suitability analysis and potential recommendation in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Management Plan.

In order to be eligible, the river segment must be free-flowing and must possess at least one outstandingly remarkable value. River segments determined to be eligible were assigned a potential classification as wild, scenic, or recreational based on the level of development and access along the river corridor.

Forest Supervisors proposed interim direction for the management of activities and uses that have the potential to affect the outstandingly remarkable values and/or the wild, scenic, or recreational classification of the eligible river segments until such a time that the suitability studies are completed and a new management emphasis is developed.

The eligibility process has largely been completed for all National Forests in Utah. The purpose of this study is to further evaluate the suitability of eligible river segments for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

The Forest Service proposes to complete the process for considering potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas on the National Forests in Utah under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The purpose of and need for this study is to assess whether or not eligible river segments should be recommended for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Forest Service is proposing to conduct an environmental analysis to complete the process for considering potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas on the National Forests in Utah under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This action is conducted pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-542) and complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

The final record of decision may also include amendments to the Land and Resource Management Plans for the Utah National Forests to provide direction for management of river segments determined to be suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

A suitability study is the final administrative step before a recommendation is made to Congress. Evaluation of suitability will provide an opportunity to determine if it will be appropriate to pursue Congressional designation for specific river segments. The Forest Service and State of Utah will consider, but not be limited to, the following: “worthy additions” to the National System; tradeoffs in management scenarios other than designation; land ownership status; existing and potential uses of that segment; interest expressed by the public, and tribal, Federal, State, and local agencies; estimated costs for management and protection of identified outstandingly remarkable values; ability of agency to manage and/or protect the river; and, historical and existing uses which could be affected. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Team will evaluate the suitability of the eligible river segments together in one analysis to maintain consistency and to complete the work efficiently.

POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A range of alternatives will be considered. The range of alternatives will include, as required by NEPA, a no action alternative that does not recommend any eligible river segment for designation into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and may include an alternative that recommends designation of all eligible rivers (All Suitable). Additional alternatives may be developed from information analyzed during the suitability study, including public comments received during the scoping process.

NATURE OF DECISION TO BE MADE

The record of decision will answer the following question: Which, if any, of the eligible river segments under consideration should be recommended to the Congress of the United States for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System?

COOPERATING AGENCIES

The State of Utah is a Cooperating Agency.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS

The following Forest Supervisors are the Responsible Officials for this project:

- Kevin B. Elliott, Ashley National Forest, 355 North Vernal Avenue, Vernal, Utah 84078

- Rob MacWhorter, Dixie National Forest, 1789 North Wedgewood Lane, Cedar City, Utah 84720
- Mary C. Erickson, Fishlake National Forest, 115 East 900 North, Richfield, Utah 84701
- Alice B. Carlton, Manti-La Sal National Forest, 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501
- Brian A. Ferebee, Uinta National Forest, 88 West 100 North, Provo, Utah 84601
- Faye L. Krueger, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138.

SCOPING PROCESS

Public participation is especially important at several points in the study process. The first is the scoping process. The Forest Service is seeking information and comments from Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, organizations, and individuals who may be interested in or affected by the proposed action. Public input will be considered during preparation of the Draft LEIS.

Scoping meetings will be held around the State of Utah and in Paradox, Colorado and Lyman, Wyoming during May and June of 2007. For a list of meeting dates and locations, please check the WSR website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/rivers>.

COMMENT REQUESTED

The Notice of Intent initiates the scoping process which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Comments concerning the scope of the analysis will be most useful if submitted on or before **June 30, 2007**. The draft legislative environmental impact statement is expected in November 2007 and the final legislative environmental impact statement is expected to be completed by the summer of 2008.

This suitability study is driven by suitability factors that will shape the analysis of each river segment. These suitability factors are used to identify and evaluate the trade-offs between competing uses and need for potential designation of these rivers to the Wild and Scenic River System. Suitability factors are noted on the website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/rivers>. Comment on the application of existing suitability factors, additional factors for the agency to consider, potential alternatives to analyze, and other related specific comments is requested.

Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposal and will be available for public inspection.

Send written comments concerning the suitability of the river segments to: Catherine Kahlow, USFS WSR Team Leader, Attention: WSR, P.O. Box 68, Kamas, UT 84036. Comments can also be hand delivered Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30 at: 50 East Center Street in Kamas, Utah. In addition, comments can be submitted electronically to: r4_utah_rivers@fs.fed.us on or before **June 30, 2007**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Visit the website for up-to-date information at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/rivers/> or contact Catherine Kahlow, USFS WSR Team Leader (see previous address information). For information regarding

meetings or media inquiries contact: Loyal Clark, USFS Public Affairs Officer (Northern Utah) at (801) 342-5117 or Kenton Call, USFS Public Affairs Officer (Southern Utah) at (435) 865-3730.

/s/ Faye L. Krueger

April 24, 2007

FAYE L. KRUEGER
Wasatch-Cache Forest Supervisor

April 24, 2007

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDAs TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202)720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.