



WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

BLM GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE

What is the Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Process?

- ⓐ A Wild and Scenic Rivers study process is composed of **two main components**: the **inventory/eligibility phase** and the **study/suitability phase**.
- ⓐ At no time in this process or the RMP revision process will the BLM be designating Wild and Scenic River segments. Only Congress or the Secretary of Interior can make that designation.

What is the Inventory/Eligibility Phase?

- ⓐ The inventory/eligibility phase is the process of evaluating BLM rivers and river segments in the planning area to determine whether they are eligible for consideration as Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- ⓐ The inventory/eligibility phase includes determining whether rivers and river segments are **free flowing** and contain at least one **Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV)**.
- ⓐ The inventory/eligibility phase concludes with the BLM determining whether or not individual rivers and river segments are eligible. Eligible segments are then assigned a **tentative classification** (Wild, Scenic, or Recreational). The BLM will afford protective management to all eligible river segments as necessary to ensure appropriate protection of the values supporting the eligibility and classification determinations.

What is Free Flowing?

- ⓐ Segments under consideration should represent a reasonably natural condition; however, stretches with small obstructions may also be considered. Often these obstructions form the endpoints of a potential segment. There are no specific requirements concerning the flow of an eligible river segment. Flows are sufficient if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the segment would be designated.
 - A river below a dam or impoundment can still be eligible
 - A river need not be navigable by watercraft to be eligible

What is an Outstanding Remarkable Value (ORV)?

- ⓐ To be eligible, a segment must be free flowing and contain at least one Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) that is scenic, recreational, geological, fish related, wildlife related, historic, cultural, botanical, hydrological, paleontological, scientific, or other values.
- ⓐ The determination of whether a river area contains “outstandingly remarkable” values is a professional judgment and is documented in the eligibility report. In order to be considered as an ORV, a value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, **all values should be directly river related**. That is, they should have the following characteristics:
 - Be located in the river or on its immediate shorelands (for the purposes of this study, the preliminary boundary is 0.25-mile on either side of the river);
 - Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; or
 - Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.



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What Happens if a River Segment is Eligible?

- Ⓢ Once rivers are considered eligible as a result of applying the free-flowing and ORV criteria, river segments are assigned a **tentative classification**.
- Ⓢ Classification categories are **Wild, Scenic, or Recreational** and are based on the type and degree of human development and access associated with the river and adjacent lands at the time of the inventory. The classification does not reflect the types of values present along a river segment. Each segment can only be assigned **one** classification.
- Ⓢ Determination of eligibility triggers protective management until completion of the study/suitability phase.

What is the Study/Suitability Phase?

- Ⓢ If, upon completion of the inventory/eligibility phase, any river or stream segments are found to be eligible, a **suitability study (study phase)** will be conducted as part of the RMP revision.
- Ⓢ The suitability study is a process of determining the actual manageability of a river segment. The process will consider land ownership, use tradeoffs and conflicts, usage levels, and availability of other methods for protecting values, to name a few.
- Ⓢ Suitability recommendations will be developed by the BLM using input from our partners and the public during alternative development of the RMP. A reasonable range of alternatives will be considered in the RMP. River segments identified as “suitable” at the end of RMP process will be managed to protect identified ORVs until Congress makes a decision on inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System, or until BLM readdresses the recommendation in future planning efforts.

How do I provide input during the Inventory Phase?

- Ⓢ Public scoping for the Grand Junction Field Office revision to its current **Resource Management Plan (RMP)**, which guides the overall management of BLM-administered public lands within the Field Office, will continue through January 9, 2009.
- Ⓢ Because BLM is only conducting the inventory/eligibility phase, the most helpful and effective comments will be on **potential eligible river and stream segments** and/or the presence of potential **ORVs**. Please submit written comments by the January 9, 2009 scoping deadline using any of the following methods:

(1) By US Mail to:

BLM WSR Inventory
BLM GJFO RMP
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506

(2) By FAX to:

(866) 625-0707
Attention: BLM WSR
Inventory

(3) By E-mail to:

GJFO_RMP@blm.gov
Subject: BLM WSR
Inventory