



DOMINGUEZ-ESCALANTE NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN & FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



❖ WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ❖

What are wild and scenic rivers?

The 1968 National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act authorizes the preservation of certain rivers with outstandingly remarkable natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. These rivers make up the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the BLM to assess BLM managed river segments in the planning process. This assessment includes an eligibility inventory and suitability determination. During the planning process, eleven segments on six rivers in the NCA were studied, and 10 segments (105 miles) were found to be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS. In the Dominguez-Escalante NCA Proposed RMP, these eligible segments of rivers and creeks are evaluated to determine whether they are also suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS.

How will the Proposed RMP manage NWSRS?

The Proposed RMP identifies one fourteen mile segment of Cottonwood Creek as suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. Other alternatives (Alternative B, C, and D) propose different suitability determinations for those rivers which were found eligible. It is important to note that a determination of suitable is not the same as designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. It is up to Congress or (under certain circumstances) the Secretary of the Interior to decide whether to designate a river for inclusion in NWSRS. In response to public comments, in the Proposed RMP the BLM would not forward a recommendation to the Secretary for inclusion of Cottonwood Creek in the NWSRS, and would seek an alternative form of protection.

Where in the PRMP/FEIS should I look if I'm interested in Wild and Scenic Rivers?

Information on management of Wild and Scenic Rivers under the Proposed Plan and other alternatives can be found starting on line 617 of the Alternatives Matrix in Chapter 2, Volume 1 of the Proposed RMP. Appendix O, Wild and Scenic Suitability Report, describes the analysis process used by the BLM in determining Eligibility and Suitability.