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Wild and Scenic River Report

Crowley Creek.

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SECTION 1

1.1 Location and Description of Study Area

This report covers rivers within the Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office (WFO). The Field Office administrative boundary covers approximately 8.4 million acres of public land. However, approximately 1.2 million acres of the field office is not part of this study area as it was designated by Congress as the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area and Associated Wilderness in late 2000. The WFO lies within the Great Basin ecosystem in northern Nevada. This region is characterized by broad sagebrush covered plains interspersed with many mountain ranges. Each mountain range is striated with a number of canyons all of which support perennial or intermittent creeks and streams. Most of the land administered by the WFO receives low rainfall, due to the shadow effect created by the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Average annual precipitation in the planning area varies between 5 and 15 inches, with most occurring as snow from November through March. Numerous small mountain streams flow within the area, many of which are perennial within their respective headwaters. Many of the streams are in terminal basins. Many basins contain deposits of salts remaining from evaporated Pleistocene lakes. Most stream flow occurs during the spring in direct response to the melting of the snow pack. Typical stream flow originates at the upper elevations and enters the stream by way of overland flow and shallow groundwater discharge (interflow). As this flow exits the mountain block and moves onto the alluvial fan, the surface expression is quickly lost as it infiltrates into the alluvium. Riparian vegetation exists in the mountainous areas prior to the water being lost as recharge to the alluvial aquifer. There are approximately 850 miles of perennial streams featuring three primary drainages. These are the Quinn, Owyhee, and Humboldt Rivers.

Private land in the WFO is generally located near and around water sources. Early settlers concentrated around springs and perennial bodies of water resulting in a patchwork of private lands along water sources. Checkerboard land ownership is another characteristic of the WFO, particularly along the I-80 corridor. The Railroad Act of 1862 granted to the railroad every other section of land, twenty miles on the railroad centerline to encourage western rail expansion. This grant resulted in a checkerboard pattern of public and private lands. Alternating public and private land sections create challenges for management of the land and rivers.

1.2 The Wild and Scenic River Study Process

The Wild and Scenic River study process is comprised of two main components: the inventory phase and the study phase. The inventory phase includes identifying eligible river and stream segments, assigning tentative classification (Wild, Scenic, or Recreational), and describing protective management for the eligible segments. The study phase includes determining the suitability of eligible segments for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) and describing interim management measures.

1.2.1 The Inventory Process

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of October 2, 1968 (Public Law 90-542) requires the Bureau of Land Management to consider Wild and Scenic River values in its land use planning process. The objective of the Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) Act is to preserve in free-flowing condition selected rivers in the nation which possess outstandingly remarkable values and to protect those rivers and their immediate environments for the benefit of present and future generations.

Policy requires BLM to "identify and evaluate river segments within the resource management planning process to determine eligibility, tentative classification, protection requirements, and suitability under the Wild and Scenic River Act." The procedures by which the BLM determines eligibility and suitability and provides management direction are described in the USDI-USDA Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas *(Federal Register* Vol. 47, No. 173, September 7, 1982) and BLM Manual 8351.

The evaluation process for determining eligibility and suitability only applies to those portions of streams on public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

1.2.2 Relationship of Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to Private Land

The basic objective of wild and scenic river designation is to maintain the existing condition of the river. If a land use or development clearly threatens the outstandingly remarkable value that resulted in designation of the river, efforts would be made to remove the threat through local zoning, land exchanges, purchases from willing sellers, and other actions except condemnation.

Agriculture and grazing activities occurring at the time of designation would generally not be affected. Under the WSR Act, designation neither gives nor implies government control of private lands within the river corridor. Although Congress (or the Secretary of the Interior for 2(a)(ii) rivers) could include private lands (in-holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, management restrictions will apply only to public lands. The federal government has no authority to regulate or zone private lands under the Act; however, administering agencies may highlight the need for amendments to local zoning (where state and local zoning occurs). People living within a river corridor will be able to use their property as they had before designation.

1.2.3 Inventory of Streams & Rivers in the Winnemucca Field Office Planning Area

Assessing eligibility of individual river segments for possible inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS) was accomplished by a team of BLM resource specialists. The team used personal knowledge, Geographic Information System (GIS) resources, the Nationwide Rivers Inventory and land ownership information to conduct the evaluations.

Because there are hundreds of dry washes, gullies and canyons as well as perennial, ephemeral, and intermittent streams within the planning area an objective method of selecting which drainages would be assessed for eligibility was developed.

It was determined that to be included in the eligibility assessment process the drainage would need to meet one of the following criteria

1. The stream is perennial, and

2. The stream contains one of the "Outstandingly Remarkable Values" outlined in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Table 1 shows all of the stream segments in the planning area that were assessed in the WSR inventory and their potential outstandingly remarkable values, if any.

SECTION 2

2.1 Eligibility Determination

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and Bureau of Land Management manual 8351 provide criteria for determining stream eligibility. The stream segment must be free-flowing and possess one or more outstandingly remarkable values (ORV). Most streams in the district have segments that are free-flowing. However, many of these streams have diversions in the lower portions, generally for agricultural purposes, which may affect the free flowing nature of the stream. The ORV categories are: scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historic, prehistoric, and other similar values. To possess one of these values, the stream must be outstandingly remarkable when compared with other streams in the Northern Great Basin region.

The following additional criteria were used to select streams for eligibility:

1. Threatened and endangered or endangered species known to occur in the stream corridor automatically became an outstandingly remarkable value (e.g. Lahontan Cutthroat Trout), if segments contained excellent spawning and rearing habitat for these fish.

2. Habitat for common wildlife species was not an outstandingly remarkable value.

Scenic
The "scenic" ORV areas are of particularly exceptional views. Several of these stream segments contain gorges, notably the North Fork of the Little Humboldt River, Crowley Creek, and Washburn Creek. A number these creeks contain stands of aspen and cottonwood trees, which provide stunning fall colors.

Recreation
Recreation ORV areas include where fishing, camping, wildlife viewing or backcountry hiking opportunities are outstanding and are unusual enough to attract visitors to the geographic region. Several of the segments, namely the segments tentatively identified in the "Recreational" classification also have roads and two-tracks which provide access and opportunities for recreational driving or 4-wheeling.

Cultural
The "cultural" or "historic" ORVs are areas which indicate streams with historic or prehistoric remnants of human occupation. Given the preciousness of water across the arid Nevada landscape, rivers and streams were used as travel corridors, and permanent and semi-permanent settlements. For instance, several rock shelters and lithic scatters are found along the North Fork of the Little Humboldt River. Also, this segment has several old buildings present (ages unknown).

Geology
If a stream possesses the "geology" ORV, it contains outstanding geologic features such as deep gorges, lithologic and structurally complex formations, and structural features or areas featuring unique geology. The geologic composition itself may not be particularly unique but may be present in an unusual formation.

2.2 Potentially Eligible Streams

Of the 165 streams assessed in the WSR inventory 13 potential eligible streams were identified (See table 2), having free flowing water and may contain ORV(s).

A tentative classification of the stream is made once its eligibility is determined. The criteria for classification are defined in Section 2(b) of the WSR Act (see Table 3). 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 assigned during the inventory phase is tentative. Final classification is a Congressional legislative determination along with designation of a river segment as part of the NWSRS. A tentative classification, wild, scenic or recreational was also made for each of the 13 streams (see Table 3 for a description of these designations).

Upon further evaluation, 10 of the 13 streams did not have sufficient free flowing water, ORVs, and segments containing LCT Trout that did not contain excellent spawning or rearing habitat when compared to other streams within the Great Basin and were subsequently identified as not eligible.

The BLM identified 3 eligible stream segments to be considered for the tentative suitability study. These are:

- North Fork of the Little Humboldt River
- Crowley Creek
- Washburn Creek.

SECTION 3

3.1 Suitability Study Phase – Eligible River Segments

The purpose of the study phase is to determine whether eligible river segments are suitable or unsuitable for inclusion in the NWSRS per the criteria of the WSR Act. The suitability evaluation does not result in actual designation, but only a suitability determination for designation. BLM does not recommend any stream segments for designation into the NWSRS, and no stream segment studied is or will be automatically designated as part of the NWSRS. Only Congress can designate a Wild and Scenic River.

In some instances, the Secretary of the Interior may designate a Wild and Scenic River when the governor of a state, under certain conditions, petitions for a river to be designated. Congress will ultimately choose the legislative language of any suitable segments presented to them. Water-protection strategies and measures to meet the purposes of the WSR Act will be the responsibility of Congress in any legislation proposed. Rivers found unsuitable will be dropped from further consideration and managed according to the objectives outlined in the RMP.

Impacts that would occur from designation and non-designation of the eligible river segments are then analyzed in the EIS associated with the RMP. Public review and comment on suitability determinations included in the DRMP is considered before the BLM makes final suitability determinations.

3.2 Tentative Suitability Determination

The following thirteen factors, identified in BLM Manual Section 8351 (BLM 2001), are applied to each eligible river segment when completing the suitability study:

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the NWSRS;
2. The status of land and minerals, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses;
3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS, and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not designated;
4. The federal or state agency that will administer the river should it be added to the NWSRS;
5. Federal, state, local, tribal, or other interests in designation or non-designation of the river, including the extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including costs thereof, be shared by state, local, or other agencies and individuals;
6. The estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and of administering the area should it be added to the NWSRS;

7. A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivision(s) might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the NWSRS.
8. The federal agencies ability or other mechanism (existing or potential) to protect and manage the identified river related values other than WSR designation.
9. An evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's ORVs by preventing incompatible development.
10. Support or opposition to the designation.
11. Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected.
12. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs, or policies and in meeting regional objectives.
13. The contribution to a river system, watershed, or basin integrity.

3.3 Tentative Suitability

Upon review of the list of eligible streams, the BLM team used suitability determination factors and the following questions to guide the development of suitable river alternatives:

1. Should the stream's free flowing character, water quality and ORV's be protected or are one or more other uses important enough to warrant doing otherwise?
2. Will the stream's free-flowing character, water quality, and ORV's be protected by designation?
3. Is the Wild and Scenic River designation the best method for protecting the stream corridor?

The 3 stream segments that have potential for inclusion in the NWSRS are:

North Fork of the Little Humboldt River
Length within Planning Area: 18.0 miles (see Map 3)
Tentative Classification: 18 miles Wild
Proposed Boundary: Approximate 0.5-mile corridor centered on the river from private land at Greeley Crossing to private land upstream of Chimney Reservoir

Crowley Creek
Length within Planning Area: 13.6 miles (see Map 4) in the Montana Mountains
Tentative Classification: 5 miles Wild and 8.6 miles Scenic
Proposed Boundary: Approximate 0.5-mile corridor centered on the river from the headwaters to private property

Washburn Creek
Length within Planning Area: 11.8 miles (see Map 5) in the Montana Mountains
Tentative Classification: 5 miles Wild and 6.8 miles Scenic
Proposed Boundary: Approximate 0.5-mile corridor centered on the river from the headwaters to confluence with Little Washburn Creek

SECTION 4

4.1 Tentative Suitability Recommendations

4.1.1 North Fork of the Little Humboldt River

1. Characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the NWSRS.

   The North Fork of the Little Humboldt River contains the most outstandingly remarkable values. The outstandingly remarkable values that qualify this river segment as eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS are scenic, recreation, fish, geology, history, and prehistory, as described in Table 2. The free-flowing river is important to the scenic and recreation values. The segment found eligible here is entirely within a Wilderness Study Area.

   The North Fork of the Little Humboldt is generally free-flowing. However, there are two minor water impoundments along this stretch of river. Both lie on private land. A small irrigation diversion is located at T42N, R43E, Section 32, NE ¼, NE ¼. A culvert is located at Greeley Crossing T44N, R42E, Section 16.

   The specified river segment is largely undeveloped and quite remote. The main gorge, which begins at T44N, R42E, Section 23, has high scenic qualities: steep cliffs come straight down to the water's edge. The main gorge has walls 300-500 feet high. Below the main gorge, which ends at T42N, R43E, Section 21, the landscape flattens out again and resembles most other streams in the area.

   The gorge contains unique cliff vegetation with a number of unusual endemic and sensitive plant species. Two species found near the North Fork of the Little Humboldt are listed on the Nevada Native Plant Society list. Both *Artemisia packardiae* (Packard Mugwort) and *Hackelia ophiobia* (Rattlesnake stickseed) are listed as marginal.

   As is typical with any river in the Great Basin region water flows can vary greatly. Years of drought can greatly diminish the level of water. In 1982, the BLM and Forest Service completed a WSR evaluation for the North Fork of the Little Humboldt River. The report, North Fork of the Little Humboldt Wild and Scenic River Evaluation (August 1982), concludes that low water flows hinder opportunities for outdoor recreation as compared with other rivers. However, the report also indicates that it is an outstanding area with scenic and other ORVs.

The North Fork of the Little Humboldt provides opportunities for camping and fishing in a natural and primitive setting.

Other possible opportunities exist for hunting, backpacking, horseback riding, and geologic sightseeing. Potential for water sports, such as canoeing, rafting and tubing are moderate in the spring, but low stream flow and few natural pools can diminish these opportunities during the summer months. Opportunities for peace and solitude are high.

The bedrock along the river is volcanic or of volcanic origin. The upper reaches are composed of a conglomeration of older alluvial rocks, welded and non-welded siliceous, sedimentary tuff composition. The Tertiary rocks continue through the main gorge, which is composed of basalt overlain by rhyolitic flows. Before entering Chimney Reservoir, the river flows through Quaternary alluvium. The formation types are not considered to be unique or outstanding, but the shapes of the formations in the main gorge are outstanding.

Numerous cultural sites have been found along the river. Ezra's Retreat, an Indian rock shelter, is found at the mouth of the main gorge. Several other rock shelters have been found along the river. The North Fork Lithic Scatter has been used as a study plot to determine erosion patterns.

The lower portion of the watershed shows the effects of past heavy grazing use.

2. Status of landownership, minerals, use in the area, including the amount of private land involved and associated or incompatible uses.

   The North Fork of the Little Humboldt River lies principally upon lands managed by the BLM, Winnemucca Field Office. Of the 5,417 acres within the corridor, 99% lies on BLM land and 1% on private land. Use in the area consists primarily of livestock grazing and dispersed recreation. There is low to no mineral or oil and gas potential in the area surrounding the stream corridor, though there is moderate geothermal potential to the southeast of the river—well outside the 0.5 mile corridor. There are no mining claims in the corridor.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related water which would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS, and values which could be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not protected as part of the NWSRS.

   There are limited foreseeable potential uses of the land and water within the North Fork of the Little Humboldt due to access constraints. The steep gorge walls limit access to the stream. Access is easiest at Greeley Crossing. Below this crossing motorized access is limited until the river leaves the main gorge. A primitive road follows the river until a point near Chimney Reservoir. This road is within 0.25 miles of the river for approximately 2 miles; at places it is within 400 feet of the edge of the gorge. It would not be visible from the river itself due to the high walls of the gorge. The river is accessible by horse or foot except for the steeper parts of the gorges. One fence crosses the stream near Greeley Crossing.

4. The federal or state agency that will administer the river should it be added to the NWSRS.

   The river segment specified would be entirely managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office.

5. Federal, state, local, tribal, or other interests in designation or non-designation of the river, including the extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including costs thereof, be shared by state, local, or other agencies and individuals.

   The BLM did not receive any public comments showing interest in designating the North Fork of the Little Humboldt. The river flows over 5 miles of National Forest Land, upstream of the segment described here. This upstream segment from the headwaters in the Humboldt National Forest to where it enters BLM managed lands is not a notably scenic or exceptional segment of the river. However, were designation for this river to occur visitation would likely increase, and this would trickle over onto National Forest Lands. There have been no proposals to jointly share the costs of administration of the North Fork of the Little Humboldt with the Forest Service were it to be added to the NWSRS.

6. The estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and of administering the area should it be added to the NWSRS.

   The BLM would not actively pursue the acquisition of the private lands within the proposed boundary. The BLM would consider acquisition under a willing seller/willing buyer basis if opportunities were presented. Acquisition of private lands may make it easier to manage the segment for the protection of identified values.

   Management of segments of the North Fork of the Little Humboldt within the Wilderness Study Area could increase cost of WSA interim management compliance as designation may draw more people into the area.

7. A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivision(s) might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the NWSRS.

   It is not anticipated that there would be great interest from the state of Nevada for administration of the river were it to be included in the NWSRS. The only likely interest would be in the form of increased or increasing tourism to the state. This would probably take the form of advertising. However, any increase in visitation would likely not be substantial due to the remoteness of the site.

8. Federal agency ability or other mechanisms (existing or potential) to protect and manage the identified river related values other than WSA.

   Currently, the eligible portion of the North Fork of the Little Humboldt River is protected as a WSA. In addition, the BLM is preparing a Resource Management Plan which has identified the North Fork of the Little Humboldt River watershed as a priority watershed management area. Goals, Objectives and Management actions are specifically being developed that will protect portions of the watershed.

9. An evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's ORVs by preventing incompatible development.

   Local zoning and other use controls to protect ORVs are not anticipated due to the rural location of the river.

10. Support or opposition to designation.

    Based on input from public scoping and other meetings there would be opposition for WSR designation. Due to the NCA legislation, existing WSA's and potential new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, a portion of the public is opposed to additional designations.

11. Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected.

    Currently there are no active mining claims within the area of the North Fork of the Little Humboldt River.

12. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

    Designation may increase visitation to adjoining Forest Service lands. This could change Forest Service policies and objectives to meet increased visitation.

13. The contribution to a river system, watershed, or basin integrity.

    Designation may increase visitation and uses within the watershed which could have minimal water quality or flow impacts to downstream river systems.

    Summary: Currently the eligible portions of the North Fork of the Little Humboldt River are protected within a WSA. The RMP being developed has identified the watershed of the North Fork of the Little Humboldt River as a priority watershed. Goals, objectives and management actions are being developed to protect this priority watershed and stream segment. Protection afforded by the WSA designation plus additional management protective measures being developed in the RMP should ensure ORVs are adequately protected. Public input has indicated there would be controversy and opposition to the designation.

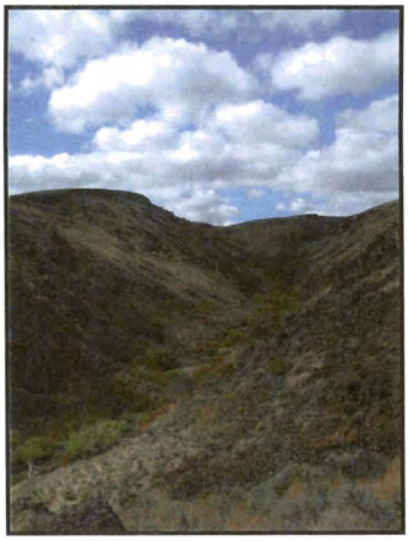
4.1.2 Crowley Creek

1. Characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the NWSRS.

   The outstandingly remarkable values that qualify this river segment as eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS are fish, scenic, and recreation, as described in Table 2. The upper reaches of Crowley Creek flow through a canyon. The canyon walls are largely comprised of large, red rock fields dotted with sagebrush. The canyon bottom, however, is covered with willow, rose and aspen. Populations of beaver have created several pools along the main Crowley Creek channel.

   This segment contains a population of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, which is a federally listed species under the 1973 Endangered Species Act. Crowley Creek contains excellent spawning and rearing habitat for these fish. The flow of Crowley Creek is 5.0 cubic feet per second (2000).

2. Status of landownership, minerals, use in the area, including the amount of private land involved and associated or incompatible uses.



The segment of Crowley Creek found eligible lies entirely on lands administered by the BLM, Winnemucca Field Office. Of the 4336 acres within the specified corridor 100% lies on BLM land. Use in the area principally consists of cattle grazing and dispersed recreation. There are some impacts from grazing found along the stream channel, but it is considered light. The creek has been closed to anglers since 1988 to protect Lahontan Cutthroat Trout habitat.

The geologic landform substrate is chiefly of alluvium deposits on the valley floor throughout the lower and central portions, with basalt and rhyolite being prominent through the canyon.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related water which would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS, and values which could be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not protected as part of the NWSRS.

   Motorized access to this stream segment is available along the lower portions by a dirt road that follows the stream for approximately 7 miles, crossing the stream once. The dirt track ends at T46N, R35E, Section 36. The upper reaches of the stream are accessible by foot. Generally the canyon walls are too steep and rocky for travel by horseback, though horse or ATV could be used on the hill tops above the canyon.

   If designated, the upstream portion, tentatively classified as Wild, the BLM would limit the construction and maintenance of any proposed diversion structures. If designated, the BLM would not allow mineral, oil, gas, or geothermal leasing activities to occur within the segment's boundary. Designation could also attract more visitors increasing traffic and use of the stream. Both of these factors could affect water quality.

   There is one fence (Disaster Peak Seasonal Fence) that crosses the stream. This occurs in the portion tentatively classified as Scenic.

4. The federal or state agency that will administer the river should it be added to the NWSRS.

   The selected segment of Crowley Creek is on land entirely administered by the BLM. It is not proposed that administration of the area be shared by another federal, state or local agency.

5. Federal, state, local, tribal, or other interests in designation or non-designation of the river, including the extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including costs thereof, be shared by state, local, or other agencies and individuals.

The BLM did not receive any public comments interested in designating Crowley Creek. It is not proposed here to jointly share the costs of administration of Crowley were it to be added to the NWSRS with any federal, state or local agency.

6. The estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and of administering the area should it be added to the NWSRS.

   The indicated portion of Crowley Creek lies entirely on lands administered by the BLM, Winnemucca Field Office. Therefore there would be no need to obtain any private, or other lands. Cost to manage Crowley Creek WSA would increase due to potential increase in public visitation.

7. A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivision(s) might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the NWSRS.

   It is not anticipated that there would be interest from the state of Nevada for administration of the river were it to be included in the NWSRS.

8. Federal agency ability or other mechanisms (existing or potential) to protect and manage the identified river related values other than WSA.

   The BLM is preparing a Resource Management Plan which has identified the Crowley Creek watershed as a priority watershed. Goals, Objectives and Management actions are being developed that will protect river related values in the RMP.

9. An evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's ORVs by preventing incompatible development.

   Local zoning and other use controls are not anticipated due to the rural location of the river.

10. Support or opposition to designation.

    Based on input from public scoping and other meetings there would be opposition for WSR designation. Due to the NCA legislation, existing WSA's and potential new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, a portion of the public is opposed to additional designations.

11. Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected.

    Active mining claims occur within the Crowley Creek segment.

12. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

    No conflicts identified

13. The contribution to a river system, watershed, or basin integrity.

    Designation may increase visitation and uses within the watershed which could have minimal adverse impacts to downstream river systems.

Summary: The RMP has identified Crowley Creek as a priority watershed. Goals, Objectives and management actions are being developed to protect the watershed and stream segment as the RMP is being developed. Public input has indicated there would be controversy and opposition to the designation. Water flows within the creek are subject to seasonal fluctuation with low flows during the summer months.

4.1.3 Washburn Creek

1. Characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the NWSRS.

   The outstandingly remarkable values that qualify this river segment as eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS are fish, scenic, and recreation. Similarly to Crowley Creek, Washburn Creek contains excellent Lahontan Cutthroat Trout habitat. This stream has also been closed to anglers since 1988 to protect the Trout.

   Washburn Creek flows from the Montana Mountains through a broad valley. The valley contains abundant willow and sagebrush, interspersed with stands of aspen. Dispersed recreation opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, camping and hunting. These opportunities are influenced by steep and rocky terrain which may restrict access into areas.

   The geological landform substrate is comprised principally of alluvium deposits on the valley floor at the lower reaches of the creek, with basalt, andesite and silicic tuffs at the upper reaches.

2. Status of landownership, minerals, use in the area, including the amount of private land involved and associated or incompatible uses.

   Washburn Creek and its associated 0.5 mile corridor described here, lies entirely on lands managed by the BLM, Winnemucca Field Office. Of the 3,830 acres within this corridor all are managed by the BLM.

   Uses of the land are primarily livestock grazing and dispersed recreation.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related water which would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS, and values which could be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not protected as part of the NWSRS.

   Washburn Creek is accessible in its lower and headwater portions by 4-wheel drive jeep trails. The central segment, tentatively classified as Wild, is only accessible by foot or horseback. Designation could also attract more visitors, increasing traffic and use of the stream. Both of these factors could affect water quality.

   There is one grazing allotment fence (Jordan Meadows) that crosses the stream through the central portion, tentatively designated as Wild. There is also a seasonal fence that crosses downstream, in the portion tentatively classified as Scenic.

4. The federal or state agency that will administer the river should it be added to the NWSRS.

This stream lies entirely upon lands managed by the BLM. Consequently, it is currently proposed that administration of the stream, should it be added to the NWSRS, would be the BLM.

5. Federal, state, local, tribal, or other interests in designation or non-designation of the river, including the extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including costs thereof, be shared by state, local, or other agencies and individuals.

   The BLM did not receive any public comments interested in designating Washburn Creek. It is not proposed here to jointly share the costs of administration of Crowley were it to be added to the NWSRS with any federal, state or local agency.

6. The estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and of administering the area should it be added to the NWSRS.

   The indicated portion of Washburn Creek lies entirely on lands administered by the BLM, Winnemucca Field Office. Therefore there would be no need to obtain any private or other lands.

7. A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivision(s) might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the NWSRS.

   It is not anticipated that there would be interest from the state of Nevada for administration of the river were it to be included in the NWSRS.

8. Federal agency ability or other mechanisms (existing or potential) to protect and manage the identified river related values other than WSA.

   The BLM is preparing a Resource Management Plan which has identified the Washburn Creek watershed as a priority watershed. Goals, Objectives and Management actions are being developed that will protect river related values in the RMP.

9. An evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's ORVs by preventing incompatible development.

   Local zoning and other use controls are not anticipated due to the rural location of the river.

10. Support or opposition to designation.

    Based on input from public scoping and other meetings there would be opposition for WSR designation. Due to the NCA legislation, existing WSA's and potential new Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, a portion of the public is opposed to additional designations.

11. Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected.

    Active mining claims occur within the Washburn Creek segment.

12. The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.

    No conflicts identified

13. The contribution to a river system, watershed, or basin integrity.

    Designation may increase visitation and uses within the watershed which could have minimal impacts to downstream river systems.

Summary: The RMP has identified Washburn Creek as a priority watershed. Goals, objectives and management actions are being developed to protect the watershed and stream segment. Public input has indicated there would be controversy and opposition to the designation. Water flows within the creek are subject to seasonal fluctuation with low flows during the summer months.

SECTION 5

5.1 Management and Protection Considerations

Two important land uses in northern Nevada are grazing and mineral exploration. These are to some degree nonconforming land uses in or near a Wild and Scenic River.

Continued cattle grazing on public land on or near a Wild and Scenic River should be managed in a manner which maintains or improves forage production, maintains or enhances riparian vegetation, wildlife habitat, watershed and scenic values, and minimizes conflict between livestock and recreationists.

Construction of livestock management facilities such as fences or water sources, should comply with scenic restrictions appropriate to the classification of the Wild and Scenic River segment. If necessary to the designated segment consideration some facilities on private lands, such as fences or corrals, may be removed or relocated subject to obtaining scenic easements.
Exclusion of livestock from high visitor use areas, such as campsites, through fencing or changes in use seasons may also be necessary.

An inventory of mineral resources and mining claims should be conducted upon designation of a Wild and Scenic River to assist in management planning. Depending upon the classification of the stream, development of mineral resources are provided for in the Act, in such a manner as to prevent degradation of the aesthetic, prehistoric, historic, geologic, and primitive features of the area. Needed actions may include mining claim validity determinations, and scenic easements.

5.2 Interim Management

Interim management for the eligible river segments is described in Table 4.

5.3 Alternatives

BLM Manual 8351, Section .33C states in part: "At least one alternative analyzed in detail shall provide for designation of those eligible river segments being studied in the RMP/EIS in accordance with tentative classification which have been made." The BLM is bringing forward the North Fork of the Little

Humboldt River, Crowley Creek, and Washburn Creek in one alternative of the RMP.

The RMP alternatives developed:

- Alternative A: Current Management - none suitable (total mileage: 0)
- Alternative B: Economic Development - none suitable (total mileage: 0)
- Alternative C: Ecosystem Protection/Preservation - NF of the Little Humboldt only (total mileage: 18), Crowley Creek (total mileage 13.6), Washburn Creek (total mileage 11.8)
- Alternative D: Agency Proposed - none suitable (total mileage: 0)

Congressional legislative action is required for actual designation and final classification of suitable river segments.

The following people provided input to this process:

Craig Drake	Matt Varner	Brian Murdock
Emily Harris	Jeff D. Johnson	Dave Valentine
Allan Jenne (NDOW)	Peggy McGuckian	

Table 1: Wild & Scenic River Study Inventory

Mountain Range/Stream Name	Free Flowing	Potential outstandingly remarkable values							
		Scenery	Recreation	Geology	LCT *	Wildlife	Prehistory	History	Other Values
Bilk Creek Mountains									
Alkali Creek									
Bilk Creek		Y	Y						
Cherry Creek									
House Creek									
Little Wilder Creek									
Log Cabin Creek		Y							
Maggie Creek, NF									
Mud Creek									
Raster Creek									
Rodeo Creek									
Wilder Creek									
Black Rock Range									
Bartlett Creek									
Battle Creek		Y	Y						
Butte Creek									
Center Creek									
Paiute Creek									
Rough Canyon									
East Range									
Peavine Canyon									
Rockhill Canyon									
Eugene Mountains									
Central Canyon Creek									

Mountain Range/Stream Name	Free Flowing	Potential outstandingly remarkable values							
		Scenery	Recreation	Geology	LCT *	Wildlife	Prehistory	History	Other Values
Chicken Basin Spring									
Woody Canyon Creek									
Granite Range									
Clear Creek		Y							
Cottonwood Creek		Y		Y					
Granite Creek									
Little Cottonwood Creek									
Negro Creek, NF & MF									
Red Mountain Creek									
Rock Creek									
Unnamed Creek (T34N R22E Sections 14, 15, 22, 23, 27)									
Wagontire Creek									
Humboldt Range									
American Creek									
Antelope Creek									
Black Canyon Creek									
Bloody Canyon Creek									
Buena Vista Creek									
Buffalo Canyon Creek									
Cottonwood Canyon									
Coyote Creek		Y							
Echo Canyon									
Fisher Canyon									
Indian Creek									
John Brown Canyon Creek									
Humboldt Range									
Rocky Canyon Creek									

Mountain Range/Stream Name	Free Flowing	Potential outstandingly remarkable values							
		Scenery	Recreation	Geology	LCT *	Wildlife	Prehistory	History	Other Values
Santa Clara Canyon									
Star Creek									
Straight Canyon									
Wilson Canyon Creek									
Wright Canyon Creek									
Jackson Mountains									
Big Creek									
Bottle Creek									
Deer Creek									
Happy Creek									
Trout Creek									
Willow Creek									
Montana Mountains									
Calavera Canyon									
Crowley Creek		Y	Y		Y				
Horse Creek									
Pole Creek									
Riser Creek			Y		Y				
Washburn Creek		Y	Y		Y				
Osgoods									
Anderson Creek									
Julian Creek									
Pine Forest Range									
Alder Creek									
Alta Creek									

Mountain Range/Stream Name	Free Flowing	Potential outstandingly remarkable values							
		Scenery	Recreation	Geology	LCT *	Wildlife	Prehistory	History	Other Values
Big Creek									
Bishop Canyon Creek									
Boyd Creek									
Boyd Creek									
Buckaroo Canyon Creek									
Cherry Gulch									
Chicken Creek									
Corral Creek									
Cove Creek									
Cow Creek									
Craine Creek									
Granite Creek									
Knott Creek									
Leonard Creek									
Little Alder Creek									
Little Alder Creek									
Oakley Creek									
Pass Creek									
Road Canyon									
Sage Hen Creek									
Willow Creek									
Woody Canyon									

Mountain Range/Stream Name	Free Flowing	Potential outstandingly remarkable values							
		Scenery	Recreation	Geology	LCT *	Wildlife	Prehistory	History	Other Values
Santa Rosa Range									
Abel Creek									
Adorno Creek									
Antelope Creek	N								
Austin Creek									
Buffalo Canyon									
Cottonwood Creek									
Dry Creek									
Eagle Creek									
Falls Canyon Creek									
Hansen Creek, NF									
Horse Canyon Creek									
Indian Creek									
Lamance Creek									
Leonard Creek									
Little Cottonwood Creek									
Martin Creek									
Morey Creek									
Mullinix Creek									
Peterman Creek									
Pole Creek									
Provo Canyon Creek									
Rock Creek									
Singas Creek									
Solid Silver Creek									
Stonehouse Creek									
Threemile Creek									
Unnamed perennial (T40N R38E S10, 16)									
Santa Rosa Range									

Mountain Range/Stream Name	Free Flowing	Potential outstandingly remarkable values							
		Scenery	Recreation	Geology	LCT *	Wildlife	Prehistory	History	Other Values
Unnamed perennial (T40N R39E S6, 8)									
Wash O'Neil Creek									
Willow Creek									
Sonoma Range									
Clear Creek		Y	Y						
Clearwater Canyon Creek									
Cumberland Creek									
Devils Canyon									
Elbow Canyon, MF									
Granite Canyon Creek									
Harmony Canyon Creek									
Kluncy Canyon Creek									
Layson Creek									
Pole Creek									
Polkinghorne Canyon									
Robber Creek									
Rock Creek									
Sonoma Creek									
Squaw Valley Creek									
Thomas Canyon Creek									
Water Canyon Creek		Y	Y						
Tobin Range									
Bushee Creek									
Garden Canyon									
Golconda Canyon									
Hoffman Canyon Creek									
Tobin Range									

Mountain Range/Stream Name	Free Flowing	Potential outstandingly remarkable values							
		Scenery	Recreation	Geology	LCT *	Wildlife	Prehistory	History	Other Values
Pollard Canyon Creek									
Unnamed Creek (T32N, R31E, Section 17, 18)									
Trout Creek Mountains									
China Creek									
Cold Springs Creek									
Corral Canyon Creek			Y		Y				
Flat Creek, NF									
King River									
Line Canyon Creek			Y		Y				
Little Creek									
McDermitt Creek			Y		Y				
Sage Creek			Y		Y				
Other									
Calico Creek									
Kelly Creek									
Kenny Creek									
Little Humboldt, NF	Y	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	
Little Humboldt, SF									
Little Owyhee River									
Quinn River		Y	Y				Y		
Humboldt River			Y				Y	Y	
Kings River		Y	Y						
New York Canyon Creek (Stillwater Range)									
Rodeo Creek (Fox Range)									

General Area/Stream Name	Free Flowing	Potential outstandingly remarkable values							
		Scenery	Recreation	Geology	LCT *	Wildlife	Prehistory	History	Other Values
Removed (non-perennial on public land)									
Garden Creek									
Virgin Creek									
Broad Gulch									
Say Canyon									
Granite Creek, EF & WF									

* Source: Recovery Plan for the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Jan. 1995, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service – Region 1

Table 2: Potential Eligible Streams

Stream Name	Segment Description and Approximate Length	Outstandingly Remarkable Value[2]	Tentative Classification
Battle Creek	Black Rock Range From Wilderness border to private property- both North and South Forks (6.6 miles total- all on BLM land)	Scenic recreation	All Wild
Bilk Creek	Bilk Creek Mountains T44N R32E from private land in Section 02 to private land in Section 26 (4.8 miles total- all on BLM land)	Scenic, recreation	1.8 miles Recreational 3 miles Scenic
Bottle Creek	Jackson Mountains Headwaters (including main fork, unnamed fork to the south, and Big South Fork) to private land (9.3 miles total- all on BLM land)	Scenic, recreation	All Recreational
Clear Creek	Sonoma Range From headwaters (including main fork and major tributary fork to the west) to private land at T33N R38E (public sections only) (14.6 miles total- 10.4 miles on BLM land, 4.2 miles on private)	Scenic, recreation	All Recreational
Corral Canyon Creek	Trout Creek Mountains Headwaters to private land (3.3 miles total- all on BLM land) **not entirely perennial**	Scenic, recreation	All Recreational
Cottonwood Creek	Granite Range Headwaters to private land at T35N R23E Section 28 (7.6 miles total- 5.8 miles on BLM land, 1.8 miles on private)	Scenic, recreation	All Recreational
Coyote Canyon Creek	Humboldt Range Headwaters (including main fork and 2 major tributary forks to the north and south) to private land (6.2 miles total- all on BLM land)	Scenic, recreation	4.5 miles Scenic 1.7 miles Recreational

Stream Name	Segment Description and Approximate Length	Outstandingly Remarkable Value[2]	Tentative Classification
Crowley Creek	Montana Mountains Headwaters (including main fork and major tributary fork to the south) to private property (13.6 miles total- all on BLM land)	Fish, scenic, recreation	5 miles Wild 8.6 miles Scenic
Kings River	Trout Creek Mountains Oregon border to private land (3.7 miles total- all on BLM land)	Scenic, recreation	2.5 miles Scenic 1.2 miles Recreational
North Fork of the Little Humboldt[1]	From private land in T44N R42E Section 23 to private land in T42N R43E Section 21 (18 miles total- all on BLM land)	Scenic, recreation, geology, prehistory, other	All Wild
Riser Creek	Montana Mountains Headwaters (including the 2 main headwater forks) to Oregon border; public lands only (19.6 miles total- 18.9 miles on BLM land, 0.7 miles on private) **not entirely perennial**	Fish, scenic, recreation	14 miles Scenic 5.6 miles Recreational
Sage Creek	Trout Creek Mountains From private land in T48N R34E Section 35 to Oregon border (3.2 miles total- all on BLM land)	Fish, scenic, recreation	2 miles Scenic 1.2 miles Recreational
Washburn Creek	Montana Mountains Headwaters to confluence with Little Washburn Creek (11.8 miles total- all on BLM land)	Fish, scenic, recreation	5 miles Wild 6.8 miles Scenic

[1] Listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory List
[2] Descriptions of the ORVs are given below

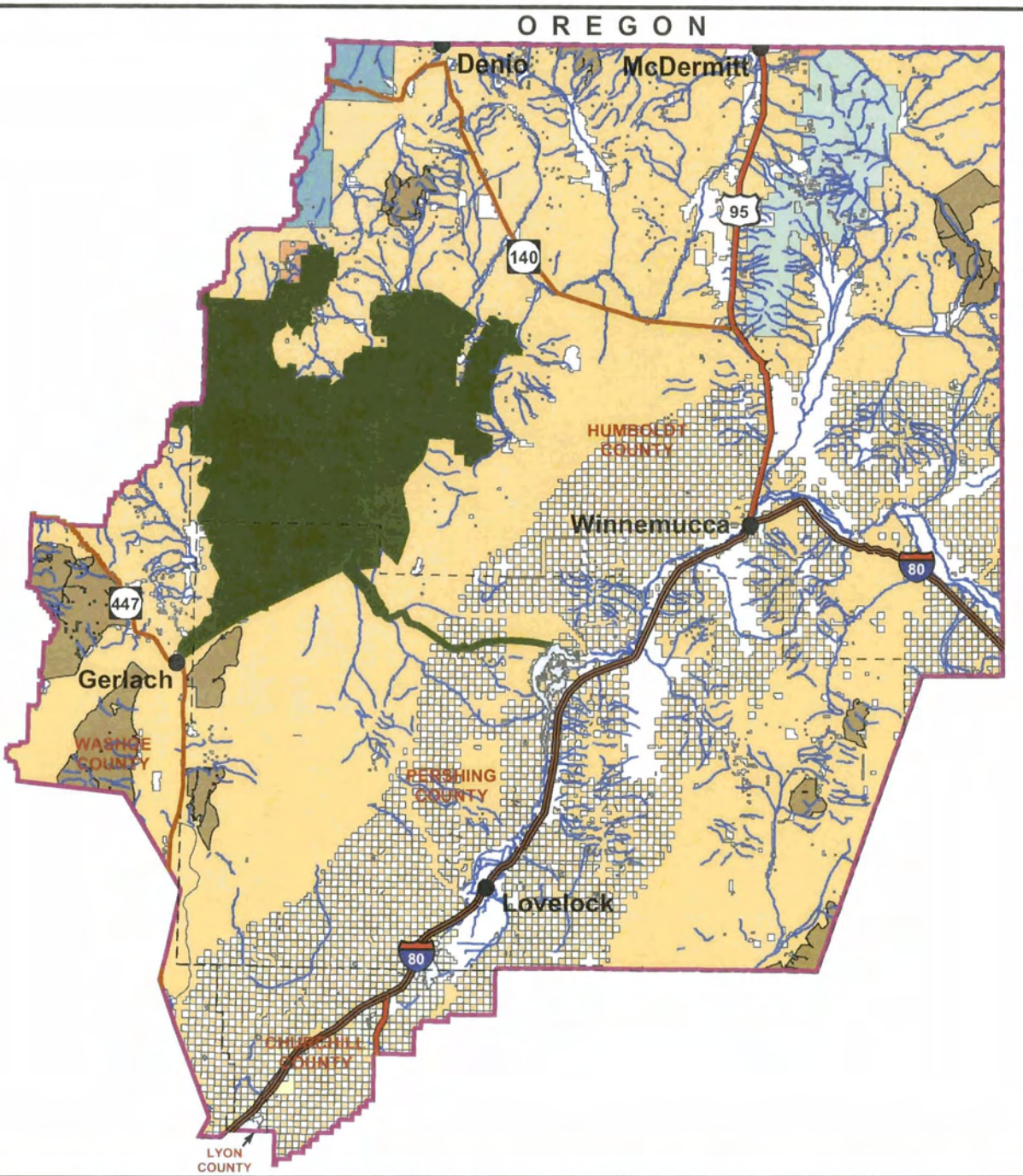
Table 3: ORV Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Areas from the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 5(d)(1)

	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Attributes	Free-flowing. Low dams, diversion works or other minor structures which do not inundate the natural riverbank may not bar consideration as wild. Future construction restricted.	Free-flowing. Low dams, diversion works or other minor structures which do not inundate the natural riverbank may not bar consideration. Future construction restricted.	May have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. Water should not have characteristics of an impoundment for any significant distance. Future construction restricted.
	Generally inaccessible by road. One or two inconspicuous roads to the area may be permissible.	Accessible by roads which may occasionally bridge the river area. Short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous and well-screened roads or railroads paralleling river area may be permitted.	Readily accessible, with likelihood of paralleling roads or railroads along river banks and bridges.
	Shorelines essentially primitive. One or two inconspicuous dwellings and land devoted to production of hay may be permitted. Watershed natural-like in appearance.	Shoreline largely primitive. Small communities limited to short reaches of total area. Agricultural practices which do not adversely affect river area may be permitted.	Shoreline may be developed.
	Water quality meets minimum criteria for primary contact recreation except where such criteria would be exceeded by natural background conditions and esthetics and capable of supporting propagation of aquatic life normally adapted to habitat of the stream.	Water quality should meet minimum criteria for desired types of recreation except where such criteria would be exceeded by natural background conditions and esthetics and capable of supporting propagation of aquatic life normally adapted to habitat of the stream, or capable of and is being restored to that quality.	
Management Objectives	See Manual Section .51		

Table 4: Interim Protection for Candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers

Issue/Action	Eligible	Suitable
Study Boundary	Minimum of 0.25 mile from ordinary high-water mark Boundary may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values	Minimum of 0.25 mile from ordinary high-water mark Boundary may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values
Preliminary Classification	Section 2(b): Three classes: Wild, Scenic, and Recreational defined by statute Criteria for classification described in Interagency Guidelines Manage at preliminary classification	Section 2(b): Three classes: Wild, Scenic, and Recreational defined by statute Criteria for classification described in Interagency Guidelines Manage at preliminary classification
Study Report Review Procedures		Notice of study report/Draft EA published in Federal Register Comments/response from federal, state, and local agencies, and the public included in the study report/Final EA transmitted to the President and Congress
Private Land -Administration -Acquisition	Affect private land uses through voluntary partnership with state/local governments and landowners No regulatory authority No ability to acquire interests in land under the Act's authority prior to designation	Affect private land uses through voluntary partnership with state/local governments and landowners No regulatory authority No ability to acquire interests in land under the Act's authority prior to designation Typically an evaluation of the adequacy of the local zoning and land use controls is a component of suitability determination

Issue/Action	Eligible	Suitable
Water Resources Project	River's free-flowing condition protected to the extent of other agency authorities; not protected under the Act	
Land Disposition	Agency discretion to retain lands within river corridor in federal ownership	
Mining and Mineral Leasing	Protect free flow and outstandingly remarkable values	
Actions of Other Agencies	Affect actions of other agencies through voluntary partnerships	
Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values	No regulatory authority conferred by the Act; agency protects through other authorities Section 11(b) 1: Limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources.	



Map 1: Streams within Winnemucca Admin Boundary

Legend

- Streams
- Towns
- Counties
- BLM Winnemucca Field Office Administrative Boundary
- Black Rock/High Rock NCA RMP Area

Roads

- U.S. Interstate
- State Highway
- U.S. Highway

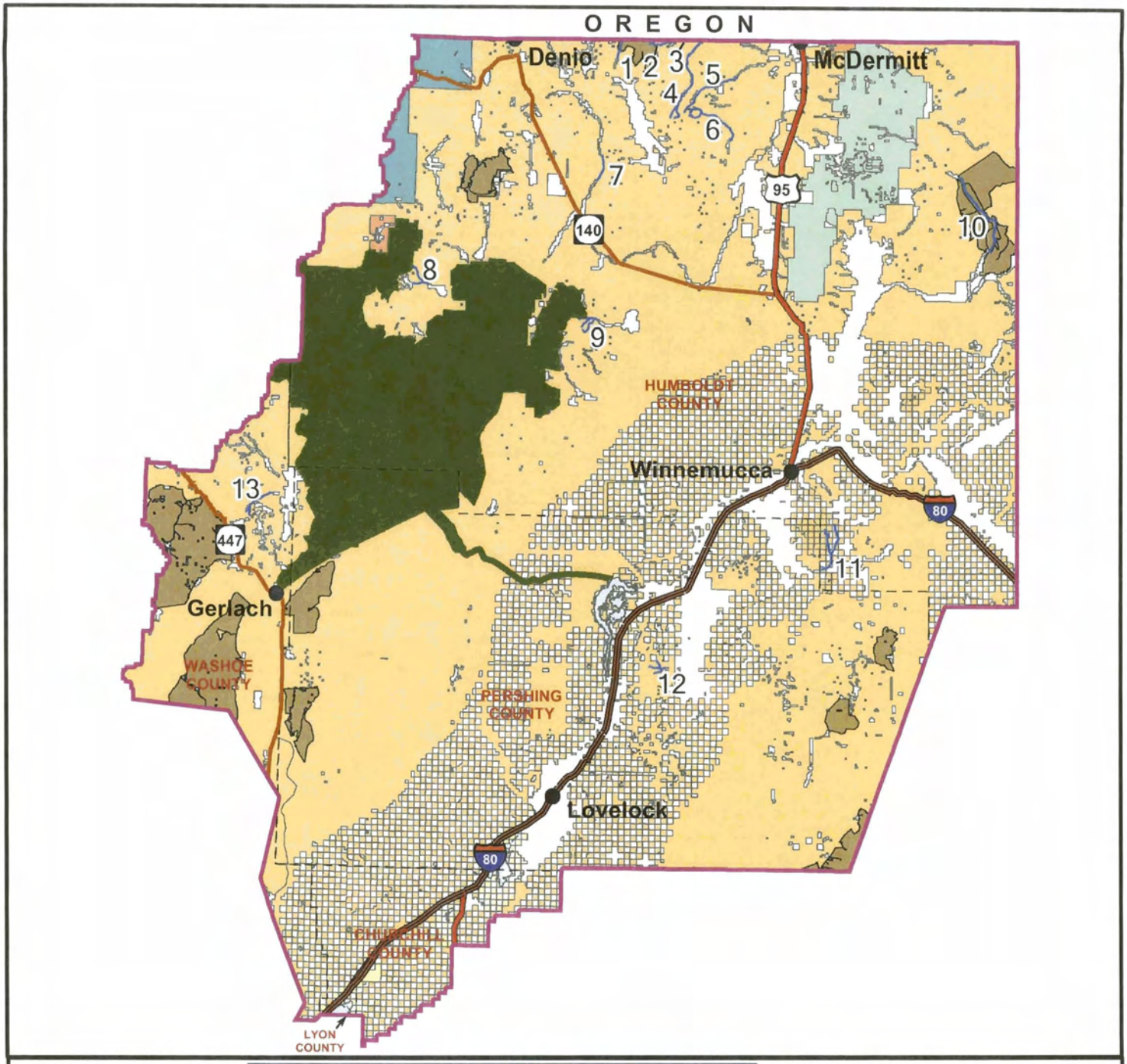
Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Water
- Native American Reservation
- Nevada State
- Private
- United States Forest Service
- BLM Wilderness Study Area

Miles
0 5 10 20 30 40 50

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.

12/2/05



Map 2: Potential Eligible Streams within Winnemucca Admin Boundary

Legend

Eligible Streams

1- Kings River
2- Corral Canyon Creek
3- Sage Creek
4- Riser Creek
5- Washburn Creek
6- Crowley Creek
7- Bilk Creek
8- Battle Creek
9- Bottle Creek
10- N. Fk. Little Humboldt R.
11- Clear Creek
12- Coyote Canyon Creek
13- Cottonwood Creek

Towns

Counties

Winnemucca BLM Field Office Administrative Boundary

Black Rock/High Rock NCA RMP Area

Roads

U.S. Interstate

State Highway

U.S. Highway

Land Status

BLM Wilderness Study Area

Bureau of Land Management

Bureau of Reclamation

Fish and Wildlife Service

Water

Native American Reservation

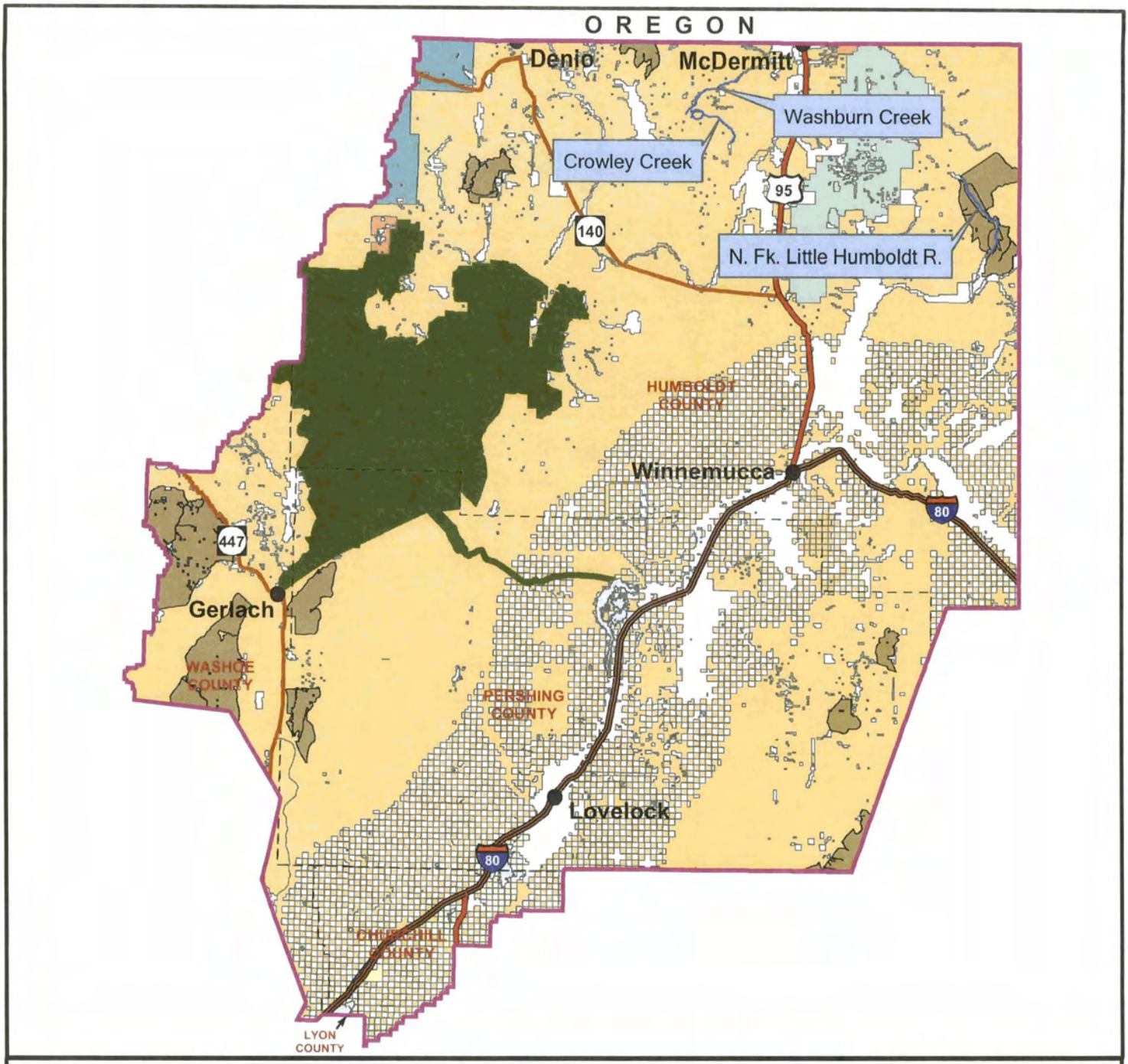
Nevada State

Private

United States Forest Service

0 5 10 20 30 40 50 Miles

12/2/05



Map 3: Eligible Streams for Suitability Analysis within Winnemucca Admin Boundary

Legend

- Suitable Streams
- Towns
- Counties
- BLM Winnemucca Field Office Administrative Boundary
- Black Rock/High Rock NCA RMP Area

Roads

- U.S. Interstate
- State Highway
- U.S. Highway

Land Status

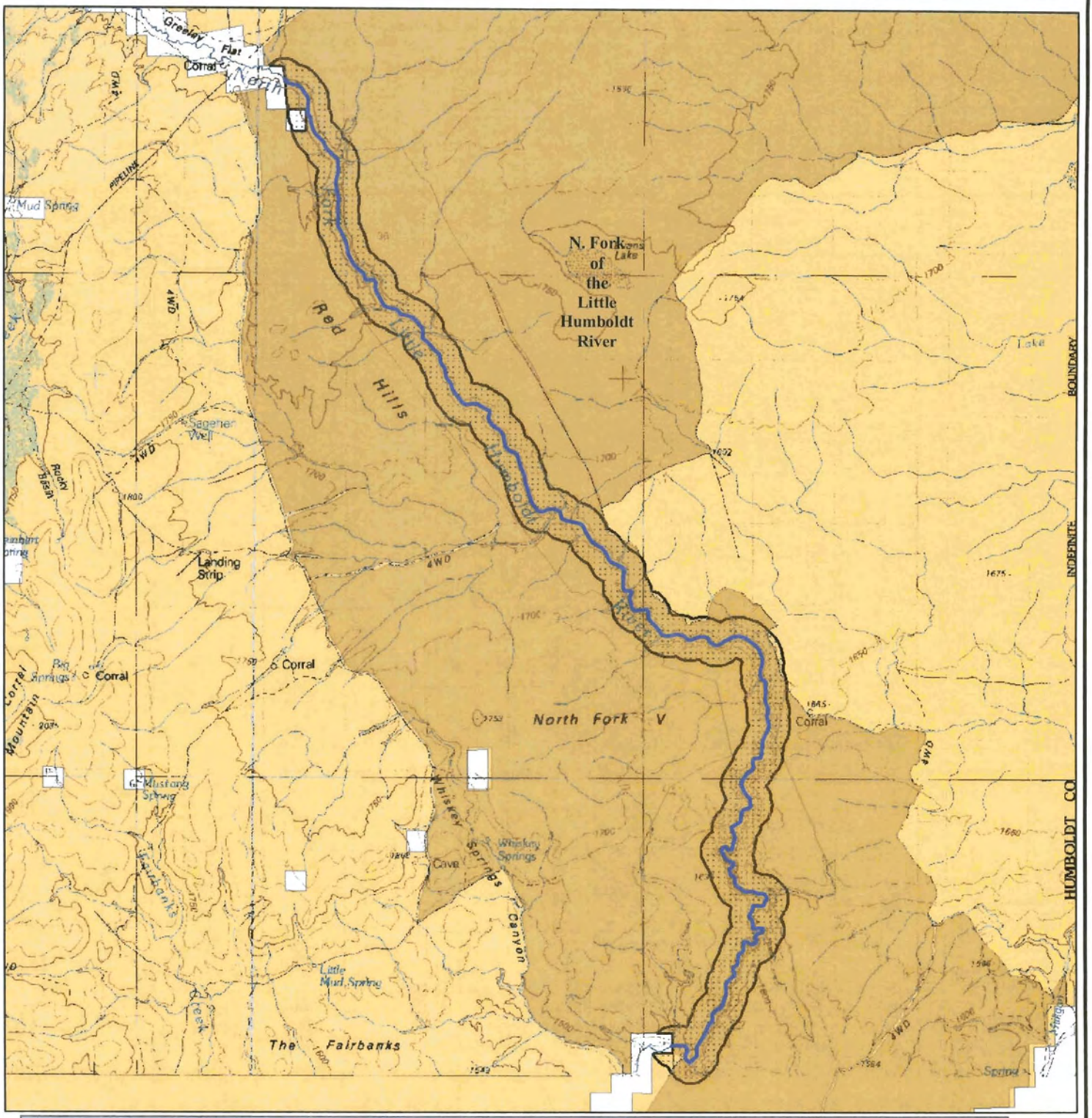
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Water
- Native American Reservation
- Nevada State
- Private
- United States Forest Service
- BLM Wilderness Study Area

N W E S

Miles
0 5 10 20 30 40 50

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data.

12/2/05



Map 4: N. Fk. Little Humboldt River - Eligible portion for Wild & Scenic River Suitability

Legend

Suitable portion of N. Fk. Little Humboldt River for Wild & Scenic River Designation (Total length- 18 miles- all on BLM land)

Suitable Wild and Scenic River Designation Boundary (approx. 0.5-mile corridor, centered on N. Fk. Little Humboldt River) 5,417 total acres- 99% BLM land, 1% private land

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- BLM Wilderness Study Area

N E S W

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

1:105,000

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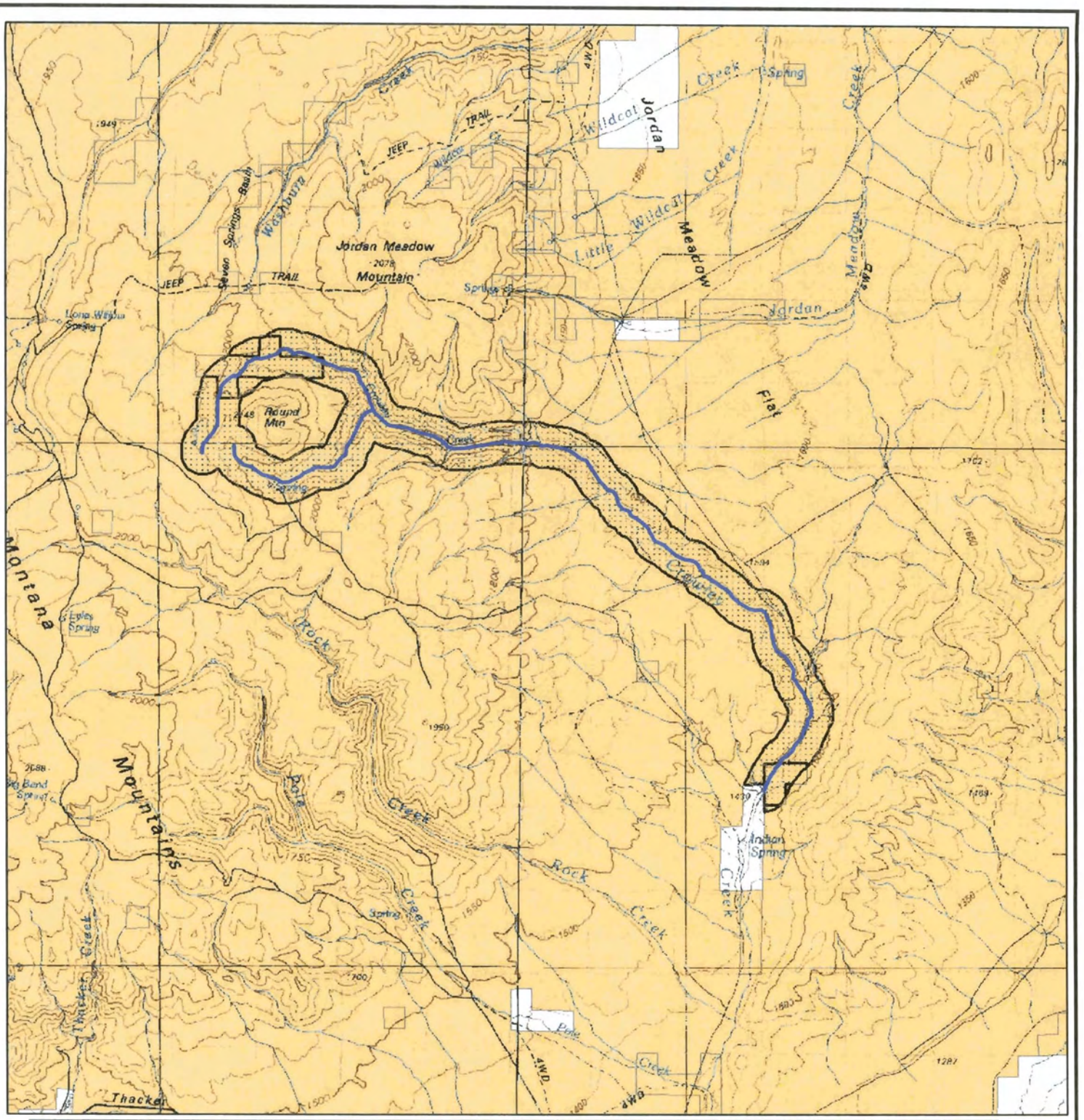

Map 5: Crowley Creek - Eligible portion for Wild & Scenic River Suitability

Legend

Suitable portion of Crowley Creek for Wild & Scenic River Designation (Total length- 13.6 miles- all on BLM land)

Suitable Wild and Scenic River Designation Boundary (approx. 0.5-mile corridor, centered on Crowley Creek) 4,336 total acres- 100% BLM land

Land Status

Bureau of Land Management

Private

N W E S

0 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 Miles

1:100,000

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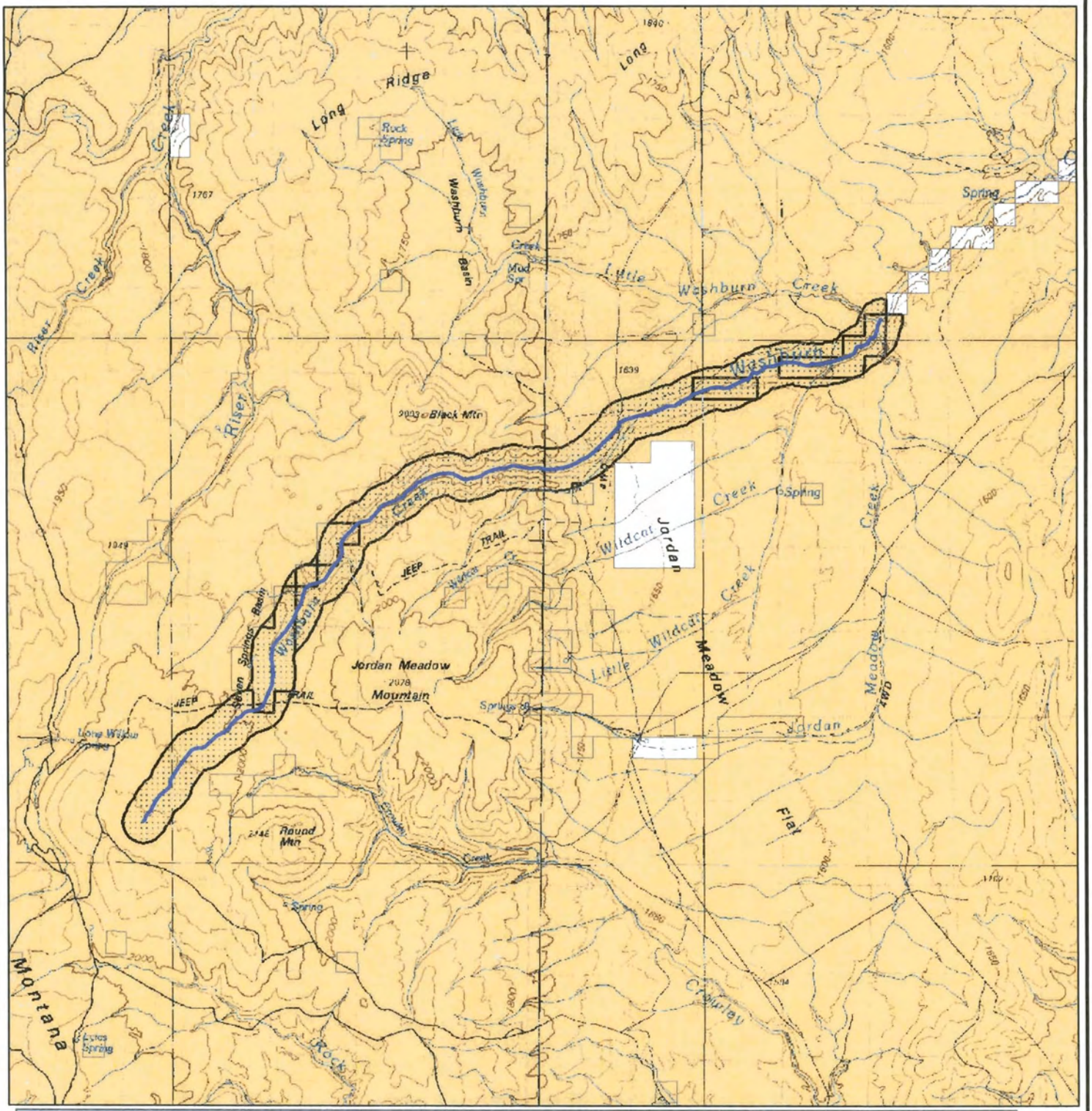

Map 6: Washburn Creek - Eligible portion for Wild & Scenic River Suitability

Legend

Suitable portion of Washburn Creek for Wild & Scenic River Designation (Total length- 11.8 miles- all on BLM land)

Suitable Wild and Scenic River Designation Boundary (approx. 0.5-mile corridor, centered on Washburn Creek) 3,830 total acres- 100% BLM land

Land Status

Bureau of Land Management

Private

0 0.75 1.5 2.25 3 Miles

1:100,000

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. 12/1/05